

From: FloodRisk <FloodRisk@lincolnshire.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Report

Date: 5 Jan 2024 at 12:01

Dear Lesley,

Thank you for your email of Tuesday the 02nd of January 2024 with regards further flooding that has been experienced within Cranwell. In terms of next steps, I can advise that a site meeting has been arranged to discuss the flooding experienced on Wilson Close / Home Park for next Tuesday. At the time of writing, we are ascertaining whether one of the Council contractors have capacity to attend with a CCTV unit. I believe that a representative of the Parish Council will be attending the above meeting.

With regards the flooding experienced on College Road, I can confirm that it shall be investigated by Lincolnshire County Council pursuant to Section 19 of the Floods and Water Management Act 2010 under reference S19-644. What I aim to do within this email is provide an overview of the investigation process; however, should you have any further or outstanding questions following this email, please do not hesitate to get in contact using the below details.

Section 19 of the Floods and Water Management Act ("the Act") imposes a duty on a Lead Local Flood Authority, in this case Lincolnshire County Council, to investigate (to the extent it considers necessary or appropriate)-

- 1) which risk management authorities have relevant flood risk management functions; and
- 2) whether each of those risk management authorities has exercised, or is proposing to exercise, those functions in response to the flood.

Whilst this is the legal requirement of the investigation, the investigation will also look into the causality of flooding alongside proposing recommendations for consideration by those relevant risk management authorities to enhance future resilience to flooding. I advise that no risk management authority is duty-bound to implement the recommendations proposed; nevertheless, I can inform you that those risk management authorities named in the report often undertake those actions recommended.

The general process for completing a Section 19 report is as follows-

- 1) evidence gathering - by undertaking a site meeting(s) with those affected by flooding, contacting partner organisations etc.
- 2) review and analysis of evidence - to determine the mechanism of flooding and contributory factors, identification of relevant risk management authorities, and proposing of recommendations,
- 3) write-up of findings into a report, and

4) circulation of report findings - to both those affected and relevant risk management authorities. A redacted summary of investigations is also uploaded onto our website. Please note that our master records have yet to be updated on our website and as such you will not currently be able to find the above reference number.

Although shown in a linear format above, the process is more cyclical in nature; however, the extent to which is dependent on the complexity and scope of each case.

As you will most likely be aware Storm Babet (alongside subsequent rainfall) has caused / is still causing widespread flooding issues not only across Lincolnshire but also the whole of the midlands region. Due to the extent of the flooding realised (and by virtue the number of Section 19 reports which need to be undertaken, (which currently sits at over 170)) we are currently working with our procurement department to engage suitably qualified third-party consultants to conduct these investigations on our behalf. This is to ensure that they can be completed in a timely manner. Subsequently, and at the time of writing, I am unable to provide any specific details with regards timescales; however, we are hopeful that investigations will commence in earnest by the end of January 2024, subject to the specific agreed details of the relevant contracts.

Furthermore, until such time as the investigation has happened, I really am unable to offer any further information about what appropriate interventions may look like, but we will work closely with our colleagues at other authorities to ensure that a thorough investigation takes place.

Notwithstanding the above, I can confirm that I shall be discussing the concerns of overland flows from the agricultural land to the rear of the properties with Dyson Farming next Tuesday during the site meeting.

I do hope that this update sufficiently outlines the proposed next steps of the Floods and Water team at Lincolnshire County Council.

Yours sincerely,

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