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FLOOD RELATED ROLES OF PARISH COUNCILS AND COMMUNITIES

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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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

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: **http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/297406/LIT_7488_3ee773.doc**

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TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR MONITORING LOCAL WATERCOURSES
Residents can then inform the relevant authority if work is needed (such as gully cleansing/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; and when it will 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. More information on flood protection is available from the organisations listed on the back page of this leaflet.

SIGN UP TO FLOODLINE WARNINGS DIRECT (IF AVAILABLE FOR RIVERS IN YOUR AREA): **https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings**

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 Oxfordshire.

WEB: Incident Report Form:
https://www.oxfordshirefloodtoolkit.com/emergency/report-flood/
Email: **floodmanagement@Oxfordshire.gov.uk**

Use this link to report a flooded road:
https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/roads-and-transport/street-maintenance-z/flooding

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Further Information & Contacts

GOV.UK – Preparing for emergencies, guide for communities:
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preparing-for-emergencies/preparing-for-emergencies

'Homeowners' Guide to Flood Resilience' (recommended by Defra and EA):
https://shiregroup-idbs.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/FloodGuide_ForHomeowners.pdf

'How to protect your home' (leaflet number 12 in this series) from Oxfordshire County Council.
https://www.oxfordshirefloodtoolkit.com/guides/protect-your-home/

The National Flood Forum:
http://nationalfloodforum.org.uk

National Flood Emergency Framework (England)
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/388997/pb14238-nfef-201412.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

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