



HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE – 16 January 2025

QUESTIONS ASKED UNDER STANDING ORDER 34

Question asked by a member of the public regarding flooding in Sileby and Cossington in 2024

Please would you be able to update on the specific actions that LCC have taken to reduce flooding on back of the flooding that occurred on 2 January 2024 which effected residents across Leicestershire and specifically Sileby and Cossington

With Leicestershire again being hit with devastating floods on the 6 Jan 2025 what actions are you putting in place so this event doesn't repeat for a third year in a row.

Reply by the Chairman

“As you have alluded to, the County has been significantly impacted by the floods on 6 January, with over 600 properties being internally flooded across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

The Council is aware that Sileby and Cossington were two of the many communities impacted by this event as they were a year ago during Storm Henk and we fully sympathise with those who have been affected.

Flooding can come from a range of different sources and there are many different responsible bodies, organisations or individuals and flood risk management requires a partnership approach between agencies and the community, as detailed in the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.

www.leicestershire.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/flooding-and-drainage/flood-risk-management.

In its role as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), as the Council did and continues to do following Storm Henk, the Council will collate information from those flooded to aid investigation and understand what happened in more detail. Please report any incidences to the Council's flooding@leics.gov.uk mailbox. As with Storm Henk, and also Storm Babet a few months prior, the high volumes of impacted communities across the County has generated a significant amount of investigative work for the Council's Flood Risk Management team, which will take some time to get through.

As such, there is still investigative work to do following Storm Henk and clearly there will be more following events this month, but actions taken so far include:-

- Seven public drop-in sessions being held throughout Leicestershire, including in Loughborough and County Hall, where all of the responsible agencies were represented to allow any member of the public to discuss any flooding concerns and to also learn how they could become flood ready.
- The assessment of a potential bridge removal at Cygnet Close, Sileby in partnership with the Environment Agency. This will take time including modelling and review of output to ensure that removal does not exacerbate flooding and creates betterment and then identifying and securing funding.
- The identification of works required to a Severn Trent Water sewer in Cossington.
- The administration of the £5,000 Property Flood Resilience Repair Grants on behalf of the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs. Some property owners in Cossington and Sileby have been able to benefit from these grants. There is still time for residents whose properties were flooded during Storms Babet or Henk to apply for this grant at the following link: www.leicestershire.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/flooding-and-drainage/property-flood-resilience-repair-grant.
- The promotion, recruitment and training of local flood wardens to help promote local resilience.

While there is work to do to understand the impacts and what happened during the latest event in more detail, what the Council is aware of is that there was a prolonged and intense level of rainfall, compounded by snow melt on the already saturated, and also in some places, frozen ground. This led to the highest ever river levels being recorded (Storm Henk being the second highest recorded), which subsequently overwhelmed tributary watercourses and other drainage systems.

Unfortunately, with Sileby and Cossington being in close proximity to the River Soar, both communities will continue to be at risk, particularly during events of that magnitude. Ultimately, it is not possible to guarantee there will not be a repeat event in the next 12 months.

While, in its role as the LLFA, the Council will do everything within its powers and work with other agencies to identify the cause and any potential preventative solutions (as the Council have already have done so, as illustrated above), the stark reality is that there may not be a viable long-term solution that eliminates the risk of flooding for all residents, so the Council encourages residents to 'Be Flood Ready', know their flood risk, and work to make their properties more resilient by installing protection measures".

www.leicestershire.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/flooding-and-drainage/prepare-for-flooding.