Badby Village Flood Contingency Plan

Prepared October 2025 by Linda Clow,

Flood Warden

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DISCLAIMER

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this document, neither Badby Parish Council nor the author can be held responsible for any errors. It is intended for guidance only and it is the responsibility of the individual to ensure they are aware of what is relevant to their individual circumstances and take all necessary precautions.

Scope of the document:

Badby is not considered to be a High Risk Flood area, but the flash flooding in November 2024 caused considerable disruption. As a result of that flood, Badby Parish Council and the Flood Warden agreed to look at ways of bringing more cohesion to any future incidents and to look at preventative measures to build resilience in the community.

The purpose of this document is to briefly detail roles and responsibilities and to suggest ways and means that those responsibilities can be met in order to give all concerned the best chance of not being flooded again.

We can never stop flash floods – by their nature they are unpredictable – but we can provide the information required to allow people to take appropriate measures to ensure their own safety.

This is not intended to be a definitive document – suggestions will be made but there are always alternatives, so it is up to the individual to decide what is appropriate in their own circumstances.

It is intended to be a guide and to cover most of the salient points.

Roles and Responsibilities:

These can effectively be broken down into the following groups.

- Lead Flood Authority (West Northants Council (WNC))
- Landowners and Businesses
- Householders and tenants
- Flood Warden.

Lead Flood Authority (LFA):

There is a detailed description of LFA responsibilities on the Government website and a link is provided in the appendices.

In practical terms, the primary responsibility of LFAs is to co-ordinate all other relevant services – Highways, Water / Sewerage authorities, Environment Agency etc in order to ensure that all their obligations are met in the most effective way possible.

They also have to develop and keep up to date, a Flood Plan and Register of Assets. This is a very brief description of a wide ranging and complex responsibility.

As far as Badby is concerned, the River Nene does not become the responsibility of the Environment Agency (who look after main rivers) until it reaches Newnham. The overall responsibility for the river to that point, plus all brooks / streams within the village, lies with WNC as Lead Flood Authority to ensure all obligations are met.

Landowners and Businesses.

Any landowner or business with access to the river on their land / premises falls under the Riparian Rules .

These are legal responsibilities and cover such issues as upkeep of the river, keeping it free of debris, flowing freely , clearing overgrowth etc etc. More information can be found in the appendices, but in essence, routine maintenance can be carried out - clearing debris, overgrown vegetation etc – but other work of a more permanent nature such as removing silt, changing the water course, work on the banks – cannot be carried out without permission of WNC as Lead Flood Authority.

Routine maintenance must also be mindful of other legislation – for instance no cutting back during the nesting season for birds.

Whilst we can summarise these issues it is the responsibility of the landowner / business to be aware of the rules as they apply to them and work accordingly.

Individual Home owner

The Environment Agency is quite clear that it is the responsibility of the individual homeowner to take adequate steps to protect their own property to the best of their ability.

This document will provide ideas, links etc, but each homeowner must do their own research in order take whatever measures are appropriate to them.

If you are a tenant, we recommend that you speak to your Housing Association / Landlord and ask them what flood preventative measures they have taken or will take to protect your home in the event of a flood. This should be based on the type of property and what is appropriate – not just supply sandbags.

It may be appropriate for a group of you to request a meeting with them to discus as this may be more beneficial than an individual request

As far as the river is concerned, if your property boundary is shown on the Land Registry as including the river bank, then the river to the middle of the channel is normally considered to be your responsibility. Having a fence between you and the river does not offset that responsibility unless your boundary clearly shows that it does not include the river.

That responsibility includes the routine maintenance of your part of the river and the bank – removal of debris etc.

Flood Warden

This is a voluntary role working closely with Badby Parish Council. The primary responsibility is to work pro-actively with WNC as Lead Flood Authority to raise issues that are of concern to the village and make every effort to get them resolved. That has to, of necessity, take into account finances and resources within WNC and strive to achieve results in spite of that.

The Flood Warden will work with villagers to make sure the Flood Plan is circulated and understood and deal with any queries that may arise.

In the event of a flood, the Flood warden will be available to co-ordinate responses and if necessary arrange for resources such as the Village Hall to be available should they be needed. The Flood Warden will ask for help from within the village if householders in danger of being flooded need that help.

General Measures that can be taken prior to any flooding event

- **Sign up for flood warnings.** Links are provided in the appendices but this is the single most important thing that can be done. It is simple to do and warnings are sent to a mobile phone.
- **Be aware of any issues with drains / culverts etc in your vicinity.** If there are any issues with anything that would be covered by Highways, report on Fix My Street.
- **Prepare a personal Flood Plan** and make sure everyone in the household is aware of it. There is a template in the appendices. It is far easier to do this before any event than miss something important whilst in the thick of it. Amongst other things, make sure that this covers the potential need for evacuation and who you would contact / where you would go in the event that you cannot stay in your home. It should also cover storage / removal of important documents, phone numbers of essential services – insurers for example – and who to contact if your property needs to be pumped out.
- **Do your research on how to protect your property.** There is a considerable amount of information available and there are links in the appendices.
- **Consider clubbing together with neighbours** to have a proper flood pump available should it be needed – petrol or diesel as electricity may be off. There are details in the appendices but there are many alternatives available. This could be the quickest most effective way of disposing of flood water in a house – the Fire Brigade will not normally attend unless there is danger to life.
- If obtaining a pump is considered to be appropriate, also consider where it will be stored, how it will be maintained and who will make sure it is ready to operate with a full fuel tank and with appropriate training for any operator.

- **Consider potential impact on flooding** if making any significant changes to your property including any changes to the garden. If hard landscaping, ensure drainage is considered and suitable steps taken.

COMMUNITY FLOOD PLAN SPECIFICS.

BEFORE A FLOOD

Communications:

Flood Warden will advise of any Flood Warnings issued using social media.

BPC will similarly advise using the BPC website.

THIS SHOULD BE IN ADDITION TO HOUSEHOLDERS SIGNING UP TO RECEIVE FLOOD WARNINGS THEMSELVES

Flood Warden (FW) will continue to work with local residents regarding data collection.

This may include:

- Contact details of residents who may require help in the event of a flood. This may include moving furniture etc.
- Contact details of residents prepared to help in the event of a flood
- Be aware of local conditions and where water is likely to come from, particularly if Flood Warnings have been issued.

Test the Flood Plan

FW will review the Flood Plan after any flooding event to ensure it remains relevant.

In the event of no flooding, FW will review annually with BPC and WNC representatives.

The Flood Plan will be available to all Badby residents electronically by request to the FW.

Community Flood Plan checklist.
EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

Lead Flood Authority	WNC Floodline	0345 9881188
Highways (Drains)	Via WNC Floodline or report online if not urgent	
Water Company (Sewerage)	Anglian Water	03457 145145
Emergency Services if there is risk to life.		999
Futures Housing Group		0300 456 2531

NOTE: WNC advise that Northampton Fire and Rescue's main responsibility is to those in danger. They will not normally attend if there is no risk to life but may if they are not busy elsewhere. For the purposes of this exercise, assume that they wIll NOT attend unless there is a clear risk to life.

DO NOT PUT YOURSELVES OR OTHERS AT RISK

Chairman of Badby PC	Michael Thompson	07738 274057
Clerk to the Council	Paul Hymers	07884 959919
Flood Warden	Linda Clow	07594323421

WHEN A FLOOD HAPPENS

- Follow the details in your Personal Flood Plans
- Advise the necessary Authorities – or ask FW to do on your behalf if that is needed.
- FW will enact contingencies agreed as they become necessary.
- If it is safe to do so, make sure flood water does not cover drains with debris – and remove if it has. Keeping the drains clear will help with water dissipation via the drainage system.
- Contact keeper of flood pumps to bring them into action should property be flooded internally.

AFTER A FLOOD

Continue to follow the steps you have outlined in your personal flood plan including contacting your insurer if required.

FW will review the situation and ask for input from residents when everything has been dealt with.

APPENDICES

RESPONSIBILITIES OF LEAD FLOOD AUTHORITY

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-management-information-for-flood-risk-management-authorities-asset-owners-and-local-authorities

SIGN UP FOR FLOOD WARNINGS

https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings

INFORMATION ON BUILDING RESILIENCE IN HOMES

https://floodmary.com/help-and-resources/

RIPARIAN RULES FOR LANDOWNERS

https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/flood-resilience/flood-advice-land-and-riparian-owners

CONSENTABLE ACTIVITIES GUIDE.

THIS GIVES LANDOWNERS DETAILS OF CONSENTS REQUIRED AND INCLUDES A DOWNLOADABLE PDF FILE WITH MORE DETAILS. ROUTINE MAINTENANCE SUCH AS DEBRIS REMOVAL DOES NOT REQUIRE CONSENT

https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/flooding-and-flood-risk-management/ordinary-watercourse-land-drainage-consents

FLOOD ADVICE FOR HOMEOWNERS

https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/flood-resilience/flood-advice-homeowners

EXAMPLE OF WATER PUMP SUPPLIER

https://floodandwaterpumps.co.uk

INFORMATION AND TEMPLATE FOR PERSONAL FLOOD PLAN

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/personal-flood-plan

FUTURES HOUSING GROUP

https://futureshg.co.uk/