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The summer after the
floods: community
resilience and preparedness
in Worcester (and beyond)

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Project Overview

- **Four comparative case studies**
- **Hydrology, Business, Community, Governance**
- **Real-time**
- **Impact, Recovery, Resilience, Preparedness**
 - **Justice**

Presentation Overview

- Relationship between prior flood experience and physical/emotional resilience
- Responsibility and dependency
- Justice as experienced/perceived

Prior flood experience enhances awareness
and enhances resilience [?]

Bring it on!



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Prior flood experience enhances awareness and enhances resilience ??

- **“We got the warnings yeah, but it got wet like that down the bottom of the garden every few years or so. Then it just rose so quick it was in before we knew it ...”**

Prior flood experience enhances awareness and enhances resilience ??

- **T: ... but we didn't think it would happen again and then 2007 at the end of July we flooded again in the middle of summer as bad as the first one and we knew what was coming that time so it really affected me that time. It affected you the first and the second time didn't it?**
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- **J: Mmm.**
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- **T: But it got me the second time because I knew what was coming.**

Implications

- **On the whole, need to raise awareness widely**
- **But experience doesn't always = increased resilience (phy. or emotional)**
- **Householders may be physically more resilient but emotionally less resilient**
- **Incredible variety of personal experiences confounded by personal factors**

A few words on ... Responsibility

- **‘The authorities all seem to be blaming each other’**
- **‘They just don’t co-ordinate between themselves’**

Responsibility

- **Are responsible communities more resilient?**
- **Where to draw the line between responsibility and dependency?**
- **What about recognising vast differences in capacity?**

- **Need for greater clarity in defining and articulating responsibilities and expectations placed on different flood management stakeholders**

A few words on ... Justice

- **Justice as perceived, felt and experienced**
- **Distributional articulations**
- **Procedural articulations**

Justice

- ❑ **Injustices more likely to arise from emergency decision-making and reactionary policies**
- ❑ **Injustice or perceived injustice affects relationship between communities and authorities**
- ❑ **Poorly articulated responsibilities and expectations heightens sense of injustice**

Flood Resilience

- **Physical and emotional**
- **Inclusive and just**
- **Long-term and proactive management**
- **Trust and communication**
- **Balance responsibility with capacity**
- **Clearly define and articulate expectations**