

Fears flood back as rains return

RESIDENTS in parts of Southwell prepared for the worst as the town went on flood alert in response to this week's rain.

People living in Church Street, Easthorpe and Harvey's Field protected their homes with sandbags received from Newark and Sherwood District Council.

Around 200 sandbags were delivered by the council. They were also issued in Oxtan and Thurgarton.

Southwell Leisure Centre is on standby to act as a rest centre if people have to move out.

The A617 was closed yesterday morning after flooding at Kelham.

Inches

The Harvey's Field home of Mr Anthony Hustwayte flooded in June when Potwell Dyke overflowed.

He only moved back in last month after repairs were completed.

Mr Hustwayte, who put sandbags around his home, said the dyke was inches away from flooding the field behind his house.

"If we had flooded again it would have been catastrophic," he said.

Mr Richard Milnes, also of Harvey's Field, has still not moved back in after the summer floods.

"I was concerned about the flooding but I don't live at the

By Elizabeth Hambidge

house at the moment because it still hasn't been sorted since it flooded in June," he said.

"I'm always concerned when it rains now.

"We put sandbags round the house but if it flooded now it wouldn't be too disastrous because we have no possessions to speak of on the ground floor.

"It would just be a case of drying the house.

"The dyke hasn't got as high as it has been in the past but with the weather they're forecasting it isn't looking good."

Southwell town councillor Mr Brendan Haigh said he called

for the sandbags as soon as the risk of flooding became apparent.

"I heard reports from local residents that Potwell Dyke was rising fast and as a precaution I telephoned Kelham Hall who said there was heavy rain due and they agreed to send over some sandbags," said Mr Haigh.

Warden

"Residents are extremely anxious. Some are only just back in their homes after the flooding in June."

Mr David Harper, a member of Lowdham Parish Council and a village flood warden, said he believed work to clear out

Cocker Beck stopped the village from flooding this time.

"I'm sure that's what enabled it to take the extra water," he said.

"It would be difficult to say which properties would have been flooded but the water would definitely have come over if they hadn't dredged the beck and cleaned it out."

Sandbags were today due to be delivered to a secure holding area in Lowdham for quick distribution if needed.

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RIGHT: Mr Richard Milnes places sandbags around his home in Harvey's Field, Southwell. ABOVE: The River Trent has burst its banks at Kelham.



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