

Flood resilience and protection



Defra Pilot Project- Bleasby

Ian Harrison

Strategic Manager for Risk and Resilience

Newark and Sherwood District Council

Defra Pilot Project- Bleasby

Aims: **To explore**

A specific resilience and resistance pilot project and review relevant aspects:

- Demands and desires
- Process inc Financial
- Feedback
- Challenges- Barriers, pitfalls
- Positive outcomes- success factors

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BACKGROUND

- History of fluvial flooding
- Pluvial- 2004. 2007
- 2007-72 of 81 parishes flooded -1300 homes
- Resilience approach adopted
- **6 homes in Bleasby flooded in June 2007**



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Partnership involvement- Why?

- Flood defences- not feasible.
- Inability of Council and other responders to substantially impact on flooding events
- Resilience approach . **Sandbags-mentality**
- To act as a catalyst and good practice in the District
- To encourage ownership of the problem
- EA – no legal mandate to disseminate grant

Bleasby- Project programme

Pre consultation by EA with community

Aug 07 - Initial approach to Council by EA

Nov 07 - Remit of project agreed.

Dec 07 - Defra Contract signed and mail shot to
28 potential project recipients

Jan 08 – Single tender agreed- Council Cabinet

Feb 08 - 17 Property flood work costings

Feb 08 – 15 Independent flood risk surveys

Feb-Mar 08 - Installation and commissioning

Mar 08 - Visit and evaluation /questionnaire- EHOs

Financial profile



- £90,000 available
- “Max £5k per property inc vat, surveys, our costs etc”
- FRAs for 15 properties- EA
- 12 eventual grant recipients
- £4000- £8000 cost per property
- EA topped up above £5k
- Cost to Newark and Sherwood DC- £7000+

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Barriers to Take up:

- Fear of property blight and devaluation
- Perceived low/adverse value of flood risk surveys??
- “Advice” from Estate Agent and Builder... “Don’t do it!”
- Products seen as obtrusive- not integrated
- “Its never flooded in living memory”
- No understanding of flood risk/threshold levels
- Timescales too sharp
- No indication of insurance benefit
- Limitations of scheme- gravel floor base

Bleasby- Challenges

- Available time scale and post flood work
- Seen by some recipients as “railroaded”
- New area of involvement for us- (grants)
- Poor risk awareness and understanding
- On the back of pluvial flooding- all 07 flooded properties not offered scheme(fluvial only)!!!!
- **£5k inc vat- max grant not appropriate to size of Bleasby properties (some capital rich/rev poor)**
- Some fear of blight /seen as obtrusive

How did we meet the challenges ?

- Short time scale - Reprioritisation of workloads
- Risk ignorance - Support and information
- Fear of blight etc – Information, reassurance
- Pluvial risk properties- stuck to initial remit of scheme but offered advice and guidance to others
- “Railroaded”- Use of EHOs to inspect work pre payment and ongoing reassurance and contact
- “Backing by The Council” - Important assurance

Bleasby Project

- **Without grant** 90+% would not have had a flood risk survey undertaken
- **Without grant-** 80% would not have installed products after flood risk survey
- **Return periods** misunderstood and misleading to many
- Bleasby not adjacent to River Trent- “non visible risk” + poor risk understanding

Our approach

- ✓ Helps build resilience and reduces demand on responders at times of floods
- ✓ Criteria for grant- based on property threshold data v 1-100 flood levels
- ✓ Heavy on consultation and support
- ✓ Would have preferred flood risk assessment before costings survey(lack of providers)
- ✓ Use of Env Health Officers to assess quality of work prior to payment(as per Housing Improvement Grants)

Bleasby- what would we change in the process?

- Greater and more realistic lead in period
- Greater pre scheme community liaison
- Flood Risk Survey/Assessment should be 1st
- Build competence in Councils/those that disseminate grants
- Resilience take up

Key success factors



- Raised community **understanding of risk and ownership of risk**
- **Improved Resilience** of 15 properties directly and others indirectly
- Untested as yet but the good practice shared and used as an **exemplar model**
- **Catalyst for resilience** in other flood risk communities in District- some informed residents have installed flood protection properties
- Increases our flood knowledge and a positive on **Council reputation/community engagement**

Evaluation

- “Excellent workmanship”
- Storage? Maintenance? Life span?
- Happy with independent flood risk assessment.(Council backed)
- No positive impact on Insurance premium/excesses (**resilience req also?**)
- Association with Council gave assurance
- Kite Mark seen by **some** as important

Some Thoughts??

- ✓ New product assurance scheme - reduce cost + increase range of products- **burglar alarm scheme?**
- ✓ Resilience as a condition of grant- Insurance
- ✓ Passive/build in rather than bolt on
- ✓ Role for Council/Private Building Control re flood risk surveys- accreditation essential
- ✓ Grant- % based- dependent on risk and ability to pay
- ✓ Lower tier Councils well placed to administer grant....
(with resource)
- ✓ Pluvial/flash flood risk **must** be included.