

# PROPERTY FLOOD RESILIENCE GRANTS

## CASE STUDY:

### CALDEW MALTINGS, CARLISLE

Caldew Maltings sits adjacent to the rivers Caldew and Eden in Willowholme, Carlisle and is a mixed development of apartments and townhouses. On the 5th and 6th December 2015, Storm Desmond brought unprecedented rainfall around the river Eden catchment and this resulted in 33 properties at Caldew Maltings flooding as existing defences were overwhelmed and the pumping station lost power.

### Challenges

Difficult engagement - when Newground started working at Caldew Maltings in November 2016, there was a large number of residents who had not returned to their properties due to ongoing insurance refurbishment work.

- Lack of interest in grant funding due to the scale of the flood event which left people feeling there was nothing they could do.
- Finding contact details for owners and landlords who do not live in their properties was difficult.
- As the owners of the properties are leaseholders there are restrictions on what they are allowed to alter on the building.
- Leaseholder/property management company/freeholder relationship meant communication was protracted.

### Newground's approach and solution

Newground, on behalf of the Environment Agency began to undertake community engagement work within the area in November 2016, working closely with Carlisle City Council to try and increase the uptake of the £5000 per property flood resilience grant. Newground carried out engagement work to:

- Highlight which residents were back in/still out of ground floor properties.
- Produce a database of residents identifying flooded properties and eligibility for grant applications.
- Provide information on who Newground are and the support we could offer.
- Liaise with the management company to ensure communal areas and any remaining ground floor properties were protected.



Image: The Flood Hub



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## How Newground made a difference

A signatory list was drawn up by Newground and those who were interested signed, allowing funding to be used to cover the cost of communal entrance protection. Newground facilitated the obtaining of property surveys and quotes for the estates management company who would put in the application on behalf of the Freeholder, using the funding from those who were signed up. The cost of the communal entrance protection work totalled £30,336.00, which was met by government flood grant funding.

Newground also submitted flood resilience grant applications for 2 individual ground floor properties where the owners had been reluctant to apply themselves. This resulted in 2 flood grants from Carlisle City Council and also top up funding from Cumbria Community Foundation totalling £15,870.00.

"Newground's assistance and support has been fantastic! They helped me to get funding for flood defences at my home and others in the area. Without their help, we wouldn't have any flood defences in place."

- Resident, Carlisle

"Thank you very much for the help you and Newground have given me with sorting out the flood grant funding for Caldew Maltings, Carlisle. To be honest I was completely lost in how to proceed with getting the quotations and what to do, I was on the point of giving up as I could not afford to finance any flood relief work and had no idea or the time to proceed. Your help in getting the paperwork right was most helpful to get the work done".

- Resident, Carlisle



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