**Flood Re Roadshow, Taunton, 11th February 2016.**

I attended the above event last Thursday evening – it was one of several roadshows Flood Re personnel are holding around the country. Mark Hoban, Chairman of Flood Re, gave a short introductory presentation of the scheme and the rest of the time, c 1.5 hours, he fielded questions. He had two of his staff with him. Attendees totalled about 16 and, although there were no introductions, I deduced there were people from other Flood Forums and Community Groups. Also I deduced that these people had all experienced flooding of their houses, most likely as a result of the Somerset Levels major flooding.

It was a useful session reinforcing what is generally known but clarifying some aspects of the Scheme in more detail. The main points I came away with are:-

**1.** The Scheme will launch April this Year. Flood Re will have a membership list of Insurance Companies that register with the scheme. Many have already done so, including some of the big players in the industry. Only recognised and authorised Insurers can register with the Scheme.

**2.** All Insurers – whether registered with Flood Re or not – pay a levy into the Scheme of 2% (estimated at £10.50) for each policy they write: this will generate an estimated £118 million p.a.

**3.** Registered Insurers can place the flood risk for individual properties with Flood Re if they so wish and pay into the Scheme the flood premium element of the policy, which is a capped amount dependent on the property’s Council Tax band.

**4.** In the event of a claim, the Insurance Company handles it as now – the householder has no dealings with Flood Re. When the work is completed, Flood Re reimburses the Insurance Company on receipt of the final accounts of the work. Thus there is an inbuilt incentive for the Insurance Company to progress remedial work as soon as possible. Flood Re will check a proportion of submitted accounts each year.

**5.** Flood Re will not refuse to accept any eligible property, irrespective of frequency of claims – so there is no “3 strikes and you’re out” rule.

**6.** Eligibility for Flood Re is for households whose homes were built **before Jan.2009**, have a Council Tax Band and are insured in the name of an individual. It is **not** available for businesses or leasehold flats of 4 units or more. Tenants contents policies qualify – as would the buildings insurance of landlords.

**7.** The capped amount for flood cover based on Council Tax bands will be increased each year in line with CPI movement. I asked the Chairman if these could be put on their website ([www.floodre.co.uk](http://www.floodre.co.uk) - add /eligibility for more detail on **6).** He undertook to investigate. Late March I will make a final check to ensure the amounts to be used are still those I have been advised to date, and will circulate to all Forum members.

**8.** Flood Re will apply an excess of £250 to all claims, so there is no need for any insurer to impose a larger amount on householder policies. If they do, Flood Re will simply apply the larger amount, so the insurer makes no gain.

Whilst Flood Re only has a small staff, the Chairman intends it will make every effort to influence the debate on Flood Protection, costs of renovation and future house construction. He was very bullish about Flood Re’s financial outlook, saying the recent flooding events in N.W. England and S. Scotland would have been easily covered.

His message going forward was that householders with onerous policy premiums/excesses should shop around post April on comparison websites, through brokers etc. Members, I am sure, are aware that it may pay to cancel a policy renewed say last Dec., absorb any cancellation fee applicable, and move to a new insurer. Competition is likely to be keen for our type of business as insurers will not have to quote excessively to cover our flood risk, as they can, post April, lay this off with Flood Re.

Mike Curtis.

Co-Chair, CVFF.