

SELLY PARK SOUTH NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM - FLOOD ACTION PLAN

The SPS Forum Flood Action Group has been working with Birmingham City Council's Resilience Team* (BRT), the Environment Agency (EA), West Midlands Police (WMP) and West Midlands Fire Service (WMFS) in developing a Flood Action Plan for any future incident of serious flooding.

A flood response structure has now been set up which involves an overall Flood Coordinator and a team of Flood Wardens and Flood Volunteers (for each of the vulnerable streets). These teams will implement the Flood Action Plan in the event of a serious flood threatening the vulnerable area.

In the event of a developing flood event the Flood Coordinator will be in direct phone contact with the duty controllers at BRT, the EA, WMP, WMFS and the Flood Wardens. The Flood Wardens in turn will be in communication with the Volunteers in each street and each street team will advise residents of the developing situation, and assist residents with flood defence of their homes, especially vulnerable people.

Christ Church on Pershore Road has kindly agreed to act as the Emergency Relief Centre should evacuation of homes be needed again and this will be staffed by local volunteers with support from BRT. This type of scheme has already been successfully established in some of the other neighbourhoods in Birmingham which have experienced serious flooding. St Andrew's Healthcare, Dogpool Lane, has also kindly offered to provide staff volunteers to give general assistance during a flood emergency.

Sand bags: We have agreed with Birmingham City Council (BCC) that in the event of a flood being imminent the Flood Coordinator or his deputy will phone the BCC Duty Officer to request for a sufficient supply of sand bags to be delivered to a central distribution point on the area of grassland in Hobson Road opposite Manilla Road. The bags can then be transferred relatively easily down slope by residents and volunteers to their properties using wheel barrows. Residents with pickup trucks or 4x4 vehicles could assist too, but please remember that driving through flood water can be very dangerous. If you do decide it is safe to drive through shallow floodwater you must drive slowly. The Council Officers believe that sand bags can be supplied much more effectively using this system than by trying to answer numerous individual calls for supplies from householders. Please do not individually phone the Council for sandbags as this may jeopardise our arrangements for receiving a central delivery. Eventually we hope to build a permanent sand & equipment bunker in the Neighbourhood.

Volunteer staff: Flood Coordinator – John Clayton; Deputy Coordinators – John Williams and Jeanne Glenn; Flood Group Organisers – Katrina Wright and David Francis. Flood Wardens: Cecil Road - Katrina Wright and Dave Francis; Lower Kitchener Road – Jeanne Glenn; Fashoda Road North and Lower Hobson Road – Jan Partridge; Fashoda Road South – Mary Donath; Dogpool Lane (East of Manilla Road) – Fay Williams. Plus 26 Flood Volunteers.

Flood Wardens and Volunteers will be identifiable in named yellow jackets and Wardens and Volunteers will carry ID cards.

26 residents have already offered their help as Flood Emergency Volunteers. More volunteers are needed if the scheme is to work successfully. On the day of the flood on Saturday 6th September 2008 there was an excellent community spirit with residents all joining in to help one another. The aim of this scheme is to make that community effort even more effective. **Please seriously consider registering as a Flood Volunteer.** Please see the Contact Us page of the website for details of how to get in touch or phone the Forum office on 0121 415 5088.

*Note: Birmingham Resilience Team (BRT) is The Emergency Planning Team of Birmingham City Council with responsibility for:

- a) Planning for different types of emergencies
- b) Maintaining a 24/7 Duty Officer System
- c) Responding to emergencies when they occur.