**Proposal**

Following the Full Council meeting of 4 November 2025 Councillor Gordon wrote to Natural England (NE) Catchment Sensitive Farming Adviser to establish the availability of agri-environment grant funding to incentivise famers and landowners to undertake management that would help reduce the amount of runoff into the River Avon during high rainfall. The NE officer explained that:

1. Whilst Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) doesn't have its own grant scheme or directly fund projects, they are always happy to engage with farmers and landowners across the Bristol Avon catchment. They can offer advice on agri-environment options that support good land management to help reduce runoff and improve water retention.
2.The Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) and the Capital Grant Scheme are both currently closed to applicants, but we are still actively visiting farms to advise on potential future applications for 2026 and give general support to help reduce diffuse pollution, protect soil, water and air quality, and deliver wider environmental benefits including natural flood management.
3.NE would be happy to engage with farmers and landowners in the areas upstream of Bradford-on-Avon for potential flood-risk benefits. They offer one-to-one farm visits, specialist advice reports and arrange group events to share best practice.
4. They are currently in the process of helping to set up a farm cluster group around the Steeple Ashton area, which will cover a large area of land that drains to Bradford-on-Avon so this could be a good mechanism for engaging with farmers in the region.

**It is proposed that the Town Council flood working group (agreed at Full Council meeting 4 November 2025) when meeting the Environment Agency, make them aware of how Natural England can help with delivering a nature based flooding solutions project on riparian land above Bradford On Avon and recommend, they engage with Natural England in helping developing the Environment Agency's options.**

**Councillor Gordon**
**November 2025**