

Introduction

This document has been agreed as the Warwickshire County Council Sandbag Policy and approved by Scott Tompkins.

Aim

The aim of the sandbag policy is to formalise Warwickshire County Council's principles and procedures for the distribution of sandbags across Warwickshire.

Objectives

- To clarify Warwickshire County Council's policy and procedures for partners and the public.
- To establish a standardised County Council procedure for responding to requests for sandbags from partners and the public.
- To ensure the County Council is able to protect critical national infrastructure, the resilient road network and support partners and emergency services through the strategic distribution of available resources.

Sandbag Provision

Warwickshire County Council, through County Highways, maintains a limited stock of sandbags prioritised for use on County roads to protect properties flooding from the highway and ensure road safety.

Owners of infrastructure and priority services are responsible for protecting their assets from flooding and maintaining service provision. During extreme flood events Warwickshire County Council will consider the need and capability to support this through strategic use of stock at priority sites across the county. This allocation is strictly subject to available stock and competing priorities but where possible will include:

- Critical national infrastructure including health, transport, energy, water and communications.
- Housing for vulnerable people including residential/care homes and sheltered accommodation.
- County Council owned property.
- Supporting local partners.
- Public/community buildings (subject to assessment)
- The resilient road network

Local authorities do not have a duty to provide sandbags to the public however the County Council will do all it can to support partners, emergency services and residents on a best endeavours basis however support may not be possible and therefore cannot be assumed

Warwickshire County Council encourages everyone to make themselves aware of the flood risks in their area by using the government website (<https://www.gov.uk/check-long-term-flood-risk>). Members of the public are also advised to take appropriate measures to protect themselves and their property from flooding such as purchasing their own protection equipment. It is worth noting that sandbags are not the most effective means to prevent water from entering a property. For more information, please visit <http://bluepages.org.uk/>, <https://www.befloodready.uk/pfr-products> and <https://www.gov.uk/prepare-for-flooding/future-flooding>

Sandbag Disposal

Once sandbags have come in to contact with flood water, they are considered to be contaminated and should not be reused. Once sandbags have become contaminated it is the property owner's responsibility to dispose of them.

Contact

In an immediate flood emergency, or where there is a risk to life call 999

If you have a hearing or speech impairment, please use textphone service 18000

If you are affected by flood water from the road, please call Warwickshire County Council:

Customer Service Centre 01926 412515

Monday – Thursday 9am – 5pm

Friday 9am – 4:30 pm

For calls outside of the above hours please contact Warwickshire Police (www.warwickshire.police.uk)

If you are affected by flood water from a river please contact the Environment Agency:

Telephone: 0345 988 1188

Type talk: 0845 602 6340

If you are affected by flood water from a burst watermain or sewer, please contact Seven Trent Water:

Telephone: 0800 783 4444