

Information about Flooding

It is getting to the time of year when we need to think about flooding risk.

We are fortunate in Hoveringham that, for the most part we have escaped serious flooding. The flood in 2000 was the most serious and since that time, the council and the Inland Drainage Board have been diligent in ensuring the main ditches and waterways have been kept clear. We also have the Gravel Lakes which provide a useful reservoir.

However we can never be complacent and I wanted to dispel some common misunderstandings:

1. The Parish Council does not have sandbags or protection for houses in the village- there is a very small amount of emergency supplies in the village hall but this is extremely limited and should not be relied upon.
2. If there is a risk of flooding, it is very unlikely that sandbags etc will be delivered to the village. Obviously, we will try and leverage all contacts but as a small community in an extreme flooding event we would be low priority and the timescale could be very quick.

In short you need to make your own preparations to protect your property in the event of flooding!

You should also register for flood warnings via the flood line service:

<https://www.fws.environment-agency.gov.uk/app/olr/home>.

If water levels start to rise, information will be shared on HovWatch and we will also try to organise things like moving cars to higher ground, and letting people with livestock know what is happening.

Flood wardens:

We have volunteers in the village who have agreed to act as flood wardens.

These are not people who will be responsible for doing everything. Their role is to check on people and to help co-ordinate things like moving cars and animals.

It is some time since we confirmed who was happy to be a flood warden. There is a WhatsApp group that was started by Dave Hall and this is used to coordinate information and things like checks on the river or checks on people.

If you are happy to remain a flood warden or wish to become one – can you please contact Dave either on the WhatsApp group or message on WhatsApp on 0777 8363401.

I thought it would be useful to set out below what is involved and also some general information on flood warnings and the various parties involved if there is a flood risk. These are set out below.

Flood Warden – the following is a list of what a flood warden would do in the event of a flood risk.

1. We have flood wardens allocated throughout the village. If you have not already done so **agree with your closest flood wardens which houses you will take under your remit**. This may change if people are away etc.
2. If you have not done so already:
 - a. Visit your houses and make sure people know who you are
 - b. Get names and contact details for those houses – please feed these details back to the group so we can build an up-to-date list. For data protection purposes explain why we want the info (to help with flood risk and contingency planning) and that this is subject to them agreeing to provide those details.
 - c. Identify anyone in your group of houses that is vulnerable- i.e. is on their own or needs extra support or may need contingency measures in place for evacuation (e.g. specific medical needs)- again info has to be provided with their consent -please feedback to DH so we can build an up-to-date list.
 - d. Identify if you have any of the houses that flooded previously on your list as these will need extra attention and vigilance.
 - e. Identify other risks/hazards such as animals that need moving (and who owns them), cars that need to be moved etc.
 - f. Identify if anyone is not able to get information from Hovwatch or Whatsapp and confirm how you can provide them with information
 - g. Identify anyone with a 4x4 or equipment (pumps, generators, winches etc) that could be useful
 - h. Provide information to the person you visit (see section below)
3. Measure and monitor
 - a. Provide information on the status of flooding in your area as is already happening. Make a separate record that can be easily collated “after the event” without the need to trawl through whatsapp messages.
 - b. Identify problems- report to the group any blocked drains, defects or obstructions which need to be dealt with. Make a note (and take photos) of anything that may need to be sorted after flooding subsides.
 - c. Continue to monitor and check on/support vulnerable people identified and properties identified as a high flood risk.
4. Information- the following should be communicated
 - a. Who you are and how to contact you (and how you can contact them if they are happy to provide this info)
 - b. How flooding updates are given by the village (HovWatch, whatsapp) but also that they can go onto the environment agency website- ensure they have the

ability to receive info or make other arrangements so they can get that information.

- c. Check they are signed up to the environment agency flood line so they receive a call if a flood warning is issued: <https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings> and recommend they do this.
- d. Explain different levels of flood alerts and warnings (see attached)
- e. It is probably worth reiterating that the story of the floodgates being opened in 2000 at Colwick, causing a flood in Hoveringham is wrong- this is not something to be worried about.
- f. Be clear that your role is to provide information and to work as part of a team to help where you can BUT the responsibility to protect their property from flooding lies with them, not you. You are there to help but you are not responsible for dealing with their flood risk. If they need to get sandbags or equipment, they should do so rather than relying on what might be made available.
- g. There are limited supplies of instant sandbags ("aqua bags") in the village hall but, if they are needed the priority would be to make these available to the houses that have flooded previously. Additional sandbags may be available from the council but are not guaranteed and it could be too little too late so should not be relied upon.
- h. Explain that in the event of a flood warning (i.e. where risk of flooding to homes) we will endeavour to put out information of where cars can be parked if you live somewhere that is likely to be flooded– this will be higher ground which has not flooded previously but depends on volunteers offering driveways etc and obviously this is at the individual's own risk. We know from the experience in 2000 that cars should be moved from roadside parking.
- i. Explain that the village hall is the flood refuge centre. There are emergency beds in the village hall lock-up.

5. DO's and DON'Ts

- a. You should:
 - i. prioritise your own safety at all times
 - ii. follow emergency services advice
 - iii. co-operate with the group and work as a team
 - iv. ask for help when you need it
 - v. collect and document flood info where you can do so safely.
- b. You should not-
 - i. go into deep or fast flowing water
 - ii. use equipment that you are not trained or authorised to operate
 - iii. try to deal with a difficult situation (emotionally or physically) on your own.

Explain what a flood warning means-

There are 3 levels of flood warning:

Flood alert - Prepare



- prepare a bag that includes medicines and insurance documents
- check flood warnings
- Likely impacts are flooding on fields, recreation land and car parks, minor roads and farmland

Flood warning - Act



- turn off gas, water and electricity
- move things upstairs or to safety
- move family, pets and car to safety
- Issued half an hour to one day in advance of flooding
- Likely impacts are flooding of homes and businesses, flooding of major roads, extensive flood plain inundation.

Severe flood warning - Survive



- call 999 if in immediate danger
- follow advice from emergency services
- keep yourself and your family safe
- Issues for severe flooding with significant risk to life or significant disruption to communities
- Likely impacts are deep fast flowing water, debris in the water, isolation of communities, large number of evacuees, risk of collapse of structures.

Flood Warning and Emergency Response: a wider picture

A major flooding incident is one which involves the flooding of a significant number of properties, or significant disruption to key parts of the local infrastructure.

The response to flooding involves several organisations performing key roles at the local level to be fully integrated and effective.

Here is a brief guide to the different agencies who may become involved in a major flood incident and the role each will play:

The Environment Agency

- Is responsible for flood defences and the issuing of flood warnings in England.
- Provides the Floodline (03459 88 11 88 or 08459 88 11 88) service.

The Met Office

- Provides weather forecasts, including severe weather alerts.
- Work with the Environment Agency at the Flood Forecasting Centre to provide a flood risk forecast.

Lead Local Flood Authority

- Generally are County Councils and Unitary Authorities.
- Prepare and maintain a strategy for local flood risk management in their areas.
- Investigate significant local flooding incidents and publish the results of such investigations.
- Play a lead role in emergency planning and recovery after a flood event. Local Authorities
- Set up rest centres for people evacuated from their homes and arrange temporary accommodation.
- Deal with road closures caused by overflowing drains and sewers.

The Police

- Co-ordinate the emergency services in a major flood incident and help with evacuation of people from their homes where necessary.

The Fire and Rescue Service

- Is responsible primarily for rescue, recovery and saving life.
- May (subject to operational requirements) pump out flood water. [There may be a charge to householders for this service].

The Ambulance Service

- Is primarily responsible for saving life. Community Flood Wardens
- Passing on flood warning information received from the Environment Agency.
- Reporting problems with local watercourses which may cause flooding.
- Represent the local community in flood related matters.

Internal Drainage Boards

- Are responsible for providing a flood protection and water-level management service within the statutory drainage districts.
- Have powers to undertake works on any watercourse within its district, other than a 'main river'.
- Advise on developing flood conditions.

Canal and River Trust

- Protect their own structures.
- Along with other bodies, help warn the public about flood risk from their own navigation system such as canals and canalised rivers.
- May provide specialist equipment, materials and other resources as appropriate by local agreement. Public Utility Companies
- Secure their services and equipment to ensure continuity of supply.
- Repair services disrupted by flood events.
- Provide alternative means of supply during disruption if life and health risks are identified such as drinking water bowsers.
- Advise local authorities and the media when disrupted services will be reinstated.

Useful Numbers:

Environment Agency

Trentside Offices Scarrington Road West Bridgford Nottingham NG2 5FA
Incident Hotline 0800 80 70 60
General Enquiries 03708 506 506
Floodline 0345 988 1188

Police (non-emergencies): 101

Severn Trent Water: 0800 783 4444

Gas (National Grid): 0800 111 999

Electricity (Western Power Distribution) 0800 056 8090

NHS 111 (Formerly NHS Direct): 111 (where available)