

NEW FOR 2020
Karen in Appleby
 17th century, sandstone terraced town house
 Flooded 2015 & 2020

Karen and her family have lived in their 17th century, sandstone terraced town house in Appleby for 15 years. They were flooded for the first time during Storm Desmond on December 5th, 2015, when the river Eden reached unprecedented levels.

After an insurance claim of over £48,000, which they used to restore their home and possessions and live for eight months in temporary accommodation, the family returned home in August 2016.

Rather than replace like for like, they used the Government grant (provided through Eden District Council), flood grants from Cumbria Community Foundation and Appleby Town Council and plus their own savings, to try and make their home flood resilient. This required a shift in mind set; They gave up trying to keep the flood out of the building and instead worked on managing the flood water inside their home. They could not stop the flooding, but they believed they could manage the situation to make it quicker, cheaper, and easier to get back to normal.



Storms Ciara and Dennis were the first tests of their resilience plans - more than 150mm (6in) of rain fell in the county in 24 hours, with water levels in Appleby within 60cms (2ft) of those seen during Storm Desmond in 2015. For three weeks the family lived with Flood Alerts and Flood Warnings arriving regularly.

What did they do?

- They purchased a modular style steel flood barrier which held back the water for longer to give them more time to get their furniture upstairs or on the dining room table.



The main living room is flood recoverable but still looks beautiful and homely.



The solid wood dining table can be dried out and polished, if flooded, and is useful to stand other furniture on.

- Replaced the wooden floors and carpet with concrete floors and tiles.
- Tanked the walls and floors
- All electrics downstairs were replaced, with new wiring coming downwards, and sockets fitted at a higher level.
- They bought a solid wood dining table which could be dried out and polished, if flooded
- Replaced the gas fire with a log burner so they could get heat to dry out the house quicker
- Had the fuse box lifted above flood level
- They replaced their traditional piano (destroyed in 2015) with a lighter electric version that they could lift onto a table
- Replacement BT line installed on the first floor
- Bought a wired telephone which does not rely on the mains electrics
- Reduced the amount of furniture and items stored downstairs
- More kitchen cupboards on the wall with items of lesser value stored in lower cupboards.
- Made a flood plan of what they would do when they receive a flood alert, flood warning, and sounding of the flood siren.

Karen and her family are very grateful to the flood volunteers in Appleby who give up their time to ensure the Community is safe. They knock on every door in the flood zone when they have a warning, to ask if they need any help.

What difference did the measures make?

STORM DESMOND 2015

River level 4.75m

Flood level in their home 1.5m

Cost of the resilience work was approx. £15,000

Cost of items lost and damage to property £48,000

STORM CIARA 2020

River level 4.15m

Flood level in their home 5cms

Time to return home 24 hours, after sweeping the water out and sanitising.

Cost of items lost and damage to property £0.00



Tiled floors throughout with a larger number of kitchen cupboards on the walls.