

Southwell Flood Forum

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**SOUTHWELL  
FLOOD FORUM**  
Community Protection & Support



## Newsletter - Edition 2 December 2013

### FLOOD STUDY STARTED!

The Forum is pleased to be working as an equal partner on the [Southwell Flood Mitigation Plan](#) to investigate the flooding problems in Southwell which is being developed based on the [DEFRA Surface Water Management Plan](#) (SWMP).

At the first Flood Mitigation meeting on 20th November with URS (the Flood Consultants), Notts County Council (lead Flood Authority), Newark and Sherwood District Council, Southwell Town Council, Environment Agency (EA), Severn Trent Water and Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board (TVIDB), URS were 'awed' by the amount of work already achieved and tremendous involvement of the community.

URS will visit critical areas in Southwell very shortly having already studied photos, videos and narrative provided by you (via our website) and technical data provided through our Flood Alleviation Team.

We are looking at many floodpaths – chronological and descriptive analysis of the route the water took - see the [Gallery/Floodpaths on our website](#) - and critical pinch points, where our infrastructure struggles or fails to cope – such as culverts, drains etc. We are also investigating possible solutions.

We need further information on any flooding/pooling/blockage incidents - not just major incidents - timed photos and videos are particularly useful.

Please use our [online form](#) on the website or come to the library drop-in Help Desk to tell us. Local knowledge enables the Flood Model to be as accurate as possible and helps to determine how many properties could potentially be protected if

particular mitigation measures were implemented.

The guidance in the SWMP emphasises that community involvement is crucial - you will be kept informed and consulted at key stages. Look out for the Community Involvement public meeting at the end of February when you can view the Flood Model, comment on it and offer solutions to flooding problems. Do visit the website for more information on the Flood Mitigation Plan.

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## Drop-in Help Desk at Southwell Library

Three volunteers have been at the drop-in Help/Information desk at Southwell library for 2 hours on Saturdays and a mid-weekday. See 'Calendar' for dates.

This will 'put a face' to the Forum - we can help fill in your [Personal Emergency Plan](#), signpost you to useful resources and discuss flooding incidents/issues with you. If you have a specialised enquiry, we'll put you in touch with appropriate help

If you are interested in being a volunteer on a rota basis, we'd be delighted to hear from you.

*Pictured below: Jacky Huson and James Parker on the Help Desk*

## Community Emergency Plan

The Community Emergency Plan group arranged a comprehensive training at [Nottingham Trent University Brackenhurst campus](#) on 26th November for 60 potential Flood Wardens.

This superb turnout helps the aim to have representatives throughout town who can prepare for and help during a flooding incident.

If you missed the training and are still interested, please contact [Dave Sheard](#).

Specially trained Road closure Flood Wardens will, in liaison with the Highways Department, avoid the damage to properties as well as the danger to people and vehicles caused by cars driving through flood water.



## Riparian Owners' meeting - November 20th

Eighty riparian owners and farmers from the catchment area met at the Library to discuss watercourse management and hear about the flood study. Many are keen to form "Friends of Potwell Dyke" to ensure it continues to be maintained as a principle drain and as an environmental asset for the town.

More about the Friends next year.

## Flood Alerts

You can sign up to Flood Alerts on the [EA website](#) or by phoning the very helpful Customer Support staff on **08459 88 11 88** where you can register up to 5 contact numbers/email. In this way, you can include mobile, email and landline numbers, plus friends and neighbours who can be alerted to help if you are away .

## Watercourse clearance

Nearly a hundred volunteers have made a real difference to Potwell Dyke. A big thank you to them and the refreshment providers.

Also involved are the biodiversity teams from EA and Notts County Council and the TVIDB. We are grateful for their support, advice and provision of safety training and equipment.

The dyke is clear from the River Greet up to Halloughton Road. We continue to help residents who still have problems with washed down debris.

In the New Year why not join our "green gym" - inexpensive, fun and rewarding while helping keep Southwell safe.



## Water monitors

A local resident, Tim Keay, has kindly donated two water level monitoring gauges which have been installed in Potwell Dyke at Halloughton Bridge and on Brook Close on the Dudley Doy estate.

[Nottingham Trent University](#) is also going to be installing further monitors. The monitors transmit water levels to us via a website and will send an alert if the height of the water or the rate of rise of water levels rises to a critical level. There will also be extra rainfall gauges installed. Such technology helps us recognise any abnormal 'behaviour' of Potwell Dyke or the weather and will allow us more time to be prepared.

Tim being interviewed by ITV Central - 29th October 2013



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## Keeping Southwell Clean

After pressure from the Forum, street cleaning and gully clearing has taken place. We appreciate help from residents who moved their cars so that



this work could be carried out properly. We will continue to monitor and would appreciate everyone being vigilant, helping to keep gullies clear and report any blockages.

The well-used Recycling Centre at Fiskerton has been earmarked for closure. This could lead to an increase in fly-tipping that might end up in our ditches and watercourses causing increased risk of flooding. This is counter-productive to the Forum's work to REDUCE flood risk and keep watercourses clear.

[Do sign the petition to Save Fiskerton Tip.](#)

## Fundraising

We sincerely thank

- Bruce Laughton for start-up' funding
- Residents who have donated generously
- Donations in kind
- 100's of hours put in by volunteers.
- Mary and Ian Wright who raised a fantastic £340 at a social evening on 26th November

## Round-up News

### Potwell Close

We are delighted that residents are moving back now. Some pressure from the Forum and local councillors stressed the urgency of getting people back to their homes.

Newark and Sherwood District Council is investigating Individual House Level Flood

Protection for these houses.

### Insurance Meeting - 4th November

Two local experienced insurance experts ran a seminar for people having problems with their insurance.

For links to further information on insurance  
[www.southwellfloodforum.org.uk/resources/](http://www.southwellfloodforum.org.uk/resources/)

### Christmas Tree Festival - Southwell Methodist Church

11 - 14th December 10.30 to 16.30

Includes our own tree specially decorated by SFF volunteers.

Refreshments available.



We wish everyone a happy festive break.

Our thoughts are particularly with those who are still dealing with the aftermath of the flooding and may not be able to enjoy the comfort of their own home during this time.

### National Flood Forum

- [www.nationalfloodforum.org.uk](http://www.nationalfloodforum.org.uk)  
01299 403055
- An extremely helpful and friendly organisation for advice.
- Helps people to prepare for flooding in order to prevent it or mitigate its impacts
- Helps people to recover their lives after they have been flooded.
- Campaigns on behalf of flood risk communities by working with government and agencies.

### Southwell Flood Forum website

The [website](#) is growing rapidly with a wealth of information and news. It also has the Floodpaths on the Gallery page.

- Online survey form
- Newsletter sign-up form
- Resources page with links to useful websites for information or reporting flood-related incidents, fly-tipping etc.
- Photos and videos (send to [images@southwellfloodforum.org.uk](mailto:images@southwellfloodforum.org.uk))
- Press articles, media coverage
- Contact details

- [Calendar](#)

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**Southwell Flood Forum**

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