Politicians Turn a Deaf Ear to Planning and Housing problems

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LINDA DAILY MARKET WATCH

FLOOD-HOT HOMEOWNERS GET THAT SINKING FEELING

Stills, floodgates and raised electrical sockets could lessen the pain of another wave of bad weather. By Gráinne Rotheny

In the aftermath of the heavy rainfall and subsequent flooding caused by Storm Desmond, many homeowners around the country are beginning to assess the extent of any damage to their properties and the cost of the repairs.

Emma O’Donovan has first-hand experience of what that feels like. Her house in Skibbereen, in Co Cork, was hit by Storm Desmond.

The flood hit in late December, O’Donovan says. “We were holidaying in France and when we arrived back our house was completely flooded.”

The water level in the house rose to about 3ft, she says. “We were not insured for flood but not for water. The house in Skibbereen was one of the lucky few. Many other houses in different parts of the country are in the same position.”

When the water receded, O’Donovan and her family were left to clean up the mess. “It was a shock and we didn’t know what was happening or what to expect or how to deal with it,” she says.

O’Donovan adds that the family have had to put up with the inconvenience of sleeping in their living room. “We had to keep the family out of the ground floor due to the risk of damp and pests.”

The house was left damaged, with a third of the property flooded.

According to the Property Services Regulatory Authority, vendors are not obliged to volunteer information about trading and housing where their property is situated in locations that are at risk of flooding. They are also not required to disclose the presence of any policies or schemes that are in place to protect their property from flooding.

This means they know what is the cost of getting the knowledge but seems we are happy to pay the price regardless.

As a result of the flooding, O’Donovan’s family has had to move into temporary accommodation. “It’s been tough,” she says. “We’ve been struggling to find a place to rent.”

This system whereby it is evidence-free and retrograde new policies to less damage, “The changes taken after the first flood, says O’Donovan. “We get our flood barriers, blinded the ground floor and build the electrical sockets. We would never have done this if we didn’t like them.”

It is hoped that the flood-risk models will help to “drive home from house to home how the flood risk is so high.”

The flood-risk model is in place in the Republic of Ireland, O’Donovan says. “The flood-risk model is finished, the flood-risk is available for people to use.”

The model has been in place for many years, according to O’Donovan. “It is available for people to use.”

As O’Donovan explains, “We have been looking at the house at risk of flooding for many years.”

If you want to avoid buying a property in a flood-risk area, it is important to check the flood-risk model to see if it is at risk.

Even if a buyer is willing to take a risk, it is advisable to check the flood-risk model before buying the property.

There are changes to come in 2016.

When you’re selling anything on a Floodplain, Property always

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There are changes to come in 2016. For farmers that can affect flood

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LORCAN SCHRIN ON THE HOME FRONT

According to the Department of the Environment, the Government has relaxed planning and housing laws to allow for the development of new homes in flood-risk areas.

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