

URGENT FLOOD GROUP PROPOSALS

As you may know it is largely thanks to Nigel Stewart and his co-ordinating efforts that helped get Clachan onto the National Flood prevention programme, and since he stepped down there has been no-one to take things forward locally, so if anyone is interested to take a lead here then please let me or Phil Connors know. Michael Jones of Argyll and Bute Council and Paul Laidlow of the Scottish Flood Forum(SFF) have arranged a further Skype meeting planned for 2 pm 19.11.20. Feedback by then is required as to whether there is interest in setting up a River Track alert system for Clachan. The relevant information can be viewed under the Flood Group section of the website, but essentially the system entails the installation of sensors that monitor the local burn flow and send out alerts to monitors at agreed locations in the village, to enable preventative action to be implemented ahead of a predicted flood event. Please look at the information supplied by the Scottish Flood Forum which includes details about Community "PODs" which can be set up with flood prevention equipment. The SFF can provide details and costs of suitable equipment e.g. flood barriers for doorways etc of at risk properties. Grants could be sought to cover the costs of such equipment. The main purpose of this communication is to see if there is village interest in exploring these options in more detail. Such measures are to help property based protection and are separate from the National Programme measures that have been explored of which weir removal seems to be the preferred option as you may know. The timeframe for taking that forward is between 2022 and 2028. The Flood Track system would allow property based protection measures to be introduced much sooner.

The Flood Track alert scheme does seem to be a good idea to me but will require a local action group to take this forward so I would be very grateful for any interested volunteers.

I have a vested interest in flood protection with Luib Cottage in the village and it is easy to forget the trauma of past flood damage with the passage of time but with ever increasing rainfall of late the next flood could be just around the corner. I would be particularly interested to know if any villagers are having problems with getting adequate flood insurance as the FloodRe scheme does not seem to cover properties that are classed as holiday lets and for those primary resident properties that are covered I suspect have to pay a significant FloodRe scheme premium.

Please register your interest and comments ASAP to wardmask@btinternet.com
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Clachan