

To: Director of Planning & Development,
Cherwell District Council,
Bodicote House,
Bodicote,
Banbury,
Oxon,
OX15 4AA.



29 August 2021

Land West of Yarnton Development Brief - PR9 Draft for Consultation

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your draft brief that you have made public.

I have concerns that it says nothing about the need to address the combined risk of groundwater and flash flooding to which both the development land and the existing village has been susceptible for at least the last 30 years. Similarly, it doesn't say anything about addressing the flood risk from foul sewage overtopping Thames Water and private drains which some residents had to endure for a period during flooding, leaving them to clean up the filth.

I was stunned to hear from the Yarnton Flood Group that at their meeting with representatives of the County and District Councils that they initially claimed they had no record of Yarnton ever having been flooded. During the recent Christmas event I spent a number of hours redirecting through-traffic coming off the A40 away from Rutten Lane until the fire brigade attended, took control and closed the road. The bus company had to reroute the S3 bus via the A44 until water levels in the village had dropped sufficiently to enable the service to resume. Thames Water attended but were unable to give assistance because the foul drains were also overflowing with surface water. The Oxford Mail also contains plenty of evidence of the events.

I have lived in this village for 30 years and have witnessed similar events on at least three occasions, the most recent at Christmas 2020. Groundwater flooding also continued in Church Lane on PR8 and PR9 for days following the event. How is it possible that the Local Flood Authorities have no records of these events. I'm sure I can find plenty of residents who can similarly testify to this. The Christmas flooding was not an exceptional event. Arguably it represented a 1 in 10 year return storm. How will an additional 540 house impact upon that. Reduce it to a 1 in 5 return period perhaps?

You are now proposing to extend the village yet further north closing what's left of the flood corridor around the village for both surface water and ground water off Spring Hill. What measures will the planning authority require of the developer to safeguards existing residents as well as the new ones?

Yours sincerely



Yarnton Flood Group



Yarnton,

