

Kendal Oral History Group Interview 0339F

Kendal Flood Project Interview

Dorothy Bailey born 1951
Interviewed September 2016

0339f / Summary Sheet

Track One, p.1

She was a bank Social Worker employed by Cumbria County Council (CCC) in December 2015. Also part of the on-call Emergency Response Team. Lives at Endmoor and unable to get into Kendal on the day of the flood– so worked from home liaising with her colleagues. CCC employees carry their computers and other equipment with them.

Track Two, pp. 1-2

Description of journey (with diversions) on the morning of 5 December from Endmoor to Kendal Hospital. Roads were flooding and continued to get worse. Details of a road accident on The Helm. Concerned that people would not be able to get to the hospital if they were on the wrong side of the river. It was like a disaster movie. Disturbing.

Track Three, pp. 2-4

Sunday 6 December. Waters had receded. Continued to help colleagues via WiFi. Stayed at home to help elderly neighbours who had been flooded. Their road in Endmoor had been like a river. Bridge damaged and later closed. Went back to work on Monday 7th December. Her speciality was working with adults with physical disability and several young adults had been flooded. Describes the difficulties of finding suitable accommodation for these people in the local area. Also finding replacement specialist equipment.

Track Four, pp. 4-6

Involvement with Sandylands Methodist Church (SMC) after the flood. Volunteer helping in the Encouragement Cabin (EC). Because of her social work background able to provide social & psychological support. Left CCC early in 2016. Was offered a paid post with the SMC team in early 2016 and has worked in the EC with the rest of the team there ever since. She describes what she did at the EC – still working there at the time of interview. By September 2016 things were slowing down. The EC is to go in next few weeks. So change is happening. Details of the various events organised in by SMC in Sandylands following the flood. Helping to provide hope and support for the community.