

Fenny Compton Flood Advice Booklet

Produced by Aqueous Flood Group 2020



Junction of Bridge Street and Memorial Road

Properties, gardens and roads in Fenny Compton have flooded over the years, caused by run-off from the surrounding hills into the streams which flow through the village. Flood defence mechanisms, including the attenuation pond in Halls Yard, behind the church, have been put in place to control the flow of water through the village and reduce flooding.

This booklet has been produced to provide all residents of Fenny Compton with practical advice and information to help prevent damage to properties from flooding. This includes action which can be taken both in advance and during times of excessive rainfall.

Aqueous Flood Group

Aqueous Flood Group works with Fenny Compton Parish Council and Warwickshire County Council (WCC) to improve the village flood defences. Discussions are in progress to improve the efficiency of Halls Yard and to put in place additional natural flood protection upstream to the west of the village. Our aim is to deliver a scheme that protects the village and is in keeping with our scenic rural surroundings.

In addition, Brian and Roly organise regular maintenance of known 'issue' areas where natural debris can quickly build up and hinder the flow of water.

If you are interested in joining us, or are happy to help during a flooding event, please contact a member of Aqueous.

We would also welcome anyone who would be happy to volunteer for ditch clearing. It only takes a few hours twice a year so if you are able to help with this, please contact Brian.

Aqueous contact details

Alan Payne, Chair	770173
Brian Peers, Maintenance	770644
Roly Whear, Maintenance	770162
Jane Ainley, Projects	770991
Josephine Taylor, Projects	

For flood-related issues and concerns in Fenny Compton, please contact Aqueous in the first instance and we can provide the relevant support/guidance.

During flood events, we will use the Fenny Compton Facebook and Nextdoor social media sites for local updates, information and help.

Property owners' responsibilities if you have a ditch or watercourse on your land (Riparian responsibilities)

1. If your property contains a ditch or watercourse (on or under your land or on your boundary), it is the property owner's responsibility to ***maintain it and ensure that the water flows naturally and without restrictions***, e.g. remove sticks and silt and control the vegetation alongside.

The deeds for your property or land will tell you if this is not the case. Check your deeds if you are not clear about ownership.

2. It is important to ***remove blockages, fallen trees or overhanging branches from your ditch or watercourse***, or cut back trees and shrubs on the bank, if there is a chance that they might reduce the flow or cause flooding to other landowners' property.

If they did end up causing flooding, you may have to pay damages.

3. Discourage children from making dams in the watercourse which will cause a blockage.
4. Leave all other trees, branches and shrubs in place - they can help prevent flooding by varying the shape and flow of the channel and reduce erosion.
5. Do not go inside a culvert. You could get trapped or poisoned by gases. If a culvert needs clearing or repairing, contact Aqueous for advice.
6. You have the right to protect your property from flooding and erosion, but you must:
 - Get permission to build anything in or around the watercourse
 - Not build anything which could divert water and increase flood risk to other people's property.



High Street, outside Fenny Compton surgery

If you would like more information about riparian responsibilities, this website covers watercourses on property boundaries and also gives advice on leaving trees, bushes and plants alongside the watercourse that might help with the flow – <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/owning-a-watercourse>

Act in advance to minimise the flood risk to your property

1. You can see if you are in danger of flooding by checking the flood risk map of your area <https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/long-term-flood-risk>
2. Regularly check and maintain any ditches and watercourses on your property. Clearing pavements, footpaths and drains by your property to remove debris such as weeds and loose foliage will also help reduce the chance of flooding.
3. Have sandbags or soil-filled bin bags available to stop water entering your property via doorways, low level air vents and windows.
4. If your property is at risk of flooding, consider investing in flood prevention barriers such as floodgates, airbrick sealing, etc. *Warwickshire County Council can offer advice and guidance.*

During a flood

1. If serious flooding is imminent, turn off gas, water and electricity at the mains.
2. Move as many belongings and as much furniture as possible upstairs if safe to do so or at least to a higher-level surface.
3. Get your flood barriers/sandbags in place.
4. Should you have a neighbour who is infirm in any way, help them to safeguard their property. Regularly check that they are safe and well during the emergency.
5. Avoid walking through flood water, it may be deeper than appears or be concealing dangerous obstacles.
6. Avoid driving through flood water if possible. Avoid the Fenny Compton railway bridge - when it's one metre deep it looks like a flat wet road and always catches somebody out.
7. If you do have to drive through deep water, drive slowly to reduce the bow wave which can cause flooding to adjacent properties. This has been an issue for Fenny Compton surgery during recent flooding.

After flooding, if your property has been affected

1. Assume that flood water may have been contaminated with sewage. Do not let children play in the flood water.
2. Do not use food that has been in contact with flood water.
3. Do not drink mains water until assured that the water is clear of any contamination.
4. Do not turn on electricity until it has been checked by a qualified electrician.
5. Check your drains and if the level has not gone down over 48 hours, contact WCC.

Sandbags and how to use them – advice from the Environment Agency

Traditionally, sandbags have been used to block doorways, drains and other openings into properties as well as to weigh-down manhole covers, garden furniture and to block sink, toilet and bath drains to prevent water backing up. They can keep water out for short periods, but they can also seep water even when well-stacked and trodden into place.

Please be aware that sand chemicals may harm the bags long term so only fill bags when flooding is threatened. If your property is at risk, you may wish to keep a supply of empty bags and a separate container/bin full of sand. Never reuse sand after a flood due to potential contaminants from the flood waters.

Filling sandbags and building a wall is a physically demanding activity so it is important that all those involved are fit enough to carry out the work. It takes two people to fill them and they take time to fill (approximately one hour to fill 12 sandbags).

You'll need at least 6 sandbags to keep out 20cm depth of water for a standard door opening. Each sandbag will need approximately 15kg of sand.

1. Do not fill bags more than half full, they can get heavy quickly, or fill them too far away from where you want to position them
2. If you can, put a large sheet of heavy-duty plastic between the sandbags and the wall of your house.
3. You don't need to tie the end of the bag. Place the bags lengthways, tucking the open end under the filled half of the bag and position it pointing into the direction of water flow.
4. Place bags in layers. Like a brick wall, make sure that in the next layer each bag overlaps the one below by half.
5. Stamp bags firmly into place to eliminate gaps and create a tight seal.

As sandbags are relatively ineffective when compared to purpose-designed flood protection products, the Environment Agency would strongly encourage people to use purpose made flood protection products, such as flood boards, non-return valves for plumbing and air brick covers. Aqueous and Warwickshire County Council can provide advice to help with this.

Other useful contacts and sources of information

Fenny Compton Parish Council	Chair - Jon Dutton Clerk – Lydia Cox	Jon.Dutton@fennycompton-pc.gov.uk info@fennycompton-pc.gov.uk
Warwickshire County Council (WCC)	01926 410 410	www.warwickshire.gov.uk
WWC Highways	01926 412515	www.warwickshire.gov.uk/contactuscountyhighways
WWC Floor Advice		www.warwickshire.gov.uk/flooding
National Flood Form website provides support and advice to communities and individuals that are at risk of flooding		www.nationalfloodforum.org.uk