



To: the resident / business owner

From: Whyteleafe Village Council

19 January 2020

Dear resident / business owner

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE FLOOD RISKS IN WHYTELEAFE

Since our article in the January edition of the CR3 magazine it has continued to rain heavily at times. As a result, we have been monitoring the ground water levels in Whyteleafe and the status of the Caterham Bourne.

A number of organisations collect and record data for all of us. For example, the local water company SES Water publishes rainfall and groundwater information on its website and Tandridge District Council, in conjunction with the Environment Agency, take regular measurements.

This information shows that local reservoirs are full and ground water has risen to a level above the average for this time of year.

Check for any flood alerts

It is now a good time to consider the implications of further continuous rain in the area and we recommend that anyone at risk of flood take time now to access some really useful sources of information. We suggest that you sign-up to the Environment Agency (EA) flood warning service – either information via their website or by telephone on Floodline 0845 988 1188.

If the EA issue a **Flood Alert** it means that flooding is possible and so, as a precaution, you should prepare for flood.

If the EA issue a **Flood Warning** this means that flood is expected and immediate action is required such as putting flood protection equipment in place and moving to a safe place. Reacting to a Flood Warning will be easier if you have already prepared.

Our top five tips

1. Check the long-term risk of either river or surface water flood risk where you are via <https://www.gov.uk/check-flood-risk>
2. Regularly check information advising of flood risk (you can sign-up for automatic warnings) via <https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/warnings>



3. Create a personal flood action plan using the EA template via <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/personal-flood-plan>
4. Install flood protection measures to your property using reputable contractors
5. Find out whether the river Bourne runs through (including beneath) your property and your responsibilities by contacting the County Council and checking the EA booklet "Living on the edge".

Surrey County Council, the lead local flood authority, has plenty of further advice on any of our top five tips via:

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/people-and-community/emergency-planning-and-community-safety/flooding-advice/preparing-for-flooding>

Of course, we hope that everyone remains safe and dry. But no-one should ignore the importance of preparing for flood given the current situation.

What is the Village Council doing?

We will continue to monitor the level of ground water and liaise with the District and County Councils to make sure that if action is required, it is taken.

Our other aim is to increase awareness across our community so that anyone at risk, however remote, can take action based on all the help and advice that is freely available.

We will also continue to make observations locally and work with members of the Whyteleafe Flood Group to check conditions across the Village. We will issue updates on our website and display notices, if required, on our notice boards.

If you know anyone who might be at risk of flood, please bring this letter to their attention. It could be life-changing.

How to contact us on this or any other matter...

You can get in touch with the Village Council via the Clerk by:

email using clerk@whyteleafecouncil.org.uk or calling 07939 403414.

Visit our website at: www.whyteleafecouncil.org.uk