

2025/26 Annual Report from Croscombe Parish Council Flood Group

- Wardens

There is an active group of Flood Wardens. A section of the group monitor the river level. The River Monitor Group of 5 people monitor any storm 24 hr and communicate via a WhatsApp group. The Senior Warden – Paul Hodge or Deputy would call out Wardens (from a list of 12 volunteers) as required. There is also a separate WhatsApp group that are messaged when household flood barriers need to be in place.

- Flood Barriers

A grant of £4k was granted from the Somerset Prepared Group. These barriers when in place will direct water from Jacks Lane and Old Street Lane into the river.

- Access Chamber on Culvert

A grant of £19,500 was awarded by Somerset Rivers Authority to build an access chamber on the culvert so that any blockage in the culvert could be removed. The Parish Council are paying the legal fees to establish access onto private land.

- Maintenance of drainage system

There are several volunteers who check and clear debris from the drains – many thanks.

- River Survey

A river Survey has been completed and letters have been delivered to riparian owners making them aware of their responsibilities.

- Culvert Survey

This survey has not yet been completed by the Environment Agency hopefully this will be completed this summer so that riparian owners can be advised of their responsibilities

- Attended Flood Training Sessions

Several training sessions have been attended by Flood group members. At one such meeting we met “Flood Mary”. It was at such a meeting that we were able to get a discount on our Flood Barriers.

- Projects considered but not progressed

Boulder traps – a design of hoops about 12 in high were designed to stop large boulders entering the culvert but the installation was not permitted by the EA as it would impede the natural flow.

Debris Screen – the advice of a resident with experience of such Civil Engineering structures advised that such a screen could not be fitted due to limitations imposed by the depth of the channel and access restrictions.

- Attenuation Ponds

The project is to restore one of the Mill Ponds on the A371 bends. An offer has been made to buy the land and we are waiting for a response. Money for the project will be fund raised by the Flood Group. As there are no grants available to buy land.

- Liaison with Flood Groups

We have regular meetings with members of the shepton Flood Group. We are also in regular contact with Somerset Council staff and Environment Agency Staff. We are also in contact with FWAG staff.

- Communication

There are regular Flood Group Meetings and there are occasional Public Meetings. Most of the communication is by reports in the Roundabout. We will look to improving communications with all Croscombe residents in the future. We are regular contact with our current MP Tessa Munt who has been helpful. We have also spoken to Alistair Carmichael Chair of the Parliamentary Committee on the Environment about Flooding concerns and responsibility.

Paul Hodge Chair of the Croscombe Flood Group

05.04.2026