Politicians Turn a Deaf Ear to Planning and Housing problems

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LINDA DALY
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 Grainne Rothey

In the aftermath of the heavy rainfall that triggered flooding caused by Storm Desmond, homeowners across the country are beginning the arduous task of shoring up their properties and containing the cost of the damage.

Enda O’Donovan has first-hand experience of what that feels like. His home in Letterkenny was flooded in the space of a week in 2015. When Enda and his wife, Siobhan, moved in, they bought their home in 2003. It’s situated about 100 yards from the River Blanaid. The addition of a seven-roomed house meant they had 38 below-ground square metres added to the property. After the first flood in November 2009, they moved everything out of the housefitness centre. “It was a shock and we didn’t know what to do. We couldn’t do anything,” says O’Donovan. “We were hardly able to decide whether we were going to stay there or sell it.”

After a big clean-up the family moved back in “Christmas. Then in New Year’s Eve,” the house flooded again. A flood barrier — stood — and it was 2009. “It was a very stressful time,” says O’Donovan. “It certainly saved a lot of damage. It was a very stressful time.”

According to the Property Services Regulatory Authority, vendors are under obligation to volunteer information to tenants regarding the property. “The lack of awareness or information on the problem or its extent,” Grainne Rothey says. “I’m sure there are many homeowners who have been lacking information on such issues as flooding: it is unclear where they are aware of problems. There is a misconception in the public that many homeowners are not vulnerable to flooding," she says.

"The public is becoming more aware of flood risks, particularly in areas affected by previous floods. However, homeowners are still not fully informed about the potential impact of flooding on their properties. They may not be aware of the risks associated with flooding, such as damage to their property, loss of livelihood and mental health problems. Homeowners should be aware of the risks associated with flooding and take appropriate measures to protect themselves and their property. There are measures that can be taken to protect the home against flooding, such as installing flood barriers, raising electrical sockets and installing floodgates. Homeowners should also be aware of the risks associated with flood insurance and should consider purchasing flood insurance to protect themselves against potential losses. It is important to note that flood insurance coverage is often limited and may not cover all losses associated with flooding. Homeowners should also consider taking steps to mitigate the risk of flooding, such as landscaping and drainage improvements, to reduce the likelihood of flooding in the future. It is important to be aware of the potential risks associated with flooding and take appropriate steps to protect themselves and their property."