Do you know your flood risk?

Some 250 properties in Thames Ditton (mainland) plus more than 40 on TD Island are in the 'high risk' area for flooding, meaning that every year there is a 1 in 33 chance of them being flooded. This does not take into account climate change, which will make the situation worse. Many more properties will be at a lower risk.

Although the Environment Agency is considering barrier schemes to help protect some high-risk areas of Thames Ditton, there is now greater emphasis on increasing the flood preparedness of local residents.

What can Thames Ditton residents do now to protect themselves, their homes and businesses?

Property Flood Resilience (PFR) is one way do to this. It works alongside traditional engineered defences to manage property flooding from various sources such as rivers, the sea, surface water and ground water.

PFR has three components.

- **Preparedness** – knowing what to do and when to do it. Check your flood risk, sign up for flood warnings, create a flood plan and maintain any PFR measures you have installed.
- **Resistance** – using products (flood doors, barriers, non-return valves etc) or building materials to stop or slow the entry of water to your property to give you time to rescue cherished possessions and to get loved ones to safety.
- **Recoverability** – adapting the property to minimise the effects and damage of floodwater should it enter the property and to aid faster recovery.

More people need to choose to invest in PFR, yet research has shown that many homeowners do not consider it because of perceptions of high cost, concerns about how it works, lack of information and understanding about their flood risk and what they can do.

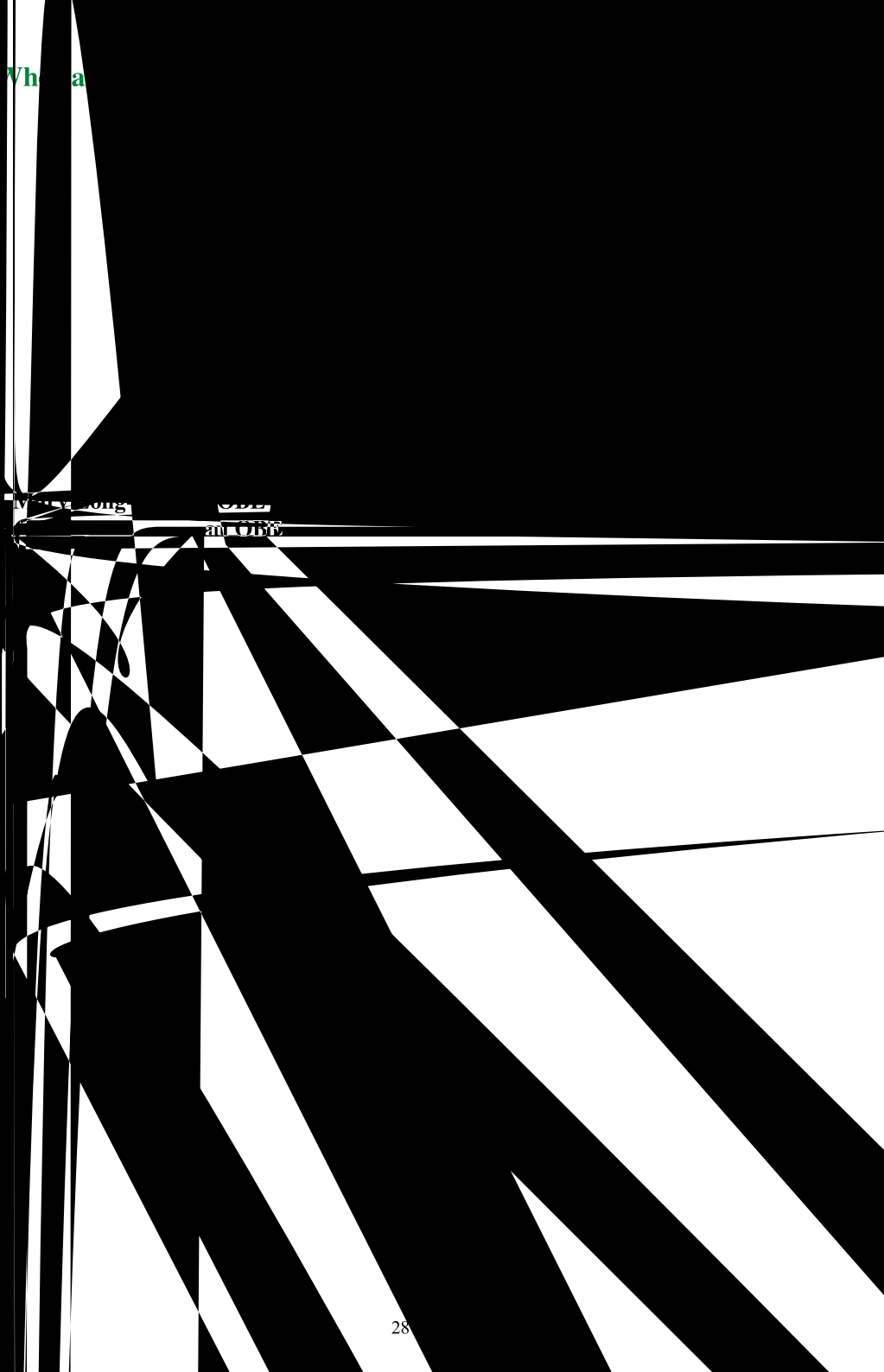
The Environment Agency and Flood Re (a unique partnership between the Government and the insurance industry to ensure the availability and affordability of flood insurance for households) have recently launched the **#befloodsmart campaign** ***www.floodre.co.uk/be-flood-smart*** to raise awareness about flood risk and how PFR can make a positive difference which includes reducing damage, anxiety and stress.

To help local residents, the Thames Ditton Resident's Association Flood Group are organising a Property Flood Resilience Drop-In Day on Saturday October 28.

Property Flood Resilience Drop-In Day on Saturday October 28

Where: St. Nicholas Church Hall, Summer Road

Time: From 11 to 4pm, with talks by experts at 12pm and 2pm

The Environment Agency and Residents' Association have gathered experts from the flood risk industry to help residents learn more about PFR, flood insurance, build back better and also get advice on next steps to take.

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