



Naburn Village

**EMERGENCY PLAN
RESIDENTS' PACK**

NABURN PARISH COUNCIL

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Naburn Emergency Plan

1. Introduction

Flooding is the main risk to the village of Naburn due to its proximity to the River Ouse. The village suffered from severe flooding in 2000, 2012 and 2015. Mild flooding – water covering the B1222 at Howden Dyke but not affecting property – occurs on a more frequent basis.

Whilst this Emergency Plan has been created with flooding considered as the predominant threat, the same protocols will apply in the unlikely event of a non-flooding emergency.

This pack has been prepared by the Parish Council to assist residents in the event of a major emergency – the most likely of which is a serious flood.

The Parish Council has nominated several Councillors to form an Emergency Team to act as a key point of contact in such an emergency. Please be aware that the Parish Council is a non-political committee, made up of residents who are all volunteers. The Emergency team will do all they can to help but they have limited powers; they must not be assumed to be one of the official emergency responders and it is possible that some or even all of them may not be in the village at the time of an emergency. In the unlikely event that none of them is available, other members of the Parish Council will endeavour to do what they can to help.

The Emergency Team plans to be a source of valuable information for residents and a link to Silver Command (the group, normally based at Fulford Road Police HQ, which is in operational charge of an emergency within York and/or its outlying villages). Silver Command consists of bodies such as the Police, City of York Council, and the Environment Agency.

2. Facilities

The Reading Room/Post Office on Front Street will be used as the Emergency Contact Centre as it doesn't flood and is accessible during periods of flooding. At least one member of the Emergency Team will aim to be available in the Emergency Contact Centre in daylight hours during a serious flood and/or at other times if circumstances dictate.

The Village Hall on Vicarage Lane will be used in the event of an emergency where many people need to be housed.

All members of the Emergency Team have keys to both facilities.

3. Communications

BBC Radio York provides useful information in the event of an emergency. Key radio frequencies are included in [Section 11](#).

The Parish Council has a website on which this and other useful information is held (www.naburnparishcouncil.org.uk) We also use the village Facebook group to share information in flood or other emergency situations (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2000177516903744/>).

In the event of a complete communications breakdown – as happened in 2015 when the BT Exchange was flooded – we will endeavour to keep you informed via information sheets delivered to your property as we did in 2015.

4. River Levels

The level of the River Ouse, measured in metres above normal river level, at the Viking Recorder on North Street, York can be seen at <https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/station/8208>

Some key levels:

- In 2000, we suffered the worst flood in recent memory. The level at the Viking Recorder at its peak was 5.4m
- In the 2012 flood, the level was 5.07m
- In the 2015 flood, the level was 5.2m

Water starts covering the B1222 at Howden Dyke at about 3.9m measured at the Viking Recorder and at 4m, the road becomes impassable for most vehicles. If water levels are still rising at this stage, depending on where you live in the village, you should consider moving your vehicle to higher ground (see [Section 8](#)).

- When the level reaches 4.4m, some gardens and garages are likely to flood
- When the level reaches 4.8m, some properties may flood

Please be aware that the depth gauge in Howden Dyke, adjacent to the bridge, measures AOD (above ordnance datum defined as mean sea level at Newlyn in Cornwall). We suggest that during a flood, monitoring the Viking Recorder is more meaningful.

The website shows river levels for 5 days, so it is useful to see whether it is still rising and the rate at which it is rising. The Environment Agency tries to predict the time and height of the peak, but this can be inaccurate, particularly at times of exceptional local and national rainfall as experienced in 2015.

In a major flood, we would encourage you to monitor this level regularly. For those of you who have experienced recent floods, you will be able to predict the impact on your own property based on the levels of previous floods.

We also encourage you to sign up to the EA automated phone flood warning service which alerts you to imminent flooding. You can register on the EA Floodline 0345 988 1188 or online at <https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings>.

When signing up for this service, you may wish to request just 'Flood Warnings' and not 'Flood Alerts' (see [Section 12](#) for definitions). 'Flood Alerts' are more frequent and tend to be aimed at farmers advising them to move livestock to higher ground. It is, however, your decision which services you choose to register for.

Residents who have experienced several floods over the years believe that the flood invariably peaks at high tide at Naburn Lock. This seems logical as the high tide at the locks creates a wall of water which acts as a barrier to the flow of the river, thus slowing down that flow. High tide at Naburn Lock is exactly 4 hours later than high tide at Hull (Albert Dock). Tide times at Hull (Albert Dock) can be seen at <https://www.tidetimes.org.uk/hull-albert-dock-tide-times>.

5. Sandbags

According to the City of York Council's website "it is the responsibility of the owner or occupier of a property to protect it against flooding and whilst the Council will employ its best endeavours to deliver sandbags to members of the public, it will not be held responsible for any damage caused by a delay in that delivery nor for any failure of sandbagging to prevent ingress of water to a property."

The Council have always delivered filled sandbags to the village when requested in the past, but that delivery can often be many hours, and sometimes days, later than when the sandbags are needed and we are not given notice of delivery day/time. For this reason the Parish Council kept the sandbags used during the 2012 flood so they would be available immediately for future floods. Unfortunately, about 25% of those bags became unusable due to degradation from ultraviolet light, despite them being covered.

We therefore acquired 2000 empty bags which were distributed to residents based on their needs. These bags should be kept indoors by residents to avoid degradation. Six tons of sand was delivered to the village and stored next to the electricity sub-station, opposite the Village Hall, on Vicarage Lane. When needed, residents can fill their own bags with sand and use them to protect their property. We recommend that residents build their sandbag protection high enough to protect against waves caused by inconsiderate drivers (see [Section 6](#)).

Sandbags should be emptied when no longer needed. The sand must not be emptied into your wheelie bin. The best way to dispose of the sand is to empty the bag onto your garden and dig the sand into the soil. Residents can then store their empty bag(s) indoors again, ready for future use.

As the village sand store becomes depleted we will request replenishment from City of York Council. A delivery of bulk sand should be far more prompt than a request for filled sandbags.

The EA offers information on the most effective use of sandbags to protect your property. One of the key things is not to fill sandbags more than half full. You will find this information at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/892489/Sandbags-and-how-to-use-them-properly-for-flood-protection.pdf.

We believe that this is a fair system for the whole village and allows residents more time to prepare, without having to rely on City of York Council. We should all help elderly and infirm residents as best we can. During an emergency, we would hope that the village can work together and in particular, assist those less able to fend for themselves.

6. Floodwater

In the past there have been occasions when vehicles have been driven through floodwater too fast, creating waves which then breach residents' flood protection. Please drive through floodwater slowly and with consideration for nearby properties. Please note that only the Police have the authority to close roads.

7. Access routes

Moor Lane

After the floods of 2000, the EA constructed a balancing pond and flood embankment at the southern end of the village. This has provided us with a dry access route into and out of the village via Moor Lane during times of flood.

In 2015, however, the sheer volume of water meant that the dykes alongside Moor Lane quickly filled the balancing pond, resulting in mild flooding to Moor Lane. Eventually, the EA brought in a mobile pump and the problem was resolved. We have requested a pump be available to the village so that we can be more proactive in the next flood and keep this route open.

Emergency Route

In 2000 all roads into and out of the village were impassable, so an emergency route was created from Vicarage Lane across the Sustrans Route 65 path and, via various privately owned farm tracks, on to Howden Lane.

Since then, a legal contract has had to be drawn up and agreed between Sustrans, the owner and operator of the cycleway, and Naburn Parish Council. In it, Sustrans have stated that, for safety reasons, they will only allow Emergency vehicles to use this route and only if all other routes into the

village are impassable. If ever an urgent evacuation of the village is required, however, because of a tidal surge coinciding with a serious flood, it could be used as a last resort for all residents.

All members of the Emergency Team hold a key to the gate.

8. Parking

In the event of a flood, where access to individual properties is blocked by flood water, we suggest either driving down the B1222 from York and parking on Naburn Lane between the Howden Lane junction (which will, by then, be flooded) and the Marina entrance and walking into the village along the Sustrans path or driving into the village via Moor Lane and parking on the higher ground near St. Matthew's church.

Please avoid parking on grass verges as this causes damage, and always allow enough space for other vehicles to pass, especially emergency vehicles.

9. Village Emergency Team

NAME	ROLE	ADDRESS	CONTACT DETAILS
Laurie Gunson	Lead	Holly Cottage Front Street	01904 653920 07710 097952 chairman@naburnparishcouncil.org.uk
Steve Boyne	Deputy	2, Station Cottages Naburn Lane	01904 466282 07874 809639
John Jefferson		Norwin Front Street	01904 656449 07841 004391
Vince Phillips		Tall Trees Front Street	01904 624117 07831 151337
Andy Bean		Marina House Naburn Lane	01904 627781 07931 928052

10. Meeting Locations

ADDRESS	KEYHOLDERS
The Reading Room, Front Street	The Emergency Team plus: Christine Hirst (01904 633505)
The Village Hall, Vicarage Lane	The Emergency Team plus: Christine Hirst (01904 633505) Sallie Gray (01904 624765)




11. Local Radio

BBC Radio York takes on a public service information role when a local emergency develops and extends its output if required to meet the community's needs.

Be aware that power cuts often accompany severe weather so ensure you have a portable radio with a stock of batteries, or a hand-cranked radio, available.

Radio York can be found at 103.7 FM, 666 MW, on DAB digital radio and online at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/radioyork>

12. Flood Alerts and Warnings

SYMBOL	MEANING
 FLOOD ALERT	Flooding is possible – be prepared
 FLOOD WARNING	Flooding expected – action required
 SEVERE FLOOD WARNING	Severe flooding – danger to life

13. Local Resources

Overleaf is a list of local equipment and resources which may be utilised during an emergency. Some of the equipment may require specialist skills/training and the use of appropriate safety equipment - these requirements are set out in the 'conditions of use' column.

EQUIPMENT/RESOURCE	LOCATION	CONTACT	CONDITIONS OF USE
2 safety boats	Tall Trees Front Street	Vincent Phillips 01904 624117	Trained/experienced boat handlers
Teleporter forklift truck	Gilrudding Farm Moor Lane, Deighton	Keith Atkinson 01904 728516	Experienced operator only
Generators, pumps, chainsaws & power tools	2 Station Cottages Naburn Lane	Steve Boyne 01904 466282	Experienced operator only
Various boating equipment	York Marina	Phil Bleakley 01904 621021	Experienced operator only
Kayaks and general water safety equipment	Riverside Cottage Front Street	Paul & Helen Kilner 07949 369022	Experienced operator only

14. Emergency Volunteers

Listed below are residents who are willing to volunteer their specialist knowledge or practical skills and time if needed during an emergency. Volunteers must:

- not endanger themselves or others
- assess the risk prior to any activity they undertake
- ensure their contact details are kept up to date

NAME	ROLE/SKILLS	CONTACT
Kevin Anderson	Doctor	07747 040604
Gurj Chhokar	Doctor	07970 488740
Shirley Fairley	Retired nurse	07825 841077
Colin Gordon	Languages - fluent French & German	01904 639334
Laurie Gunson	Civil Engineer, Media Trained	01904 653920
John Jefferson	Media Trained	01904 656449
Dave Moores	Languages – fluent French & some German	01904 670380
Mike Porter	Languages – French, German, Afghan & Bosnian	07583 898073

15. Other Useful Village Contacts

NAME	ROLE	CONTACT DETAILS
Philip Ashworth	Parish Councillor	01904 627307
Keith Atkinson	Parish Councillor	01904 728516
Andy Bean	Parish Councillor (Vice Chair)	01904 627781
John Britton	Parish Councillor	07801 472678
Anne Clark	Parish Councillor	01904 621669
Jean Dale	Church Warden	01904 634231
Sallie Gray	Parish Councillor/ Church Warden	01904 624765
Laurie Gunson	Parish Councillor (Chair)	01904 653920
Andrew Holmes	Parish Councillor	07541 200004
John Jefferson	Parish Councillor	01904 656449
Rev Richard Kirkman	Parish Vicar	01904 728406
Suzie Mercer	Parish Clerk	07709 343577
Dave Moores	Snow Warden	01904 670380
Vince Phillips	Parish Councillor	01904 624117
Susie Rames	Parish Councillor	07813 379521

16. Longer Term Solutions

After the 2012 floods, a public meeting was held which resulted in the formation of a village Flood Group, consisting of residents and Parish Councillors, to work closely with the Environment Agency (EA), Yorkshire Water and City of York Council. £60,000 was raised to cover the cost of a feasibility study to investigate options to help protect the village against future floods. Aecom, a consultancy who specialise in this type of work, were awarded the contract by the EA in November 2015.

The study was completed in May 2018 and a set of design recommendations were made after much consultation with the Naburn Flood Group. In parallel with this work, the EA were given a £45m budget from the Treasury to improve the flood defences in York and its surroundings after the 2015 floods. Consequently, the Naburn recommendations were incorporated into this overall project.

In November 2019, the Naburn Flood Group were informed that despite much effort by the EA, the rules set by the Treasury for the use of public money could not be met for the Naburn scheme. The approximate cost to build a wall along the length of the village would be £7m and this would outweigh the financial benefit of protecting the houses at risk. Instead, those properties at risk will be offered a finite sum of money (up to £7,500) for Property Level Protection, which could include such features as waterproof doors, underfloor pumps, solid waterproof floors, raised power points etc.

Clearly, the Naburn Flood Group is extremely disappointed at the outcome after significant effort over 8 years, but it will continue its efforts to try to raise money from other sources to possibly provide a partial scheme at both Howden Dyke and the slipway, the two areas which cause most problems in all but the most severe floods.

The only encouragement is that the EA are now far more aware of the need to fix the problem at source, rather than continually building higher and higher flood walls, and so money is also being spent upstream providing more natural means of controlling the flow of the rivers in periods of intense rain.

17. Village Population

Resident Population	Approximately 560	<i>Total:</i> 700
Maximum Tourist Population	Approximately 150	

18. Useful Organisations

LOCAL AUTHORITIES		
City of York Council	Manage recovery process, helping the community return to normal after an incident	Switchboard: 01904 551550 EPU: 01904 551003
UTILITIES		
Electricity (Northern Powergrid)	Maintain and ensure safe electricity supply. Disconnect cables that constitute a danger to life and property.	Emergency: 0330 1230877 0800 66 88 77
Yorkshire Water	Maintenance of water supplies and sewage disposal arrangements. Repair water mains, and availability of emergency water supply.	Enquiries: 08451 24 24 24 Emergencies: 0800 573 553
Telephones (British Telecom)	Maintain and operate national telecoms systems. Provide increased facilities to meet emergency requirements.	Faults and Emergencies: 0800 800 151 0330 123 4151
GOVERNMENT AGENCIES		
Environment Agency	Flooding issues. Deal with emergency repairs and blockages on main rivers and own structures. Respond to pollution incidents and advise on waste disposal issues.	Report an Incident: 0800 807060 Floodline: 0845 988 11 88
VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS		
RVS (formerly WRVS)	Emergency service provision e.g. emergency feeding and other welfare services.	(9am-5pm): 0330 555 0310
St John Ambulance	First aid, ambulances, and medical supplies.	03700 10 49 50
British Red Cross	First aid, ambulances, and medical supplies.	0344 871 11 11
RSPCA	Protect animals and prevent cruelty.	General Advice Line: 0300 1234 999
Age UK	Provision of care for the elderly and specific elderly care at rest centres.	0800 678 1602
York Samaritans	Experienced, listening/support service for people suffering emotional stress.	0330 094 5717

19. Revision Record

REVISION DATE	AUTHOR	AMENDMENTS MADE
V1 July 2016	Laurie Gunson	Initial creation
V2 February 2020	Laurie Gunson	General update
V3 March 2021	Laurie Gunson	General update and revision of emergency access route details
V4 March 2021	Laurie Gunson	Update of the volunteer list