

Property Flood Resilience

As well as taking advantage of the EVAG offer that I mentioned, see floodmary.com for lots of information about property flood resilience equipment and some great case studies. Flood Mary herself will be at the Archie Gooch Pavillion, Brittens Field, The Rec, Ilminster TA19 9FE on 26th September 2-7pm with her Flood Pod (a mobile exhibition of property flood resilience equipment – more information here: [Welcome to the NEW FloodPod! - Flood Mary](#))

Insurance

Those who have been flooded or are vulnerable to it may struggle to get insurance or at a reasonable price. There is a government-backed scheme to help make insurance more affordable for such properties (provided they were built before 2009): [Flood Re - A flood re-insurance scheme](#). They are also working on FPCs (Flood Performance Certificates) with Flood Mary as a means to show that previously flooded homes are now better protected. These are not yet industry standard, but you might like to highlight this potential scheme to your local MP as it should, to some extent, help protect property values and reduce insurance premiums in the future.

Riparian Rights and Responsibilities

Those who live next to, on top of or who have a watercourse going through their land are very likely to be riparian owners. What this means is very poorly understood in general, but gives some additional rights and responsibilities. There is an Environment Agency guide on the subject available here ([Your watercourse: rights and roles | Engage Environment Agency](#)) and I am also happy to run a community workshop on the topic and believe that Chris is going to take me up on this offer for the Seavingtons sometime in October – I wait to hear from him.

Community Emergency Plans

Templates can be found here: [2. Communities Prepared – Somerset Prepared](#) and we can run a workshop to walk you through the process of developing one. We usually combine this workshop with a show and tell from EVAG and a presentation from colleagues in Somerset Council's Emergency Planning team who highlight how a community response ties in with the blue lights and other responders. All told the workshop is 3 hours, with the plan writing part of the workshop 2 hours. We'd be happy to shape something to fit your requirements.

Home Emergency Plans

Flood vulnerable are especially encouraged to have a Home Emergency Plan ([1. People Prepared – Somerset Prepared](#)) and a grab bag of essentials (see [Get prepared for emergencies - Prepare](#) for some suggestions)

Grants

Somerset Prepared provide up to £5000 to support communities put their Community Emergency Plans into action - somerseprepared.org.uk/get-support/funding-support/

Somerset River Authority also provide up to £20,000 for communities to undertake actions that will lower flood risk locally - [Grants - Somerset Rivers Authority](#)

Somerset Prepared Community Resilience Day

On the 15th October at Taunton Racecourse, around 200 people from across Somerset will be gathering to focus on various aspects of Community Resilience. The day presents the opportunity to learn from a wide variety of agencies and other parishes about a number of resilience themes through a combination of talks, workshops and stalls. The day is free and comes with a free lunch, but tickets do need to be booked: [Community Resilience Events 2025 – Somerset Prepared](#). The Adopt-a-Drain scheme we mentioned yesterday will be the subject of one of the presentations on this day.

Warnings & Telemetry (Gauges)

We spoke about warnings being a three stage process – Weather Warnings (sign up here: [Subscribe to email alerts, warnings and newsletters - Met Office](#)) followed by Rainfall (to truth test the forecast) and then River Level measurement (to see how the catchment is reacting) . A new rain intensity gauge is due to be going in at Stocklinch Covered Reservoir and will become your nearest official gauge. Once installed, this will appear on this site: [Data - AQUARIUS WebPortal](#) and I particularly recommend looking at this page first, [Data - AQUARIUS WebPortal](#) which shows all of Somerset's rain gauges.