

Annual Report 2020-2021

Cornwall Community Flood Forum Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

Presented at the Cornwall Community Flood Forum's Annual General Meeting

Friday 1st October 2021



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Chair's Introduction

Gitty Ankers, CCFF Chairperson



A warm welcome to the Cornwall Community Flood Forums Fifth Annual General Meeting since it became a CIO and my first year as Chairperson. I am honoured and delighted to have been appointed as the Chair of our Forum and will endeavour with your help and support to continue the excellent work of Martyn Alvey, Luci Isaacson and Roy Taylor who have been a real credit to the Forum over the past years and continue to support us. Luci was recognised for her work as the previous Chair of the Flood Forum (2014 - 2018) with the award of the British Empire Medal, presented by The Lord-Lieutenant of Cornwall in September 2021, a well-deserved honour. I wish to thank very much all our Trustees, Members and the organisations that we work with for their immeasurable help in my new role which continues to put us all on a firm footing.

As you are all well aware this year has continued to be an exceptional and challenging year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and as a result we have had to continue to explore and adapt to new ways of working. Consequently, like last year we have been obliged to host virtually all of our Quarterly Board Meetings, and now our AGM, and this has enabled our partners as well as our members to join us, and still meet their specific Covid requirements. We have still been able to carry on with our community engagement and training in a safe manner, either in person or virtually, and the team have been doing brilliant work in supporting our communities and individuals.

The recent flooding in Germany is a reminder that our climate is changing and we need to be prepared for what nature has in store for us. It is refreshing to see that globally countries are coming together to work collectively to address climate warming. Our forthcoming conference on 5 November 2021 at Heartlands will discuss some of the challenges and opportunities we face with climate change and we have a distinguished panel of speakers to ensure a stimulating day.

As you are aware, our deliverance of the Property Flood Resilience (PFR) Pathfinder Project, led by Cornwall Council and funded by Defra, draws to a conclusion at the end of September 2021. CCFF played a significant role in this project which has proven to be invaluable in supporting those individuals, communities and businesses at risk of flooding in Cornwall, with Heartlands being a hub for demonstrating the huge benefits arising from the Project.

CRCC (Cornwall Rural Community Charity) has kindly been hosting Molly Flynn and her predecessors over the past few years within their organisation, and offering a first class service for which we are extremely grateful. CRCC will host Molly until 10 November 2021 when the hosting will pass to Volunteer Cornwall. We look forward to working closely with Volunteer Cornwall and very much appreciate their goodwill.

We have been fortunate enough to have secured a further 3 years of funding from the SWRFCC (SouthWest Regional Flood and Coastal Committee) and the Environment Agency to continue to support CCFF in meeting our commitment to communities in Cornwall. This funding is much appreciated and will take us through to the spring of 2024.

During the last year we have had a change in Trustees. Councillor Stephen Rushworth of Cornwall Council stepped down as a Trustee and was replaced by Councillor Dominic Fairman. I wish to thank Councillor Rushworth very much for his contributions to our Forum over the years and extend a warm welcome to Councillor Fairman. Councillor Martyn Alvey and Councillor Dr Loveday Jenkins were welcomed back as Trustees after their re-election. We are still looking for new and engaged trustees wishing to join the CCFF Governance team to help us to make our communities in Cornwall more resilient. This is important as we have a number of Trustees stepping down by the end of 2021 as they will have already served their maximum of six-years as required by our constitution.

Finally, I owe a very big thank you to Molly Flynn, our permanent staff member and Ruth Rockley who has worked with us part-time on secondment from Cornwall Council until February 2021. Their commitment to the Forum has been admirable and has helped the Forum to be an example of good practice nationally, and I am personally indebted to them for their first class support, enthusiasm and adaptability. In addition to her daily tasks, Molly has actively been working throughout the year with a number of Town and Parish Councils on their Flood Plans, helping Cornwall Council to successfully deliver the Pathfinder Project, as well as organising our Annual Conference in November.

DRAFT

1. Weather and Flooding, A Year in Review 2020/21 (01/10/20-01/09/2021)

The 2020-21 year saw the wettest May on record followed by the 5th driest April since records began in 1891. October, December, May and July were all wetter than average, while March, April and November were drier than average. The 3rd of October was the wettest day on record since records began in 1891. There were eight named storms^[1] during the last year which caused some flooding, but as before, impacts from unnamed weather events had a greater impact.

Between 1/10/20 and 01/09/21, there were **162** reports of internal property flooding in Cornwall. An additional **560** properties were *affected* by flooding (access cut off, garden, land or garage flooded). Overall, **3245** reports of flooding were received by Cornwall Council, the majority related to highways flooding.

The most notable event of the year was from 18-19th December 2020 when at least 53 properties flooded in 21 locations. This included Notter Bridge, near Saltash, where the River Lynher broke its banks and flooded a static caravan park, holiday park and pub, forcing 18 occupants to be evacuated. At nearby Notter Mill Country Park 23 holiday bungalows were flooded to 1.2m after a flood bund was overtopped by the river. The Pillaton gauge on the River Lynher recorded the highest water level since the station opened in 1961. At Lostwithiel the River Fowey flooded 2 properties and several people had to spend the night at a community hall.

^[1] Storm Alex (2-4 Oct), Storm Barbara (21 Oct), ex Hurricane Epsilon (28 Oct), Storm Aiden (31 Oct), Storm Bella (26-27 Dec), Storm Christoph (10-22 Jan), Storm Darcy (6-8 Feb), Storm Evert (30 Jul). [MET Office.](#)

^[1] [MET Office: Mid October statistics](#)

2. Staff and Resources

Due to the Property Flood Resilience (PFR) Pathfinder Project, our Community Flood Resilience Coordinator, Molly Flynn, has been enabled to move from part-time to working full-time for CCFF. The Pathfinder Project funds one full time position and, therefore, CCFF had recruited Ruth Rockley of Cornwall Council's Emergency and Resilience Management team on secondment until March 2021 to support the delivery of the project. However, due to operational demand associated with responding to COVID-19, our secondment with Cornwall Council's Emergency and Resilience Management team was forced to end early in February 2021. As a result of COVID-19, the PFR Pathfinder Project was granted a 6-month extension and has a new finish date of September 2021. The overall underspend from the project has meant that our one full-time officer can remain full-time until March 2022.

We are fortunate to have once again secured three Cornwall Council nominated Trustees. Councillor Martyn Alvey and Councillor Loveday Jenkin were re-elected, to which we are delighted to continue to receive their input into the Forum. Stephen Rushworth stepped down from his Cornwall Council nominated Trustee role, and we would like to formally thank Stephen for his contributions over the years. We are delighted to announce that Stephen's replacement has been filled by Councillor Dominic Fairman. Dominic is an organic beef and sheep farmer on Bodmin Moor, with three generations living and working on the family farm. At various times has been a school governor, parish councillor and is currently the Cornwall Councillor representing six rural parishes in North Cornwall. He is passionate about the environment and ever since entering local politics has worked hard to secure affordable housing for this very rural area. Having spent several years as a young man serving as an Army musician, he retains his musical interest by singing in a local choir.

As of October 2021, we will be losing 3 elected Cornwall Community Flood Forum Trustees as their terms come to an end. Luci Isaacson, Jenny Moore and Janet Lockyer have all served their six-year terms and have contributed significantly to Cornwall Community Flood Forum. All have played vital roles within the forum; for example, Janet has served as our Honorary Secretary, Jenny has assisted with the Par & St Blazey Community Flood Plan and Luci was once formal Chair of the Trustees (2014-18) and sits on a number of Boards representing CCFF. We would like to formally thank all 3 Trustees for their hard work, insightful inputs and dedication to support the vital work we carry out within Cornwall. We hope they will remain very active in CCFF as full members. If you are interested in becoming a CCFF Trustee, or would like some further information about what is involved, please email either myself gittyankers7@gmail.com or our Officer Molly Flynn molly.flynn@cornwallrcc.org.uk

We are incredibly lucky to be supported by some fantastic advisors who attend our Quarterly Board Meetings and events. We would like to formally thank Mark Summers of Cornwall Catchment Partnership for his input and time spent with the Forum. Mark has since moved on to a new role working for the Net Zero Carbon Team in Plymouth. We would like to warmly welcome Jade Neville who has taken over Mark's role as the Catchment Partnership Officer at Cornwall Wildlife Trust. We would also like to thank Dr. Dave Watkins of Cornwall Council. Dave retired in June 2021 after 46 years in continuous employment. Dave has contributed

significantly to the forum, with most recently leading on the successful bid of the South West Property Flood Resilience (PFR) Pathfinder Project which CCFF are delivery project partner in. Over the years Dave has given amazing presentations at our annual conferences that he made enjoyable for all types of audience and he will be a huge loss. We wish him a very happy retirement!

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Luci Isaacson on her Medallist of the Order of the British Empire (BEM) for services to Flood Risk Management in Cornwall. On Sunday September 5th 2021, Luci was presented her medal by Colonel Edward Bolitho, Lord-Lieutenant of Cornwall at Christchurch Lanner in front of many, including CCFF Trustees and Members. Luci's flood work began by developing a pilot project to prevent flooding in Lostwithiel, which enrolled offenders on community payback. They were trained by highways to work in the road, to collect and compost leaf litter, and to understand why the climate is changing and, therefore, the importance of flood management. In just one year, the project resulted in a team of offenders clearing over 3 tonnes of autumn leaf fall from drain covers and hot spots which she carefully selected, effectively preventing flooding. This work led to the creation of a national tool-kit for DEFRA in addition to a training programme for offenders in prison to prepare them for the green-economy on the outside. Subsequent work includes undertaking the public consultation for the Neighbourhood Plan for Truro City Council and Kenwyn Parish Council. Additionally, the Diocese of Truro contracted Luci to write an Environment strategy and take on a role as Diocesan Environment Officer. This role involves working locally and with the national Church of England Environment working group. Luci would like to invite anyone to start and share the 10 pledges, created after 6 years of climate science and focussing on our behaviour and how we can cut emissions that make flooding worse and get a bit more ready for climate change. You can view the 10 pledges by scrolling to the bottom of the page provided in the following link.

<https://climatevision.co.uk>

3. 'Day to Day'

Day-to-day, the Forum continues to support the work of the Environment Agency and Cornwall Council in developing community resilience and is a partner of the Cornwall Community Resilience Network. It's often the independent support of the Forum that has enabled a community to gain the local support to initiate community level emergency planning initiatives where statutory organisations have previously struggled to gain traction.

CCFF recognises that its strength lies in collaborating with its partners and by filling gaps particularly in community awareness raising and capacity building for communities at risk in Cornwall. The Flood Forum continues to hold regular Board Meetings every three months attended by the Environment Agency, Cornwall Council, South West Water and other relevant stakeholders, where local issues on resilience, climate change adaptation and risk management are discussed. These meetings are open to all CCFF Members and in order to make the Forum more accessible to our members, in pre-COVID times they are held in community and partner venues across the Duchy, combining the meeting with an appropriate site visit. During the pandemic, we have been forced to host our meeting virtually via Zoom

following Government’s guidelines. We hope to resume face-to-face Board meetings from January 2022, but recognise that moving forward we should be aware of our carbon footprint and, therefore, balance our Board meetings as a mixture of virtual and face-to-face events.

If any members or partner organisations who would be happy to provide us with meeting facilities for approximately 30 people, please contact our Officer Molly Flynn: Molly.Flynn@cornwallrcc.org.uk. Clearly, if the meeting can be followed by a visit of relevance to the Forum’s work, all the better!

I am proud to say that CCFF and our trustees are continuing to be involved with relevant stakeholders and groups working towards resilience in Cornwall. CCFF is currently represented on four boards, ranging from strengthening community efforts towards mitigating the impacts of flooding, to catchment-based approaches.

Board	CCFF Board Member/Trustee	Reserve	Meeting times	Contact
Communities Prepared	Gitty Ankers, Molly Flynn	Loveday Jenkin	Quarterly	Hannah Baker hannah.baker@groundwork.org.uk
Cornwall Community Resilience Network	Gitty Ankers, Molly Flynn, Elizabeth Taylor		Quarterly	Ruth Rockley ruth.rockley@cornwall.gov.uk
Strategic Resilience Board	Tbc	Tbc	Quarterly	Paul Minshull Paul.Minshull@cornwall.gov.uk
Cornwall Catchment Partnership	Tbc	Chris Jones	Quarterly	Jade Neville Jade.Neville@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

4. Annual Conference 2020

For the first time, due to COVID-19, our annual Conference took place online. On Friday 6th November 2020 we had over 75 attendees join us virtually to celebrate 10-years of Cornwall Community Flood Forum.

We hosted our virtual conference in November which feedback indicated was a resounding success. The conference opened with a reflection of our ten-year journey with guest appearances from the founding members. This was followed by Dr Dave Watkins’ who shared an annual flood risk overview for Cornwall which included the threat from tsunamis. We were joined by Lostwithiel Flood Group who shared their experience of developing their preparedness and their reflections on recent flood events. Cornwall Catchment Partnership

also presented as well as Mary Dhonau, with the second half of the conference celebrating the benefits of Property Flood Resilience.

We had in excess of 70 participants join us on the day, with good online engagement through our social media platforms on the day and in the following weeks. In particular the participants enjoyed the Property Flood Resilience demonstration led by Premier Water Solutions.

We would like to thank all our speakers and workshop hosts for their time and interesting talks and time taken to support our conference. More details of the conference and the speaker's presentations can be found here:

<https://www.cornwallcommunityfloodforum.org.uk/annual-conference/2020-conference/>

Our 2021 Conference will take place on Friday 5th November 2021. Participants will be able to join us in person at Heartlands Visitor Attraction or online via zoom. The theme this year will be: Managing the Flood aspects of Climate Change in Cornwall.

5. Projects Overview

In order to operate at our current level CCFF needs to generate income. At present, to fund one part-time officer and meet our other commitments, the CCFF costs approximately £20,000 a year to remain viable.

5.1 Environment Agency and CCFF Partnership Agreement

We have successfully entered a new funding period, which runs from March 2021- March 2024. We receive £25,000 annually. The generous increase of £5,000 from the previous funding period is specifically for supporting Community Flood Groups to purchase the vital Personal Protective Equipment they need in order to keep themselves safe when responding to flooding. We are delighted to have received our first request for this grant from Perranarworthal Community Flood Group!

Thanks to funds from the South West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (SWRFCC) and a partnership agreement between the EA and CCFF, we can now continue working towards our aims by building capacities and resilience for communities at flood risk. Despite the continued restrictions and postponed face-to-face engagement, we continue to offer remote support to community Flood Groups across Cornwall and proactively seek alternative methods of supporting them. Our continuous adaption to support communities has presented us with the opportunity to reflect on our working practices and find new ways to maximise officer capacity in the future. Together with our Cornwall Community Resilience Network (CCRN) partners, we will be holding 2 virtual training events in October 2021. The first is for our existing Community Flood Groups who require refresher training for their volunteer Flood Wardens. The second event will be a 'taster training' workshop, aimed at those just starting out on the journey to developing a Community Flood Plan and Group or those who simply wish to better understand their flood risk and prepare to mitigate it.

There is a clear need for this project as many communities in Cornwall are either not aware of the risk or do not have sufficient knowledge on how to reduce impacts of floods to their homes and surrounding landscapes. Hence it is vital to strengthen efforts in risk awareness-raising as well as capacity building for all phases of the disaster risk management cycle in order to increase the resilience of communities at risk.

The partnership agreement enables our activities to expand and has the following objectives:

1. Raise awareness about current and future flood risk to communities, businesses and schools;
2. Prepare communities for the impact of flooding, reducing the impact of flooding and aiding recovery;
3. Lead Flood Warden training for communities at risk

5.2 Communities Prepared

The Communities Prepared project phase one was a collaboration between CCFF, Groundwork South, Cornwall College and the Environment Agency, with support from a number of local authorities and other emergency services stakeholders. Phase one ran for two years until February 2018 and focussed on 34 communities across the South West, including several in Devon and Cornwall. The Project reached the top 14 in the Big Lottery's national project award for 2017-18 from many hundreds of entrants.

The second phase began in is now well underway to scale out the successful work towards flood resilience in the rest of the country. Cornwall, CCFF have continued to contribute to the project with technical advice and ensure that learning and good practice from the rest of the country can be applied in Cornwall and vice versa. For our contribution CCFF will receive a payment of £2,500 per year. Due to COVID-19, it has been agreed that their current underspend could be used to extend beyond the previously agreed 7th October end date for the programme. With that in mind, they are currently looking at a revised programme 'end' date of 31st December 2021. However, many other possibilities should mean that the programme will continue beyond this date.

Through our partnership with Communities Prepared Phase two and the South West Property Flood Resilience (PFR) Pathfinder Project, we have developed a new handbook, which follows a similar design to the original A5 booklets developed in the first phase of the Communities Prepared Project. The handbook introduces readers to PFR, provides examples of various PFR products and explains how it can be used to manage flood risk in your home or business. You can view this booklet by clicking on the following link: [BeFloodReady: Understanding Property Flood Resilience](#)

5.3 Property Flood Resilience (PFR) Pathfinder

Since September 2019, CCF have been supporting the delivery of the South West Property Flood Resilience (PFR) Pathfinder Project. This is a Defra funded Pathfinder Project to increase the awareness and uptake of PFR measures in both residential and commercial settings across Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. Led by Cornwall Council on behalf of all 5 Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFA's) in the South West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (SWRFCC), the project is being supported by numerous strategic and delivery partners such as JBA Consulting, Devon Communities Together, the Environment Agency and many more. The project was due to conclude in March 2021 however, due to COVID-19, the project was granted a 6-month extension with a new finish date of September 2021. Following mutual agreement, Molly Flynn has now been working full-time since the start of the project and for its duration.

The BeFloodReady (BFR) brand was created throughout the duration of the project and was designed to have a long-lasting impact on residents, businesses and communities at flood risk beyond September 2021. The BFR website is constantly refreshed and updated to help users navigate their way through PFR with content covering PFR products, interactive tools, information on grant funding and much more. You can access the BFR website by clicking on the following link.

<https://www.befloodready.uk/>

In summer 2021, the SW PFR Pathfinder launched a specially commissioned Aardman Animations short film: 'BeFloodReady – Missy's Tale'. Aardman Animations are the world famous, four times Academy Award winning animation studio, creators of Wallace & Gromit, Shaun the Sheep, Creature Comforts and Chicken Run, to name but a few. This excellent short film promotes the BeFloodReady brand for PFR. The film was officially launched at Flood and Coast 2021, and received 3,200 views on Aardman's Twitter page alone in just the first 5 hours post release. You can view 'BeFloodReady – Missy's Tale' by clicking on the following link.

[BeFloodReady: Missy's Tale by Aardman Animations - YouTube](#)

Opening in September 2021, the South West Climate Change Centre will be hosted at Heartlands World Heritage Site between Redruth and Camborne, Cornwall. The demonstration centre will combine PFR and Climate Change in partnership with Carbon Neutral Cornwall (CNC). The partnership provides us with a significant opportunity to mainstream PFR in line with the high levels of public awareness achieved by our Climate Change colleagues. This demonstration centre will feature live demonstrations of PFR measures in action during a flood,; example products which you can handle and find out how they work, as well as interactive displays on how we can manage and prepare for flooding.

Our final point on the SW PFR Pathfinder Project is the virtual 'Introduction to PFR workshops' which were run by Cornwall Community Flood Forum and Devon Communities Together alongside other project partners. In Cornwall, CCF hosted two virtual events which were attended by over 45 individuals representing 33 different Cornwall communities. The workshops were intended for our audience to understand PFR's application in managing flood

risk, the impact of Climate Change on future flood risk in Cornwall and the chance to view PFR measures with a live demonstration from a local flood risk consultant. The feedback received from those who attended was outstanding, with 100% agreeing that the content of the workshops was relevant to them and their communities and even better many went on to say they would now consider installing PFR in and around their homes. The slide deck and accompanying materials have been future-proofed, and will continue to be ran as individual and joint events for many years to come. You can view the slide deck for this virtual workshop by clicking on the following link.

<https://www.befloodready.uk/resources>

Overall, the project has produced a number of fantastic tools, resources and information to raise awareness of PFR and encourage future uptake across the South West. CCFF have been delighted to have been part of such an important project and will continue to work with project partners to ensure its legacy within Cornwall.

6. Bank Account and Finance

In the 2020-21 financial year CCFF continued, despite Covid, to work on both the Regional Flood & Coastal Committee/Environment Agency and Cornwall Council/Defra contracts with funding from both providing a full time salary for the Forum's Co-ordinator. Innovative means of providing both the Conference and training online resulted in significant financial savings and permission was given from both public bodies to carry over the underspend into the new financial year. This will enable the Forum to continue to employ the Co-ordinator on a full time basis until 1 April 2022.

The new three year RFCC/EA contract began in April 2021 with the addition of a £5k capital grant to assist new flood warden groups to purchase the equipment called for within their plans. An audit trail for the purchasing of this equipment has been agreed and the funding has been paid to CCFF in advance.

The Cornwall Council/Defra contract ended on 30 September 2021 but CCFF will continue to work with the team through the use of the underspend (see figures below). Whereas previously the CC/Defra contract claimed the majority of the Officer's time, the relative amounts of underspend will now mean that the Officer will spend more time on the RFCC/EA contract until the end of March 2022.

During the financial year, a second gift of £5k from South West Water was received as a contribution to the work in supporting Cornish communities with flood resilience measures.

Again this financial year saw the award of £2500 from Groundwork for IP (intellectual property) support in their UK-wide flood warden training programme. Although this is the final year in the three year contract, we understand a further application has been made to extend the programme in future years

Finally, a very small contribution to CCFF's unrestricted reserve came via the Amazon Smile scheme whereby members make Amazon purchases via a charity page and a contribution is made to the named charity. This only raised £5 this year but hopefully will yield more funds as more members make use of it.

The following summary figures have been audited by CCFF's appointed accountant, Chris Dennis of Cornwall Community Accounting, and will be reported to the CCFF Board of Trustees at the AGM and submitted to the Charity Commission.

Income September 2020-August 2021

RFCC/EA	25,000
RFCC/EA underspend b/f	11,478
Cornwall Council/Defra	20,000
CC/Defra underspend b/f	2,606
South West Water	5,000
Groundwork	2,500
Amazon Smile	<u>5</u>
	<u>91,281</u>

Expenditure

RFCC/EA/SWW	11,626
CC/Defra	20,092
CCFF Reserve	<u>482</u>
	<u>32,200</u>

End of Year Balances

EA/RFCC/SWW	29,852
CC/Defra	2,514
CCFF Reserve	<u>26,714</u>

Reconciled at bank 31/8/2021 £59,081.63

Yours sincerely,

Gitty Ankers
Cornwall Community Flood Forum Chairperson

