

FLOOD RECOVERY UPDATE - Allerdale

October 2016

Since the flooding in December last year, the issues around the recovery process have changed as time has moved on. 97% of people affected by flooding in Allerdale are back in their homes and what people need now is very different to what was needed in the early months of 2016. Your community representatives at the Allerdale Recovery Group have stressed that you need up to date information to keep coming and this bulletin was a form of communication that we have used extensively and so have decided to continue to use it. In addition to this, The Environment Agency (EA) is producing bulletins specifically to inform you about the work they have started and completed so far. These are made available via Cumbria Community Messaging (see below). The Cumbria Floods Partnership Action Plan is also available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cumbria-flood-action-plan>.

WINTER READY

Autumn is approaching and now is the time to be preparing for Winter 2016/17. There are a number of sources of useful information including a few noted below. These do not just relate to flooding but other forms of emergency, being prepared and how to protect yourself:

Flood Line (Environment Agency): 0345 988 1188, Electricity: <http://www.enwl.co.uk/> Winter Driving: <http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/roads-transport/highways-pavements/highway-maintenance/wintermaintenance/roadswinter.asp> Met Office: <http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/learning/get-ready-for-winter>

CUMBRIA COMMUNITY MESSAGING

This system is designed to help you get the information you want, the way you want it, by phone, text or email. This is a two way communication system designed to put you in touch with the people and services that matter to you. It is totally **free** and really simple to do. You can receive information from the Environment Agency, Cumbria County Council, Cumbria Police, Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service, Cumbria Neighbourhood Watch and Electricity North West.

To register for messages: www.cumbriacommunitymessaging.co.uk

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLANS

Communities are encouraged to plan for both extreme weather events and other types of emergencies such as gas leaks, fires, mass power failure and major traffic incidents, in order to:

- Be better prepared for an emergency
- Know what to do, before outside help and emergency services can arrive
- Work with emergency services and other agencies effectively, using local knowledge
- Recover more quickly and effectively after an emergency.

A plan helps people prepare for an emergency and organises neighbourly help during the incident.

<http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/emergencyplanning/community.asp>

PREPARING YOUR HOUSEHOLD FOR AN EMERGENCY

You or your family could be anywhere when an emergency occurs. Have you thought about what you would do? What would be your first thoughts? What might you need?

<http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/emergencyplanning/household.asp>

RED CROSS DROP-INS – WORKINGTON

Elaine Hornby, Flood Recovery Coordinator for The Red Cross will be at:

- Café West, Workington Library on 19th October between 9.30 -11.30am
- Christ Central Church, Workington on 12th October between 5pm and 7pm
- Keswick Library on 11th October and 1st November between 2pm and 4pm
- Maryport Library on 5th October and 2nd November between 10am and 12noon
- Cockermouth Library on 7th October and 4th November between 2pm and 4pm

Elaine will be available to offer practical and emotional support as well as advice and guidance, help with form filling and signposting for anyone affected by the flooding. If you would like help and support but cannot make these dates Elaine can be contacted on 07711469687 or email ehornby@redcross.org.uk

For more information visit www.cumbria.gov.uk

FLOOD INVESTIGATION REPORTS

Across Allerdale, there have been nine public meetings where the draft reports were presented. The reports and presentations that were given are available on the County Council's website at <http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/floods2015/floodforums.asp>.

The reports are currently being updated with new information that was obtained at the public meetings to ensure that they are accurate. They will be finalised and made available to the public when this has been completed. A complete set of hard copies of the final reports will be made available at all libraries in Allerdale when they have been produced. So far, draft reports are available for Workington including Bareport, Maryport, Flimby, Keswick, Cockermouth, Braithwaite, High and Low Lorton, Wigton, Dearham and Brigham. A report is in the process of being produced for Blennerhassett & Baggrow and a meeting will be held on 13th October with those affected. There were some other smaller flooding incidents (less than five properties) and these too will have a report produced but these will be on a more individual basis.

RESILIENCE AND RESISTANCE GRANTS

Although there has been a good take up of these grants across Allerdale, there are still many affected householders that have still to put in an application. There is a deadline on applications of 16th December 2016 so if you qualify we need to hear from you as soon as possible.

What is stopping you from applying? You can't get the quotes? It feels too complicated? The £5,000 won't cover all the works you need to get done? You don't think you qualify?

Whatever the reason, there are people who can support and advise you through the process. If you have any queries on the scheme, please contact Allerdale Borough Council on 0303 123 1702 or email floodgrants@allerdale.gov.uk

There are three ways to apply:

1. You can commission the services such as a survey yourself and apply direct to Allerdale Borough Council

2. You can apply direct to Allerdale Borough Council and use one of the surveyors listed on <http://www.allerdale.gov.uk/advice-and-benefits/flood-recovery-and-advice/financial-help-for-flooded-pro.aspx>

3. You can get advice and guidance from the Business Emergency Resilience Group (BERG) who will take you through the whole process, can commission surveys, fill out the application form and provide the items required such as flood gates. All information is on the Allerdale Borough Council website.

Allerdale Borough Council are keen to support joint applications where several people pool their money to put in measures that will protect several properties. Contact them now to discuss how you would embark on this.

CUMBRIA FLOOD FUND

Did you also know that the Cumbria Community Foundation (CCF) will give top-up grants of up to £2,000 if you are awarded a resilience grant and the measures required exceed £5,000, as well as continuing to administer applications to the Flood Fund for financial assistance for other flood related costs. Grants of between £500 and £6,000 are available for residents who have experienced hardship as a result of the December 2015 floods. For further information and advice contact Cumbria Community Foundation via their website www.cumbriafoundation.org.

CERT (UK) Community Emergency Response Team UK (formally EDEN FLOOD VOLUNTEERS LTD)

Are you struggling to replace furniture and white goods or get your home back to some normality after the floods? CERT (UK) is a voluntary organisation set up to help people from across the county affected by the December 2015 floods. We provide access to a range of furniture (new and used), white goods (used) and other household requirements. We have access to donations from a range of companies and private individuals. CERT (UK) can also assist with many other services and enquiries. For further details, including a registration form please contact:

Telephone:- 01768 593190, E-mail:- info@edenfloodvolunteers.org.uk, Website:-

www.edenfloodvolunteers.org, Twitter:- @C_E_R_T_UK, Facebook:-

<https://www.facebook.com/certcharity/> or <https://www.facebook.com/groups/CERTUK/> or <https://www.facebook.com/groups/Appleby.CERTUK/>

For more information visit www.cumbria.gov.uk