

Press Release

12 August 2019

for immediate release

Two Ridings Community Foundation receives donation from Prince of Wales's Charitable Fund to support people affected by Dales Flash Floods July 2019



Picture courtesy of Richmondshire Today.

Following the devastating flash flooding across parts of Swaledale, Arkengarthdale and Wensleydale, Two Ridings Community Foundation received a major boost to their fundraising efforts to assist families affected by the floods when they received a donation from the Prince of Wales's Charitable Fund. This donation will be used to ensure that the families and small businesses affected have long term support to assist them recover from the devastation of flooding.

The Swaledale and Wensleydale Recovery Fund is being coordinated by Two Ridings Community Foundation: All money raised will be spent to support those affected by the floods, with guidance from a local panel.

As well as the donation from the Prince of Wales's Charitable Fund, Two Ridings has also received over £15,000 via online giving. To donate visit <https://www.tworidingscf.org.uk/nyorks-recovery-fund/>

Feedback from two residents who have received the £300 initial award:

“Having a flash flood through your home turns your life upside down in an instant. In twenty minutes you’ve suddenly lost all the downstairs content of your home, your car, your garden shed, the garden is wrecked. As I’m self employed I cannot work until I can replace the car, and have relied on friends and neighbours for all shopping, laundry, and manpower to clean up the mess. The local response has been truly extraordinary and I simply can’t thank them enough. Practical help is hugely important but perhaps the worst effect of flooding is anxiety. For a while you’re in shock and having somebody local, who understands what has happened, how it has affected you and is able to give advice and support would be invaluable.”
Anne, resident of Bellerby.

“On behalf of my family and all the other people affected by the flooding I would like to thank the Prince of Wales’s Charitable Fund, local businesses and the innumerable individuals who have donated to the Two Ridings Community Foundation fund. Experiencing the devastation from flooding tests us all but knowing that others are there for the long term to help, to empathise and to make the rebuilding of our homes and communities something that will happen is both humbling and heart warming”
Ian, resident of Reeth.

Jan Garrill, Chief Executive of Two Ridings Community Foundation said: “The donation from the Prince of Wales is illustrative of his love for the area and deep understanding of the potential impact of flooding on our community. We will ensure that it is used to help people in the affected area get back on their feet again. But in the meantime, the Dales are open for business as usual, so do continue to visit and support our amazing community”.

Donations are welcome from individuals, businesses or others’ fundraising efforts who want to use Two Ridings Community Foundation’s expertise to ensure the funds make a difference.

Two Ridings is asking anyone whose main place of residence was flooded to get in touch so that they can help.

Our priority in the immediate aftermath of the floods will be to provide immediate financial support to people affected by the floods to help with urgent needs like the costs of living in temporary accommodation, or items to people so they could stay in their homes – e.g. costs of running dehumidifiers. An immediate payment of £300 will be made to anyone in Swaledale or Wensleydale, North Yorkshire whose home was flooded in July 2019.

Two Ridings will also provide support when people are ready to move back into their homes. At that point the needs of each households will be assessed individually and awards made on that assessment and priority will be given to households in need where there are particular cases of hardship: households with family members who were elderly, very young or with disabilities, people on very limited incomes and those without contents insurance and, where relevant, buildings insurance or very high excess on policies.

Donations are needed to add to the fund to ensure that we can provide sustained and long term support as follows:

Support to householders to help them get back on their feet again – this could be replacing essential items lost in the floods, Items that would be considered include carpets, essential furniture like tables and chairs, beds, bedding and white goods. Other assistance includes high electricity costs associated with drying out homes or helping with the costs of living in temporary accommodation.

Support to local small businesses where the owners are facing financial hardship as a result of the floods, this can include replacing lost tools or equipment.

Support to local charities working to help people affected by flooding through the provision of practical, emotional or financial support – for example helping householders with complex insurance claims.

To donate visit <https://www.tworidingscf.org.uk/donate/> or telephone the office on 01904 929500.

To make a request for support please contact the Two Ridings Community Foundation office on 01904 929 500 or email grants@tworidingscf.org.uk
