

Current Cherwell District Council Emergency Duty Director – Robert Jolley (until 10:00 Wednesday 2nd October 2024)

Current Gold Command for Cherwell District Council – Ian Boll

Current situation report from Duty Director

Overview

- Flood warnings and alerts will all be staying on, and the need for further warnings will be assessed throughout the day.
- The TCG (Tactical Co-ordinating Group) met today (Monday) and the current situation was assessed – it has been decided that the TCG would now be stood down. Plans can be reviewed should circumstances change;
- Agencies are ready to act should circumstances dictate – but the overall situation remains stable and improving – as typical for normal winter conditions, the EA advise.
- The Chief Executive met with key officers this morning and will meet again on Thursday this week (3/10) to assess the recovery arrangements.
- There was also a meeting of the Oxfordshire Silver group this morning and it was agreed that the recovery phase will now commence.

Weather outlook (Source: Met Office)

- The heavy band of rain moving up from the southwest on Sunday night weakened slightly before reaching the Thames Valley so rainfall totals were not significantly high.
- The rain warning across the southwest of the area ran out at 0900.
- Situation Monday will be cloudy with light rain and drizzle at first, but some bright or sunny spells may develop during the afternoon with the low risk of an isolated heavy shower. However, further rain is expected to spread south overnight, possibly giving as much as 5-10 mm before clearing during the morning, with the rest of Tuesday seeing rather cloudy conditions and light showers. There are no weather warnings out for the Thames Valley but the draft Flood Guidance Statement has a yellow area across northern areas today for ongoing river flooding. No major concerns and no significant rainfall expected for the rest of this

Flood Warnings (Environment Agency – EA)

- 5 Flood Warnings in force in Oxfordshire.
- These are focussed on the Cherwell and Thame Catchments.
- Flood levels are reducing and are expected to continue to reduce but above the threshold at which point EA can remove the warnings.
- 17 Flood Alerts are in place in the wider area (i.e. water out of banks and in the floodplain but not causing property flooding).

- Whilst some river levels across the area have responded to the overnight rain none are expected to cause property flooding and no new flood warnings are expected to be issued.
- Over the coming days the EA expect to see river levels decline.
- The EA received minimal emergency calls over the weekend and are focusing our operational response on routine checks on high-risk blockage locations and marking sure these are all clear

Flooded Properties

- In the whole of Oxfordshire the latest figures for the number of properties that have reported flooding is c200 (30/9) these figures are likely to be slightly under/over reported as there is a lag involved in getting an accurate picture.

Residents and businesses who are experiencing flooding should contact their insurers (or Landlord in the case of rented accommodation) in the first instance so that appropriate advice and support is sought to ensure claims can be properly made. If you receive enquiries about this from members of the public, please reiterate this advice and direct them to the Oxfordshire Flood Toolkit here: <https://www.oxfordshirefloodtoolkit.com/> for regular updates, advice and guidance.

However, we do ask that you let us know of any addresses you are aware of, even if there are no additional needs and the residents have sorted out their own accommodation. This will assist with the return to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government should there be any remediation that can be offered post incident. Please can you notify us of the address, the date of the flood and whether the flooding has occurred inside the property or outside ("outside" includes non-integral Garages, Sheds and outbuildings).

Please send this information to wellbeing@cherwell-dc.gov.uk so that we can collate for the return.

In the meantime, Cherwell District Council services are not affected, and it is business as usual.

IMPORTANT PLEASE NOTE:

Any queries regarding flooding and emergency matters can be directed to the appropriate agency as outlined on the interactive Oxfordshire Flood Toolkit here: <https://www.oxfordshirefloodtoolkit.com/> where you can also access advice and guidance.

Returns of information regarding properties experiencing flooding should be sent to wellbeing@cherwell-dc.gov.uk.