

Welcome to Southwell

Welcome to Southwell, one of Nottinghamshire's delightful historic market towns and the place you have chosen to live.

In the past Southwell suffered significant flooding events that affected the lives of many residents and left properties and businesses damaged.

Extreme weather conditions have a proven link with climate change worldwide, which in turn is exacerbated by carbon emissions and other man-made activity.

Members of **Southwell's Churches Together** have been active in campaigning to combat climate change by lobbying MPs in Westminster, joining street demonstrations and letter-writing, but there are actions we can all take.

- Consider installing solar panels to produce electricity
- Use the car less where it's possible to walk or take public transport
- Wear an extra jersey in the winter and turn the heating down
- Buy food with a lower carbon footprint

Together we can make a difference.

Join 'Southwell Green', a locally based group that encourages green energy and carbon reduction. (Contact greensouthwellng25@gmail.com)

'Slow the Flow' with Natural Flood Management

Natural Flood Management work is currently being carried out in two of the Southwell catchment areas to help reduce the threat of flooding within the town. This work includes the construction and use of leaky barriers (man-made structures that allow a small amount of water to flow beneath the barrier whilst holding back the majority of the water), attenuation ponds, bunds, (earth banks strategically placed to hold water for longer, slowly releasing it through the ground and into watercourses) and natural barriers such as fallen trees across small rivers and streams which slow the flow of water.

Natural Flood Management techniques aim to help reduce the amount of water that would otherwise rush towards Southwell and overwhelm the internal drainage system as well as the Potwell Dyke and other watercourses.

Reducing Southwell's Flood Risk

With the onset of climate change and more extreme weather events, many areas of the UK are becoming prone to some form of flooding and unfortunately Southwell has experienced such events during the past 20 years. However, work is underway to reduce the flood risk for Southwell and its residents through a new alleviation scheme and a 'Slow the Flow' project using Natural Flood Management techniques.

Being prepared

'Prevention is better than the cure' as the saying goes and although one might not be able to prevent a fast moving downpour, being prepared for one might just make it easier for you to cope with the aftermath should your home unfortunately flood due to the unforeseen weather conditions.

Below are a few helpful tips that can make life a bit easier in case of a flood

1. **Prepare Emergency Plans** - having an emergency plan for the household will help everyone in the family know what to do, including the pets!
2. **Southwell Community Resilience Handbook** - this was put together by the Southwell Flood Forum to help people be prepared for any emergency. This is a free booklet available from the Southwell Flood Forum, available in the library and on their website at www.southwellfloodforum.org.uk
3. **Who to contact in case of flooding** - knowing who to contact first is important. Keep a list of your contacts somewhere handy such as by your phone or pinned to your fridge.
4. **Sign up to the Environment Agency Flood Alert System** - knowing if something is coming your way will help you plan better.



Supporting and representing flood risk communities

The National Flood Forum is a Registered Charity No. 1121642

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Registered Office: Old Snuff Mill Warehouse, Park Lane, Bewdley, Worcs DY12 2EL • VAT Registered No: 786 2681 83



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The **National Flood Forum** is a small charity that aims to help and support those communities that have suffered severe flooding or are at flood risk.

All too often, people are caught unaware and the consequences can be devastating. In some cases, flooding can create poverty in low income households. It can make life more precarious for the vulnerable and elderly; has psychological effects on children and adults and is an added distress for people with a language barrier.

Our approach to flood recovery, community engagement and raising awareness is tried and tested. We believe partnership and collaboration are key to supporting people at risk of flooding.

We have worked alongside the Environment Agency, Natural Resources Wales, local authorities, water companies and many other organisations, to address the pressing and urgent needs of people who have experienced or are at flood risk.

If you would like further information on flooding please contact National Flood Forum **01299 403 055**

Would you like to be a Volunteer in your new community?

Southwell Flood Forum is always on the look out for volunteers to help with their activities on keeping the community safe.

If you would like to get involved, whether it is to help with the Road Closure Scheme, help keep watercourses clear and wildlife friendly or simply help deliver leaflets along your street, please do not be shy, contact the Southwell Flood Forum on 01636 815 739 or visit their website and see how you can help in your area.



How you can help reduce flood risk in your new home town?

There are a number of ways that we can all help and contribute to reducing Southwell's flood risk, here are a few ideas to get you started:

- Install water butts to reduce surface water run-off
- If you need to install a new drive way, have a permeable surface so that water can seep through slowly
- Keep boundary ditches clear of debris build up and clear for channelling water
- Maintain watercourses that adjoin your land
- Don't flush anything down the toilet except for toilet paper, this will prevent blocking drains
- Create rain gardens within your garden or install raised flower beds, as these hold water for longer
- Have container plants on your patio or a few hanging baskets to capture water
- If you have space, plant a tree or hedgerow, the birds will benefit too

Insurance in flood risk areas

People sometimes worry about getting residential property insurance if they are at risk of flooding or if they have been flooded.

In a bid to help people, FloodRe was set up by the Government in partnership with home insurers to help bridge the cost gap. By working with home insurers behind the scenes, FloodRe may cover the flood risk element of your policy to help keep your premiums down. You deal with your insurers in the normal way. Should you make a valid claim, your insurers will pay the full cost of your claim but will be able to claim the flooding element back from FloodRe.

For more information on FloodRe please visit www.floodre.co.uk

Or call **National Flood Forum 01299 403055** for practical advice



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