

10th December 2014

Dear Mr Burrows

We believe that the Nottinghamshire County Council/URS flood model should be used to test mitigation measures when considering the Beckett's Field development. It would set a precedent for other development sites and simplify the planning process if all applicants use the model.

We were led to believe by Hannah O'Callaghan of the Lead Flood Authority, NCC, that the model would be used as a tool to help protect the town as it develops .

Over the last 20 years Southwell has suffered flooding events to a greater or lesser degree, culminating in major flooding in 2007 and extremely serious and widespread flooding in July 2013.

As a direct outcome of last year's flooding, NCC commissioned the Flood Study. This, plus the hydrological model, has cost thousands of pounds of taxpayers' money.

As a community, thousands of volunteer hours have been spent working in partnership with all councils and agencies to help develop and deliver the model which enables us to understand our flood risk better. NCC Flood Risk Department and NSDC Planning Department appear to be reluctant to enforce the use of the model by developers.

It seems the councils are fearful of decisions being challenged and the consequent cost of possible appeals. We are aware that Councils are under pressure to achieve new development targets and meet timescales. However, we were told by the Environment Agency at a recent overarching stakeholders meeting that it is fair and reasonable to expect developers to use the flood model.

We agree Southwell needs to grow but we need council leaders to support and encourage the use of the model as the preferred tool when determining flood risk.

Southwell Flood Forum is content with the situation and results of the hydrological study, but the community and other groups including councillors are waiting for the publication of the Flood Report, which has been delayed for several months now.

Will you please tell us when it will be made public, how the model is to be kept up-to-date with new development and infrastructure changes and reassure us that the model will be used to determine flood risk when dealing with planning applications.

Yours sincerely

Robert Jordan
Chair - on behalf of Southwell Flood Forum
c.c. Robert Jenrick
Bruce Laughton
Steve Calvert
Gary Wood

Copies also sent to:
Alan Rhodes, NCC Roger Blaney NSDC, Carol
Standish STC, Andrew Muter, Matt Lamb NSDC

Please reply to:
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