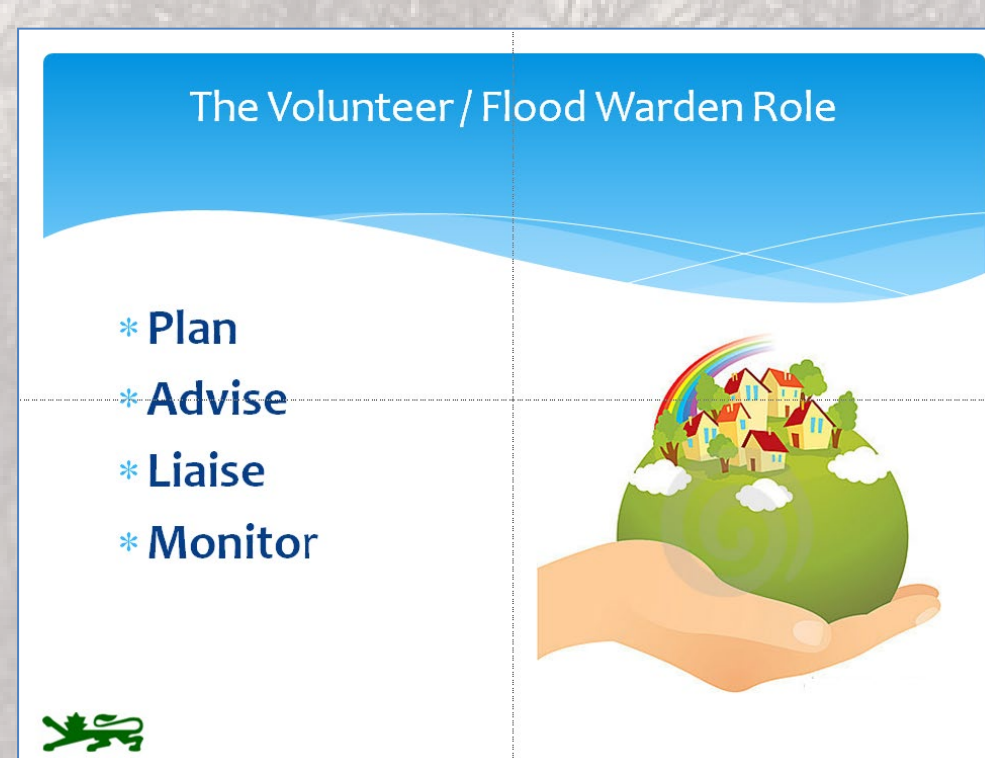
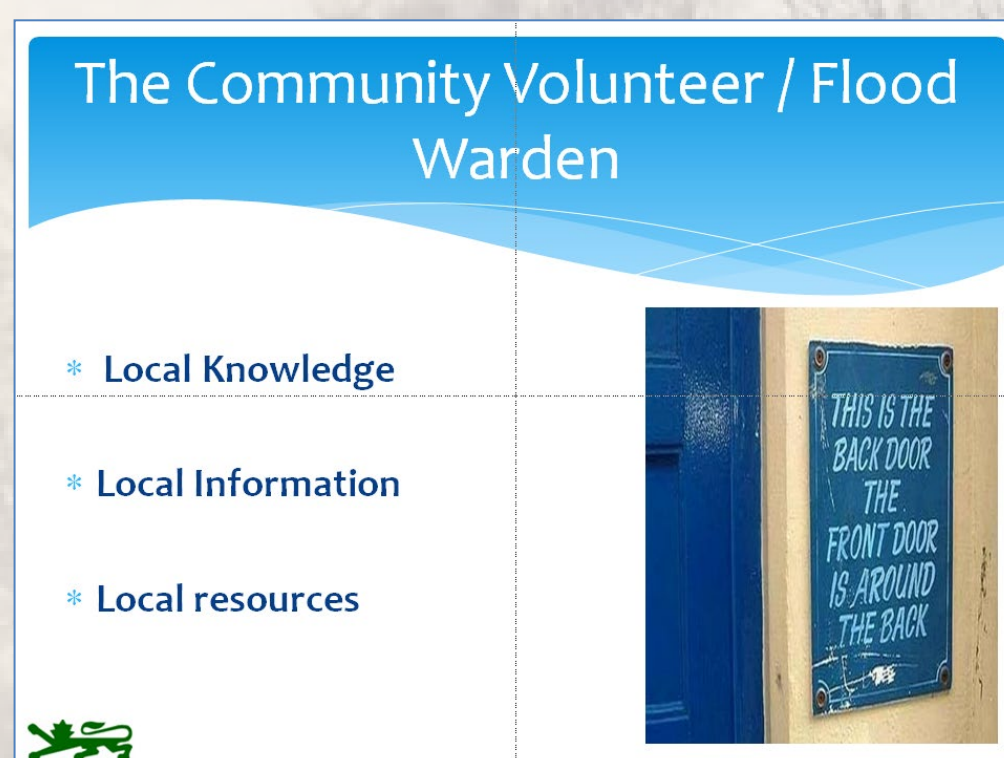


Community preparation for flooding

Community Emergency Volunteers

Local Authorities and the Environment Agency support a network of Community Emergency Volunteers (CEVs) across the Wessex Area which covers Somerset, Wiltshire, Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol, South Gloucestershire and Dorset. The volunteers help prepare communities to deal with emergencies and also act as initial responders during the first critical hours of any community emergency. For many communities who have identified flooding as the main source of an emergency, the volunteers act as the Flood Warden.



How the scheme operates

The Flood Warden Scheme has proved to be a useful tool in the fight against flooding with the scheme continually growing. We, now, have approximately 500 flood wardens throughout Wessex.



Even where there is no obvious risk, surface water runoff, sewerage discharge etc can all be mitigated by planning and local awareness. We encourage flood wardens to be officially recognised or even appointed by parish or town councils. This allows the flood warden to function under the public liability insurance of the council.

Can You Help?

Many of our CEVs / flood wardens are in small villages and in towns and we are keen to expand the network into larger towns and cities. It is most likely that the CEVs will be linked to parishes, wards or existing community groups.

If you are interested in finding out more or feel that you would be willing to become a CEV in Wessex please contact the Environment Agency's Flood Resilience Team :

floodwessex@environment-agency.gov.uk

Who are we looking for as wardens?



Anyone who is interested can become a flood warden but ideally they should be:

- Reasonably fit and able to notify neighbours
- At home during the day or working close to home
- A good communicator - able to explain and pass on information
- Interested in the local area and the river environment
- Ideally not at a high risk of flooding themselves

The role of the Environment Agency and local authorities is to act as the co-ordinators of the scheme, advising and supplying the flood warden with information, to assist them during times of flooding.

Flood wardens are a first point of contact for residents during a flood event and give advice and information during dry periods. Flood wardens are also the local response co-ordinators during times of flooding and are a conduit for dispensing information from the Environment Agency and emergency services to local residents, and vice-versa.

An essential part of this role is the production of the community flood plan, which outlines what communities are to do in the event of a flood. Full support is given to the CEVs to help them produce the plan.

It is important to note that flood wardens complement the emergency services, not replace them. The efforts they make can prove vital in helping a community cope with a flood event but they do not replace the trained emergency services.

The warden could be seen as offering “flood first aid” They should not place themselves and others in danger.