

19

# FLOOD RELATED ROLES OF PARISH COUNCILS AND COMMUNITIES



Northamptonshire  
County Council  
**Flood Toolkit**

Future flooding and the destructive impact of flooding on homes, businesses, families and livelihoods can be reduced. There are many actions residents, businesses and communities can take to help protect themselves and their communities.

Parish Councils and local residents can play an important role in managing flood risk at the community level. Areas at risk should prepare community flood plans, and residents can ensure each household has its own flood plan. Individuals can also help by getting involved with local Flood Warden schemes, as well as gathering information on flooding by reporting any flood incidents in their area.

Communities and Parish Councils can also raise additional funding for local flood resilience and flood defence measures, as well as undertaking regular maintenance.

### What you can do in your area

#### **FIND OUT ABOUT PARTNERSHIP FUNDING**

Under the new partnership funding system, flood alleviation schemes may be able to proceed if additional funding can be raised locally to supplement national funding.

Start looking into how to raise funds locally, discuss with neighbours and landowners.

#### **JOIN (OR FORM) A FLOOD ACTION GROUP**

You can contact existing groups, or may be able to set up your own group with the help of the independent charity, the National Flood Forum.

The Flood Group UK Facebook page may also provide useful contact information: <http://www.facebook.com/floodgroupuk>

#### **WORK WITH YOUR LOCAL AUTHORITY**

Parish Councils have the powers under Section 260 of the Public Health Act (1936), to undertake maintenance works on ponds, ditches and other open drainage in order to prevent the feature from becoming a risk to health. Parish Councils can also play an important role in managing flood risk at the community level by preparing community flood plans, raising additional funding for local flood resilience and flood defence measures, and gathering information on flooding by reporting any flood incidents in their area.

Local authorities and other agencies work together to address flood risk issues in your area.

- Volunteer to be a FLOOD WARDEN for your community
- Help to prepare a COMMUNITY FLOOD PLAN - a template is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/community-flood-plan-template>

### TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR MONITORING LOCAL WATERCOURSES

Residents can then inform the relevant authority if work is needed (such as gully cleaning/ blocked drains)

### TAKE PART IN PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

- Open space strategies
- Local flood management strategies
- Local neighbourhood plans
- Development proposals.

All of these need the knowledge that local residents can bring to decision-making.

### FIND OUT ABOUT PROPOSED PLANS TO REDUCE FLOOD RISK IN YOUR AREA

Written details will be available from the organisation managing the scheme(s), which may be the Environment Agency or your Local Authority. This should include how the work is being funded; what level of protection is being provided; how likely it is that the scheme will go-ahead; when it would it be implemented.

### PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY FROM FLOODING

Permanent protection can include things like:

- Installing flood proof doors/windows
- Raising electrical sockets
- Installing flood proof air bricks
- Fitting non-return valves on pipes.

Temporary protection includes:

- Moving valuable items to higher ground
- Purchasing flood-boards/guards
- Purchasing large waterproof bags to protect belongings.

The cost of surveys, or work carried out, could be discounted if several properties in the same area need the same thing.

SIGN UP TO FLOODLINE WARNINGS DIRECT (IF AVAILABLE FOR RIVERS IN YOUR AREA): <http://fwd.environment-agency.gov.uk/app/olr/register>

### Reporting Flood Incidents IN AN EMERGENCY DIAL 999

All flooding incidents need to be reported to the COUNTY COUNCIL, to ensure they have a clear picture of flooding here in Northamptonshire.

WEB: Incident Report Form: <https://www.floodtoolkit.com/emergency/report-flood/>

Email: [floodandwater@northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:floodandwater@northamptonshire.gov.uk)

The STREET DOCTOR service can be used for highway related flooding:

<http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/en/councilservices/Transport/roads/streetdoctor/Pages/Step1.aspx> Tel: 0300 126 1000 between 8am and 6pm Monday to Friday or: 01604 651 074 at other times.



## Further Information & Contacts

GOV.UK – Preparing for emergencies, guide for communities:

[http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/60923/PFE-Guide-for-Communities\\_0.pdf](http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/60923/PFE-Guide-for-Communities_0.pdf)

‘Homeowners’ Guide to Flood Resilience’ (recommended by Defra and EA):

[http://www.knowyourfloodrisk.co.uk/sites/default/files/FloodGuide\\_ForHomeowners.pdf](http://www.knowyourfloodrisk.co.uk/sites/default/files/FloodGuide_ForHomeowners.pdf)

‘How to protect your home’ (leaflet number 12 in this series) from Northamptonshire County Council.

<https://www.floodtoolkit.com/guides/12-protect-home/>

The National Flood Forum:

<http://nationalfloodforum.org.uk>

National Flood Emergency Framework (England)

[http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/254292/pb14033-national-flood-emrgency-framework.pdf](http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/254292/pb14033-national-flood-emrgency-framework.pdf)

Red Cross – How to prepare for emergencies

<http://www.redcross.org.uk/What-we-do/Preparing-for-disasters/How-to-prepare-for-emergencies>

Sandbags and how to use them properly for flood protection

<http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sandbags-how-to-use-them-to-prepare-for-a-flood>



**Floodline number: 0345 988 1188**



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