

ADVERSE WEATHER AND FLOODING

Members' Briefing Note

February 2020

FOR THE ATTENTION OF ALL MEMBERS (CC ALL PARISH COUNCIL CLERKS)

In the early hours of Sunday 16th February the East Midlands and Rushcliffe in particular saw continuous heavy rainfall across the area. As the ground was already 'super saturated' the run off from land, fields and gardens was much increased and therefore water courses and rivers responded far quicker than usual. As a result, many communities were severely impacted by surface water flooding on 16th February and flood warnings were issued for waterside homes on the Soar, Smite and the Trent.

Following a significant response by the Borough Council dealing with over 150 sandbag requests, opening places of safety, deploying our rapid response team in the immediate aftermath etc we are now in the recovery phase working with multi-agency partners including voluntary agencies to support our communities and businesses affected by the recent flooding. The communities currently known to have been most severely impacted with homes internally flooded are as follows;

• Tollerton (Tollerton Lane and Cotgrave Lane) • Gotham • Bingham • Sutton Bonington • Radcliffe on Trent	• Cropwell Butler • East Leake • Ruddington • Rempstone • Colston Bassett • Cotgrave
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We are also sharing information on flooded homes with both the Environment Agency and Nottinghamshire County Council who are the lead flood authority and their flood risk team will be carrying out a number of Section 19 reports in the coming months. More details of what these reports cover can be found from the link below

<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/flooding/the-councils-role>

Due to the severity of the flooding across the whole country central government has once again released a range of financial assistance to affected communities.

We have set up a dedicated flood recovery support website page and have been contacting residents that we are aware have internally flooded to highlight the financial assistance available.

<https://www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/environmentandwaste/emergencyplanning/flooding/affectedbyflooding/#d.en.31006>

With the ground still saturated and rivers still ready to respond quickly I wanted to remind you of how the Council can help as part of the overall arrangements that are in place to respond to such incidents.

With any flooding the importance of being prepared is of paramount importance and so communities in areas that are high risk of flooding should be encouraged to improve their resilience by following the really useful advice and guidance that can be downloaded from the Environment Agency website. The site also includes how residents can sign up to receive warning information about potential river flooding events.

However the very nature of these storms and surface water flooding is that the event is sudden and unpredictable and can often affect communities and homes that have not been flooded before. As a result this can mean that the Council may not be able to respond as quickly as it usually does in flooding events that have greater prior warning such as river flooding. Notwithstanding this situation the Council is prepared and remains committed to supporting communities that may experience flooding in a number of ways including;

- **Provision of sandbags to protect living accommodation** - The Council has a finite number of sandbags to support our communities but **all** requests will be prioritised according to a county wide protocol. This will take into account factors such as the current risk, vulnerable people in the property etc. It should be noted that the Council does not provide sandbags to protect outbuildings and gardens or any type of commercial property. In addition, the Council cannot provide any pumps to help with the removal of floodwater from properties.
- **Community flood resilience stores** – The Council has a grant scheme in place to support communities in establishing flood resilience stores to enable sandbags and flood protection equipment to be immediately available. (It is not for flood alleviation works) The scheme is open to all Parish/ Town Councils and West Bridgford Local Area Forum. Priority will be given to those communities that have previously experienced river or surface water flooding: The total funding will be allocated based on risk and grants are available up to a maximum of £1050. (Subject to available funds)
- **Provision of temporary accommodation** –Residents are encouraged where possible to make their own arrangements with friends and family or through their insurance provision so that we can prioritise our resources to the vulnerable who may be unable to help themselves.
- **Provision of advice and information** – Along with the Environment Agency the Council provides pre and post flooding advice and information on our website.
- **Community Support** – If there is widespread flooding the Council will play a significant role in supporting a multi-agency response which will include blue light services through helping the community with rest centre provision and a range of other services.
- **Residents worried about future insurance costs** -FLOOD RE is an insurance scheme that makes flood cover more widely available and affordable as part of your insurance. The Flood Re pool is funded through an industry-backed levy. All UK household insurers have to contribute to the levy, creating a fund that can be used to pay for claims for people in high risk homes. The scheme provides a cap on flood

insurance premiums linked to property council tax bands. Only houses built before 2009 are included in the scheme. www.floodre.co.uk

Some important contact details for the community to be aware of are listed below;
Rushcliffe BC – 0115 981 9911 (For all sandbag service requests and information)
Rushcliffe BC – 0115 981 1143 (Out of hours for emergencies)
Nottinghamshire County Council –0300 500 80 80. (This number can be used to report blocked culverts or drainage problems or issues related to the highway)

I hope this helps in supporting your local communities with appropriate advice and information.

David Banks
Executive Manager Neighbourhoods