

Selly Park residents angry at failed attempts to prevent flooding

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Comment added to this report by Mike, a resident of Fashoda Road:

'I am a resident of Fashoda Road, and although I was at work when the flooding started, my wife was home and she believes the Selly Park South Flood Action Group did as well as can be expected given that; 1. the flood took less than an hour to reach ankle-deep, 2. there was no support from the Police (who say they had more pressing priorities), 3. they were taking abuse from motorists who were diverted from Dogpool Lane not only for their own safety, but also to prevent a wave in the floodwater which would have exacerbated the problems for residents.

By the time I arrived home, the SPSFAG had the sandbags and other defences in place, and were diverting traffic away from the scene. Many residents were also showing a real community spirit and no-one was left on their own. I didn't hear any complaints about the way that the situation had been handled, just an acceptance that sometimes these things happen.

Let us not forget that the SPSFAG is a voluntary organisation, and those who did provide welcome support and leadership to the residents of Fashoda Road last Thursday, did so out of a sense of community and social responsibility. I imagine that they spend a great deal of their own time preparing for this type of eventuality. I also have no doubt that a number of these people are also involved in other activities which, unbeknown to the less well-informed, benefit the local community. I am sure that lessons have been learned (this is only the second instance of flooding on Fashoda Road in 100 years) and next time we will collectively be better prepared.

As for the comments from Vogue, I would be interested to know how many of their staff/owners volunteer on the SPSFDG, or on any other groups which benefit the local community. As far as I can see, their only contribution to life on Fashoda Road is their staff and customers parking on the pavement, restricting access to those with pushchairs or in wheelchairs.

I also would be interested to hear the other 'accusations' made by residents, and I hope that those making them attended the SPSFAG meeting at the local church earlier this evening to volunteer their services.'