

This matter is being dealt with by:

Anthony May

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Councillor Roger Blaney,
Leader of the Council,
Newark & Sherwood District Council,
Kelham Hall,
Kelham,
Newark,
Notts. NG23 5QX.

30 April 2015

Dear Cllr. Blaney,

SOUTHWELL FLOOD ALLEVIATION – PROGRESS ON SOUTHWELL FLOODING MODEL AND ASSOCIATED WORK

Thank you for your letter of 14th April 2015 regarding flooding issues in Southwell. The County Council remains committed to reducing flood risk in Southwell and to this end is working closely with partners. We have successfully brought the Southwell Flood Alleviation scheme into the Government supported 6 year National Programme and are keen to see it move forward.

At the time of the joint press release about the handling of planning applications, the expected completion date for the Southwell Flood Study and associated hydraulic model was April 2014. Unfortunately, the delivery of the flood study has been delayed due to the following reasons:

- the complexity of the flooding modes and interaction between fluvial and pluvial mechanisms;
- the work required to ensure a potential scheme was successfully submitted into the National 6 year Programme;
- efforts to involve the community in developing the alleviation options to be modelled;
- the undertaking of a comprehensive options appraisal and modelling; and
- changes in key personnel at both URS (AECOM) and the Council.

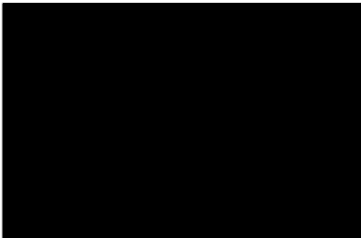
The Flood Study is currently in draft format and we intend to update the Southwell Flood Forum on progress and discuss future formats for public engagement at a Flood Forum meeting in the near future.

With respect to the Miller Homes' development, the developer initially decided not to utilise the model and commissioned their own consultant to examine the drainage and flooding impacts and issues for the site utilising a specific model. Subsequently, the developer chose to seek advice from AECOM regarding the impacts and issues for the site in the context of the hydraulic model that NCC commissioned.

Whilst the developer chose not to utilise our model in this instance despite our encouragement to do so, the County Council commissioned hydraulic model remains a valid tool for flood risk assessment and will be available for developers to utilise in the future if they choose to do so in order to fulfil their planning obligations. It will also be a reference point for the County Council in considering future planning applications. I would suggest the detail of this is best worked up in a meeting between our relevant officers so there is a clear mutual understanding and protocol in place. I will ask the County Council's Flood Risk Manager to organise a suitable discussion.

Finally, can I reiterate our commitment to working with the community, Newark and Sherwood District Council and other key partners in order to ensure that all future developments are adequately controlled and that flood risk is minimised in line with national planning guidance.

Yours sincerely,



ANTHONY MAY
CHIEF EXECUTIVE