



FORDER COMMUNITY AND CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION.

'caring for the community: protecting the environment'

PROPOSED FORDER EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

Introduction:

For some years there has been an informal arrangement for certain people to be prepared to take action to minimise the risk or effects of flooding caused by high tides and/or excessive rainfall. A number of properties are vulnerable to one or both. The FCCA has been alert, for several years, to the possible effects on Forder of planned/projected building developments in the Latchbrook catchment (Churchtown/Church Road Latchbrook/ Trematon /Broadmoor) ... these may lead to increased risks.

It has been suggested that this informal arrangement might usefully be extended to cover other 'emergencies',

- Loss of mains electrical supplies (some households are totally dependent on electricity for cooking and heating ... don't forget that central heating systems require an electrical supply even if oil or gas fired).
- Blocked access roads (ice/fallen trees/landslips)
- Loss of communications (damaged telephone lines or mobile phone masts)
- Loss of local deliveries/support (home help/carers/nursing)

We have been told by our local councillors that communities throughout Cornwall are being encouraged to put together their own plans to help deal with local 'situations' that might arise: local emergency services are inevitably forced to prioritise the deployment of their resources, and a local response plan can result in valuable 'first aid' actions being carried out in a timely fashion ... 'a stitch in time saves nine'.

There is a wealth of information available from Cornwall Council; although much of it relates to flooding, many of the principles apply equally to other 'situations' ... the aim should be to reduce the risk of a drama becoming a crisis or emergency.

The FCCA invites members of the community/households to consider the following:

- Do you feel vulnerable to flooding: would you need help to erect defences or to move valuables if flooding were threatened
- How you would cope with the extended loss of electrical supplies (heating/lighting/cooking)
- Would you need help getting supplies if normal transport was disrupted (food/drink/medicines): could your normal 'support' arrangements cope
- What you would need/wish to take with you if you had to move temporarily out of your home (medicines, address book etc) apart from clothes and cash.

and ...

- Could you help with flood prevention/mitigation work (filling sandbags/bucket and mop/moving belongings)
- What help can you offer to your neighbours ... are you on a different electrical supply: have you got an alternative cooking appliance (eg camping stove) that you could lend: have you got a portable generator. Are you able bodied and prepared to run errands/do shopping: have you got spare accommodation – possibly for an hour or two, possibly overnight: do you have a vacant caravan/campervan.
- What help can you offer to the community ... tools/equipment/resources/muscle power/expertise/qualified skills (plumber/electrician/oil or gas fitter).