

# Update Newsletter

## Bewdley Briefing

July 2020

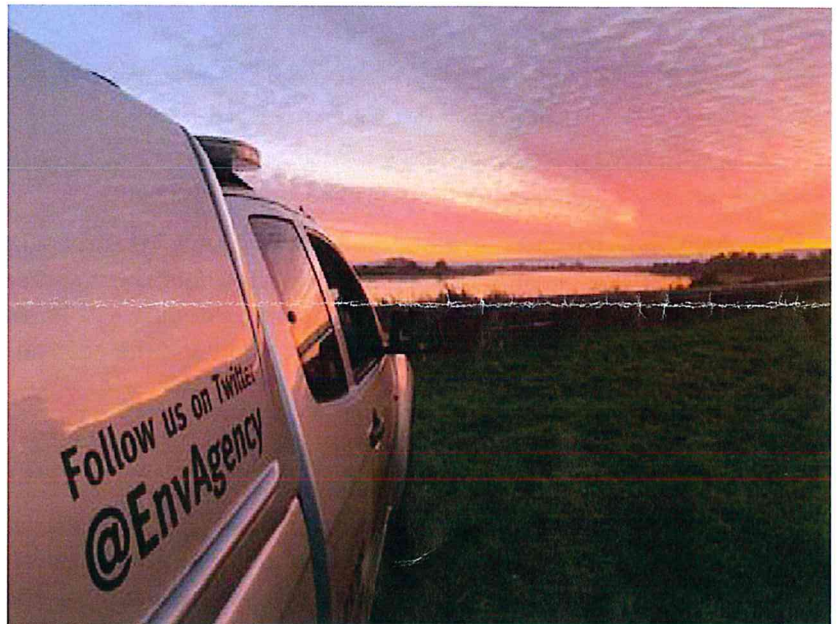
Over the autumn and winter we saw extreme weather in many parts of the country which resulted in flooding, including in your area. This was followed by the current Coronavirus pandemic which unfortunately meant we had to review how we could best continue our conversations with you.

We wanted to take this opportunity to give you an update on the progress we have made since you may have experienced flooding in your area. We also wanted to give you a chance to share your story and concerns so we can start to address these.

### Progress on reviewing the impacts of the floods so far, and what's next

The experiences of local people really help us to gain further understanding of what happened and to support our development of technical modelling of the processes that cause flooding. This will help us to better review the lessons we have learnt following this winter, where we have seen our barriers deployed many times and for prolonged periods. This will include investigating the potential for further flood alleviation measures for Bewdley.

We are working with your local councils, and we will report back on our findings later in the summer.



### Property Flood Grant Scheme

Defra has announced a Property Flood Grant for property owners whose properties flooded internally in February 2020. Second homes and properties empty at the time of the flood are excluded. The grant is up to £5,000, to be used to install resistance measures that aim to keep water out of a property, and recoverability measures that allow a quicker recovery should flood water enter a property. Properties that form part of the Environment Agency Property Flood Resilience (PFR) scheme can use the Property Flood Grant for recoverability measures only, as resistance measures are covered by the PFR scheme. Wyre Forest District Council will be administering the Property Flood Grant. If you believe you are eligible for the Property Flood Grant and have not yet received any contact, please send your contact details and property address to [enquiries@nwwm.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@nwwm.org.uk) and the Council will get in touch.

### Flood recovery support and telling your story

We are really keen to hear from you as a Bewdley resident but you may not wish to contact us directly and you may also need independent advice and other support after the flooding. The National Flood Forum are experts in flood recovery, who would be pleased to actively listen to your concerns, as well as to offer help, advice, and signpost to the best sources of professional support.

Contact them by calling the National Flood Forum office direct on 01299 403 101 or by visiting <https://nationalfloodforum.org.uk/>

## Beales Corner Property Flood Resilience (PFR) scheme update

PFR measures have been installed in many homes in the Beales Corner area of Bewdley over the last two years. We are interested in feedback on how well they worked during the autumn and winter flooding. Our contractor, Watertight, will be contacting homeowners to finish the remainder of the work, whilst following safety restrictions and guidelines relating to Coronavirus.

## The River Severn Partnership

A question we are often asked is whether all the organisations who work in the River Severn area work together. The River Severn Partnership is a longer term project looking holistically at the River Severn corridor, including Bewdley. It takes account of how flood risk impacts communities and prosperity and its purpose is to look for partnership solutions, where these may exist. It is drawn from Mid Wales, Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin, Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Gloucestershire. As well as the Environment Agency, it includes Local Authorities, Local Enterprise Partnerships, Natural Resources Wales, Severn Trent and Water Resources West.



## Our essential day to day work continues, whilst adhering to Government guidance on Coronavirus

Along with our partners, including Worcestershire County Council and Severn Trent, we are continuing to deliver essential work including on flood prevention and recovery.

Our flood defence work continues in line with Public Health England guidance and where it is safe. We are ready to respond to flooding, and during Coronavirus we continue to maintain and operate our flood and coastal defences to ensure they protect people and property from flooding. We're also maintaining our assets that support public water supply, industry, infrastructure, food production and the environment.

Much of our work has been identified as essential by the Government, so we continue to deliver projects to manage flood and coastal risk. Where work continues, we have ensured that everyone involved has been trained on social distancing and no one will be not at risk. If the work cannot be done safely, the work will stop.

We also still carry out inspections and repairs to flood defences damaged by winter storms. We are prioritising our work that has the most impact in terms of protecting lives and livelihoods, including the most at-risk communities so they can remain resilient. If repairs to major infrastructure assets are disrupted by the impact of Coronavirus, we will, where possible, put in place temporary mitigation for the risk, pending a full repair.

All of our work is impacted by the controls we and the Government have put in place. This may mean that completion dates for new projects may be delayed and other key activities may take place at less regular intervals.

## The Community Flood Plan

Bewdley Town Council continues to lead on the community emergency plan for flooding, with other partners including the Environment Agency, Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service, the Local Community Flood Group, Worcestershire County Council and Severn Trent.

If you would like to support the Community Flood Plan and become a community volunteer during a flood, subject to current guidance on Coronavirus at the time, please contact Bewdley Town Council at [townclerk@bewdleytowncouncil.org](mailto:townclerk@bewdleytowncouncil.org) or on 01299 400157.

## Want to find out more about what we are doing in your area?

If you have any questions or would like to receive our newsletter directly, please send an email to the address below:

**Email:** [Enquiries\\_Westmids@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:Enquiries_Westmids@environment-agency.gov.uk)

**We're on Twitter:** Please follow [@EnvAgencyMids](https://twitter.com/EnvAgencyMids)

customer service line  
03708 506 506

incident hotline  
0800 80 70 60

floodline  
0845 988 1188