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Nottingham Pos



Hard work: Southwell Flood Forum volunteers clear a dyke, in the town.

Campaigners fight risk of floods

WHILE wildlife trusts and nature reserves are keeping an eye on the weather, so are the campaigners of Southwell Flood Forum.

Their homes were damaged by last summer's flash floods and now the forum – formed last August to reduce flooding risks – is stepping up its campaign.

The organisation, whose members have been helping clear obstructions from local streams and dykes, has now set up the Southwell Flood Fund under the umbrella of the Nottinghamshire Community Foundation, who will manage money raised on behalf of the forum.

"Flooding is now a serious national issue and flood mitigation measures are costly and will not be met wholly by the Government," a spokesman said.

"Public funds across the country are reducing as demand for spending on flood mitigation is at its highest.

"Some of the funding will,

therefore, have to be found from within communities and the Southwell Flood Fund will be used to contribute to the cost of approved flood defences and mitigation measures."

Local businesses and organisations are already offering support with donations, events and support in kind and at the February meeting of Southwell Town Council it was agreed to set aside £40,000, the maximum allowed, to support flood defence measures.

The Nottinghamshire Community Foundation administers funds on behalf of charities, companies, families and communities and since 2007 has given away more than £25 million in small grants for local schemes, benefiting hundreds of local community projects.

To donate, visit www.nottscf.org.uk/donate/southwell-flood-fund. For more information about the forum, visit www.southwellfloodforum.org.uk.