

Please reply to :
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Town and Parish Council Clerks

Mr Ray Webster
Head of Environmental
Health & Public
Protection

Town Hall
Bideford
Devon
EX39 2HS

Our Ref :
Date 12th October 2009

Your Ref :

DX:53606 Bideford

Dear Sir/Madam

Tel 01237 428700

Re: Flood protection

With the autumn months approaching, it is now a good time to start planning for the winter months, and possible flooding caused by high tides or heavy rain.

Although flooding cannot be prevented entirely, there are many ways to manage a flood to help minimise the damage caused, and there is help and guidance available on the Environment Agency website www.environment-agency.gov.uk. However, it may be necessary to consider maintaining a supply of sandbags or similar to be stored within the Community, so that residents are able to access them during flooding or heavy rain.

It is assumed that during flooding the Local Authority will supply sandbags to residents. However, this is not the case. The Authority does not have a statutory duty to provide sandbags, and it is the responsibility of the householder to protect their property. However Torrington District Council does sell 'aqua-sacs', which are dry bags that can be deployed to soak up to 30 times its own weight in liquid. We have a limited supply of bags for sale at the Council offices for people to purchase during office hours, however there is no out of hours service. There are also suppliers of similar bags available on the market.

I am writing to recommend that the Parish Council consider the need to purchase sandbags or similar dry bags to protect the Community during flooding and heavy rainfall.

If you would like any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above telephone number.

Yours faithfully

Office Hours

Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu
8:45am - 5:15pm
Friday
8:45am - 4:45pm

Chief Executive

John van de Laarschot

Strategic Directors :

Resources

Jenny Wallace



100%

Ruth Staddon
Emergency Planning Officer