

Chippenham Area Board 17 January 2011

ITEM 5b(iii)

## Chairman's Announcements

### Local Flood Protection

In the event of flooding the Council's priority is to the elderly or infirm when assisting people and the protection of commercial property to prevent environmental pollution. Although we will do what we can for affected householders we urge those in areas of risk to take precautions themselves.

In order to help communities protect themselves from flood risk, Wiltshire Council is introducing a scheme to supply gel sacs, these are similar to sandbags but inflate when in contact with water. The sacs are filled with a gel that expands when wet, but when dry they are virtually flat. This means they are simple to store and far easier to distribute in an emergency. They inflate when immersed in water, allowing a protective flood barrier to be built quickly to protect doorways and airbricks. When the flood has abated they can often be emptied, dried and reused.

In some places where there is a known flood risk, the Parish or Town Council may already hold a limited supply of sandbags for distribution in times of emergency, and the gel sacs can be used to augment these supplies.

Local communities are encouraged to appoint a local Flood Warden who can co-ordinate their response and be the main contact with the council's duty officers. Those parish and town councils with flood wardens or local flood working groups can seek advice from them on the numbers of gel sacs likely to be required for specific locations.

Parish and Town Councils will be able to:

- Purchase a stock which they can hold in the community for distribution during a flood event or
- Having identified properties that are at risk, or are known to flood, purchase the gel sacs on behalf of the householders

By buying in bulk Wiltshire Council was able to negotiate a discount which would not be available to individuals. The gel sacs are available to Parish and Town Councils for £2.50 each.

Town and Parish Council's wishing purchase gel sacs should complete and email the attached form to Sarah Peterson ([sarah.peterson@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.peterson@wiltshire.gov.uk), telephone 01225 713377).

**COMMUNITY ORDER FOR GEL SACS**

<b>From</b>		<b>Parish/Town Council</b>	
<b>Contact Details</b>			
<b>Name;</b>			
<b>Phone Number:</b>			
<b>E Mail:</b>			
<b>Quantity required:</b>	<b>@ £2.50</b>	<b>Total: £ _____</b>	
<b>Cheques should be made out to Wiltshire Council</b>			
<b>Point of Contact for Delivery</b>			
<b>Name:</b>			
<b>Phone Number:</b>			
<b>E Mail:</b>			
<b>SIGNED:</b>			
<b>DATE:</b>			
<b>NAME IN CAPITALS:</b>			

Return to: - Sarah Peterson, Department of Neighbourhood and Planning,  
Wiltshire Council, County Hall, Trowbridge, Wiltshire BA14 8JD  
[sarah.peterson@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.peterson@wiltshire.gov.uk)