

During the summer of 2012, the people of Newcastle experienced their wettest summer for over 100 years and these quotations are taken from the stories told to us during a series of public events. They cover three separate days between June and September of that year

- 28 June a super cell storm produced over 50mm of rain in two hours and #Newcastleendofdays and #Toomflood made international news
- 5/6 August further localised storms produced further flooding and some homes and businesses were affected for a second time
- 28 September when the consequences of high rainfall and collapsed culvert put Spencer Court in Newburn on the front pages

Remember that the places and spaces shown in these photographs are people's homes and community areas and thank you to everyone who trusted us to re-tell their stories.



*So they come and they pump the gully out and they think they've done the job. It's not done at all. They keep on doing that until the cows comes home. What happens is that if they get left. ... the gullies fill up with silt, the silt goes through the trap and then it starts going down the pipe to the drain, and it builds up and builds up and builds up. No matter how many times you suck the gully up it ain't going to clear the drain*



*Our organisation's priority is to protect infrastructure, because if we don't protect the infrastructure, if we don't protect the roads we are actually putting people at risk*



*it was really difficult because the bus drivers were doing everything they possibly could to get people home*



*I think it's very important to keep schools open under as much pressure as possible regardless because that is the stability of the community and it's a big sign that things are still going along as normal*



*So I went into that water. It was up to my knees. It was very, very strong and I held the black fence. I probably shouldn't have done but I wanted to check on what's going on. Hanging onto the fence to get up there.*



*It was very frightening. I'm worried for the future storms. I'm worried when it starts to rain*



*In the recent floods at the time we had no help from anyone. I'm worried now every time it rains.*



*I have lost thousands of pounds in value on my goods. My sons photos can never be replaced.*



*I left home on the 28th of June to pick the wife up from work. It was four o'clock in the afternoon; it was as dry as a bone. It came over dark, very dark, like midnight, and by the time I picked her up at Benton the streets were flooded, teaming*

*And the colours on this thing go orangey-red, then they go and eventually they go to blue which I've seen before. Then they go to black and then they go to white, and I didn't know what white was ... And white is over 50mm rain per hour coming down and it was forecast right across the centre of Newcastle for about three hours so*



*The flooding in Newcastle brought the road network to a standstill. It took me three and half hours to get home from work that evening*



*I made my mother walk to the next Metro station and by the time we got there they wouldn't let anybody in. So there was really not very good communication around co-ordinating messages to the public*



*But me mother rang me. She was stuck in the town. She's seventy eight so she was stuck in the Haymarket bus station. So I had to get my clothes on, run through the weather and go and find her and that was about tea-time. It was about six o'clock. We didn't get home till one am*

*We will protect property where we can, but there is an increasing expectation that householders will look after themselves*

