



MEETING: COUNCIL

MEETING DATE: 06 NOVEMBER 2023

ITEM: 7 - QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

No.	Questioner	Addressed to:	Question
1	Councillor R Powell	Councillor P Browne, Portfolio Holder for Planning and Property	<p>I welcome the new proposed policy EN3 on biodiversity included in the draft local plan preferred options which will go out for public consultation later this month and also particularly pleased that the proposed policy includes a biodiversity net gain requirement of 15% which is above the legal requirement of 10%.</p> <p>Residents have told us that they support measures to restore, improve and create new habitat to strengthen our ecological network. We live in a beautiful county but the County Biodiversity Assessment which provides the evidence for this policy states that there is actually a paucity of biodiverse rich habitat in the county and opportunities to increase it should be identified.</p> <p>Quite rightly, under this proposed policy, the Council will expect developers to provide mitigation, compensation, and enhancement measures for biodiversity on, or immediately adjacent to, a site for all major development proposals.</p> <p>Where, however, we are looking at off-site mitigation, can the Portfolio Holder please provide assurance to residents that this will be provided within our county, which, as we have seen from the evidence report has a lack of biodiverse rich habitat, and not in some distant area, and also confirm how this will be achieved?</p>
2.	Councillor K Payne	Councillor C Wise, Portfolio Holder for Highways, Transport and the Environment.	<p>Cllr Wise will be aware of recent correspondence regarding the severe impact to residents along the Chater and Welland rivers of pluvial flooding, torrents of filthy water travelling at speed down the sides of the river valleys flooding and damaging homes in its path down to the respective rivers. Many homes were under 2 foot of water, emergency services were called but none arrived, they were inundated so we had to improvise.</p>

			<p>This is going to happen again; the parishes are dusting off their Emergency Plans which deal with the actual emergency event in the short term but there also needs to be some medium and longer term planning to deal with the bigger problem, residents and parishes need advice and a plan to deal with this.</p> <p>They need to understand the role of the Local Flood Authority and what advice the Authority gives to Parishes in support of their emergency response plans and the high-level Rutland response plan, if one exists. If this is nothing they need to understand where they go for help. They also need to understand how solutions to the flooding problem are designed, how they are implemented and what role other agencies external to the Council may play in the short-, medium- and long-term plan.</p> <p>Something as basic as knowledge of how we solve the issue of constantly blocked drains on the sides of valleys and in low lying areas is also required. We need a strategy and a plan to deliver some preventative action.</p> <p>I am also concerned, following this recent frightening event, nobody has contacted the Parishes to understand the scale of the problem, so determining a relevant and useful strategy and plan without understanding the real issues faced, is risky.</p> <p>This is a huge problem at present and many residents have had their lives severely disrupted by damage to property. Communication of a plan, the identification of the scale of the problems, then the design of flood prevention solutions are needed for very nervous residents and parishes. Please advise how this will be managed and coordinated and when it will be provided?</p>
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