



**SOUTHWELL
FLOOD FORUM**
Community Protection & Support



SOUTHWELL

A flooded community aims for resilience

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Background Southwell, Nottinghamshire

- Between Mansfield and Newark on A612
- Main East Coast railway line – 75 minutes to London
- Attractive to developers – good facilities, schools, shops, Leisure Centre
- Popular market town with long history
- Tourist attraction – Minster (c1108), Workhouse
- Conservation areas
- Many listed buildings

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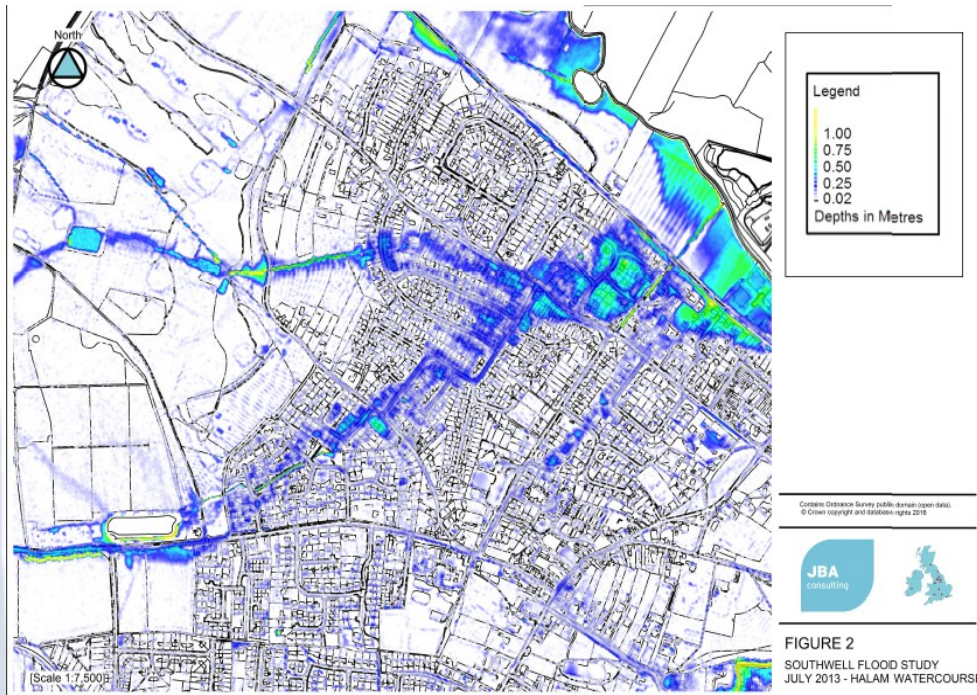
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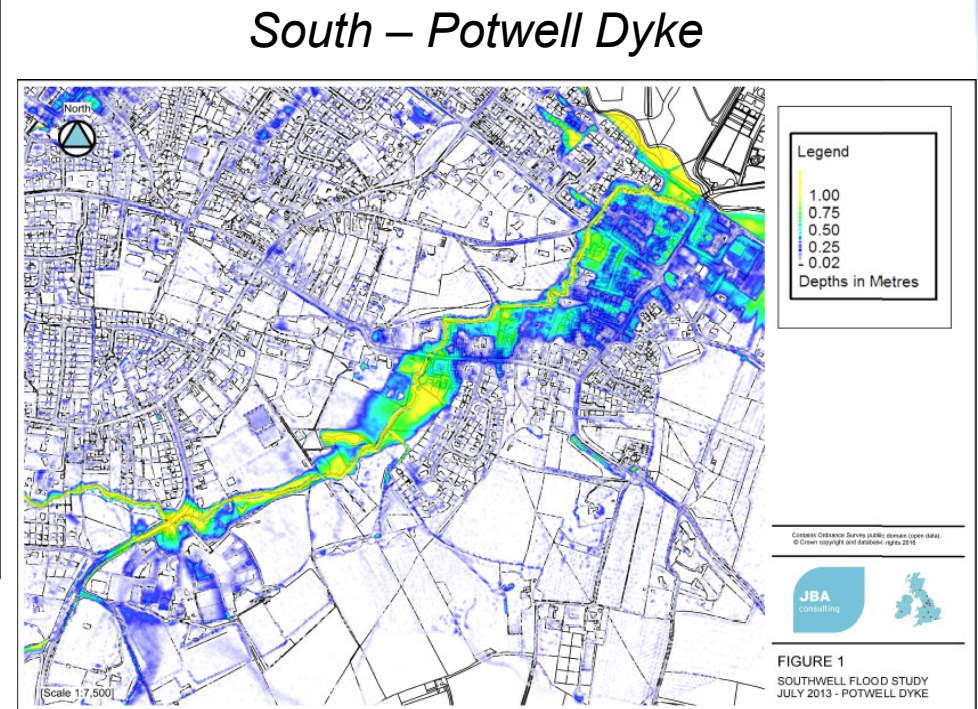
3D map of Southwell
'Bowl'-shaped rural farmland catchment, drains into heavily developed urban catchment with ageing drainage system

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North – Halam Hill



Complex and differing flooding mechanisms - North/South of town
2007 – approximately 100 houses flooded
2013 - approximately 225 houses
Other floods documented, with fewer properties affected

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1922



2013
Pluvial



1965



2007
Fluvial

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Lack of maintenance and awareness

70 riparian owners on Potwell Dyke, blocked culverts, trash screens, fly-tipping



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Watercourse clearance



100 volunteers – 700 hours
July 2013 to May 2014



Nottingham Evening
Post Environment Award
- November 2014



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INTO ACTION!

- After the July 2013 flood, there was a huge and rapid swell of interest in the need to 'get something done'
- A highly motivated group was set up, affiliated to National Flood Forum
- Created website and a survey form to gather information on peoples' experiences of flooding
- Created a database of people interested in being involved and/or to receive information and news
- Set up Southwell Flood Fund via Nottinghamshire Community Foundation, in order to claim Gift-Aid on donations to build a community contribution towards mitigation costs – target £125K – as part of the Lead Flood Authority (LFA), Nottinghamshire County Council's, bid to the Government's Flood and coastal erosion risk management (FCERM) Grant in Aid

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Public Meeting

Southwell Minster September 10th 2013



600 attended,
100 signed up as volunteers

- fundraising
- watercourse clearance
- technical
- emergency planning, Flood Wardens
- admin
- Street Reps
-anything!

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Forming networks



Sept 2013 – 1st Stakeholders meeting with agencies/authorities



Heather Shepherd, Community and Recovery Support, National Flood Forum visited September 2013

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Owen Patterson,
Secretary of State,
Environment - May 2014

Lobbying

Robert Jenrick MP
Westminster - November 2014

Patrick Mercer MP
August 2013



By-election May 2014
Prime Minister &
Chancellor



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Local knowledge – experience, analysis and options

Residents meet with JBA Consulting to share suggestions and experiences – March 2016



Residents walk round town with AeCOM (ex-URS)
Flood Consultants – December 2013



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Local knowledge - skills and capabilities

Nottingham Trent
University, Brackenhurst
campus, Southwell
PhD research student,
Natural Flood
Management



Field corner bunds



Woody debris dams across
upstream watercourses

Technical Sub Group
Formed to review maps
and analyse mitigation
options with NCC and JBA



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Maintenance - Street and gully cleansing



March 2014 – Liaise with NCC and Via EM on arrangements to clear roads of parked cars prior to gully cleansing



Sept/Oct 2015 and 2016



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Community Resilience and Emergency Plan

Danger to life and property – manhole covers lifted by floodwater, bow-waves caused by buses, lorries, cars driving through floodwater



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Community Resilience and Emergency Plan

CREP team led by local Fire Officer, members of Forum and Town Council

Road Closure Scheme – 20 points, possibly largest in Europe



9 training sessions
Nov 2013 to May 2016
60 Wardens recruited & trained



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Community Resilience and Emergency Plan

Communications Hub

Central point of contact

Representatives of Southwell Town
Council and Southwell Flood Forum

Emergency Flood exercise
'Dry run' – January 2016



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Education and information

Community resilience display
Southwell Library June 2014



Library Help Desk
twice per week
December 2013 to May 2015



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Education and information

From this.....



.....to this

87% take-up of £5K RnR Grant



The Repair & Renew Grant
WHAT IT MEANS FOR YOU

What's the scheme about?
The Repair & Renew Grant scheme has been introduced by Government to support homes & businesses affected by the recent winter flooding.

- Grant funding of up to £5,000 will be available to homes & businesses to establish flood resistance and/or resilience measures to reduce the risk of future flooding or minimise impact.

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Education and information

Community resilience events June
2015 and May 2016



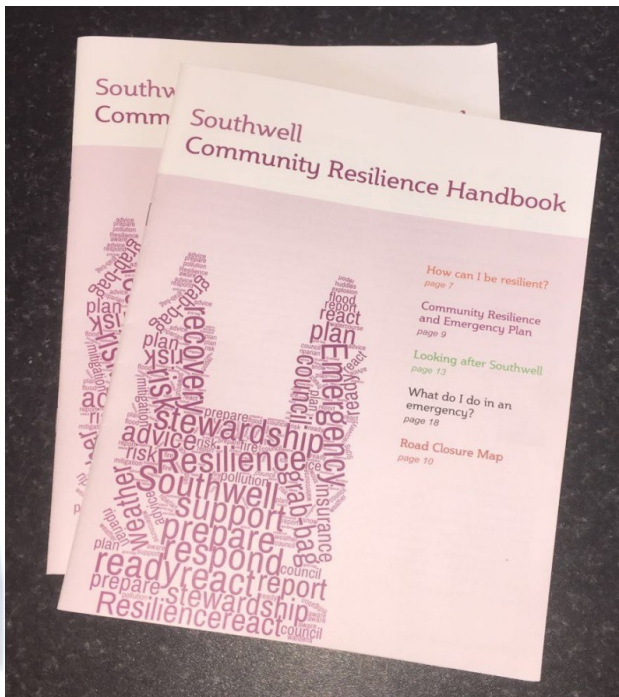
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Community Leadership on Resilience

Postcode Community Trust award (£2k) - May 2016

Southwell Community Resilience
Handbook



Warden equipment



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What's happening currently

- 1 Utilising capacity of existing formally constituted public bodies –
Southwell Town Council, Trent Valley IDB, Nottinghamshire County Council, (NCC), Newark and Sherwood District Council
- 2 Flood Alleviation Scheme nearing design stage –
JBA Consulting, NCC, Technical Sub Group, Trent Regional Flood Coastal Committee, Severn Trent
- 3 Community Resilience upgrade and extension –
Warden recruitment & training; weather forecast, Natural Flood Management (NFM) analysis by Nottingham Trent University
- 4 Community Resilience engagement and integration –
EU funded project - Trent Rivers Trust, National Flood Forum, Local Lead Flood Authority focus on NFM, improving community resilience
- 5 Continuing to keep focus on local flood risk –
Flood Forum, Technical Sub Group, Stakeholder Group, Town Council

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What's next in an ideal world?

- 1 Move accountability for decision making to local institutions –
Southwell Town Council
- 2 Government extends Internal Drainage Districts to cover all of England –
Land Drainage Act, 1994, Local Authority & river catchment compatibility
- 3 Develop sustainable, long term, locally funded maintenance –
Trent Valley IDB, Town Council, Trent Regional Flood & Coastal Committee
- 4 Establish Local Flood Plan re planning, housing, development –
Newark & Sherwood District Council (Local Planning Authority)
- 5 Introduce effective PLR, SuDS & Surface Water Measures –
Defra, NCC, Southwell Flood Forum
- 6 Focus on bringing “peace of mind” to local people –
Communication, Property Level Resilience, Emergency Plan, SuDS



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