



Council

Monday 19 July 2021

Agenda Item 8 (a), Written Questions

Question From: Councillor Andy Beere

Question To: Leader of the Council, Councillor Barry Wood

Topic: Environment Agency Flood Risk Survey

Question

“Councillors note that the Environment Agency is carrying out a Survey of Flood Risk prevention across the Thames Basin [See Ref CDC Parish Bulletin June 2021 from May to late August 2021].

Can Cllr Wood state in what ways that the Council will be contributing evidence in this process bearing in mind that Banbury alone saw at least 4 occasions in Winter 2020/21 when R Cherwell levels were well above the “HIGH” river flows after periods of continuous rain potentially affecting farmland housing to and , commercial a property from the source of the River Cherwell southwards.”

Response

The Council is aware of the Environment Agency’s community consultation on a catchment-wide approach to manage flood risk across the Thames Valley.

Despite the success of the Flood Alleviation Scheme at Banbury which has reduced the extent of flooding in the town on several occasions since its completion in 2010, past interventions at other locations such as Kidlington, Bloxham and Adderbury, and further interventions which are ongoing, flood risk and land drainage continue to be serious issues for many across Cherwell; issues that are made more challenging by climate change.

The Council welcomes the approach of the Environment Agency in inviting views directly from communities; from those who experience the issues first hand. We would encourage as many people as possible to respond and complete the on-line questionnaire by 20 August.

Officers are considering this Council’s response and will consult with Lead Members to ensure that Cherwell’s needs and interests are best represented and that specific areas of concern are identified. In doing so, they will liaise with the County Council as Local Lead Flood Authority.