

SOUTH CLIFTON AREA - ADVICE ON ANTI-FLOODING MEASURES

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Please keep this information for reference.

Introduction.

South and North Clifton are located on the flood plain of the River Trent, one of England's most important rivers. With family moves and climate change the Parish Council feels this information should be disseminated and as more becomes available subsequent versions will be produced. This is meant as helpful advice and to help you understand who is responsible for what measures plus some other suggestions for individual considered action.

South Clifton has not flooded in the past seventy (70) years. In past centuries the Trent flooded as far as Lincoln. A major inundation in 1947 was the last major flood on this scale which affected South Clifton. In the 1950's a series of flood banks were constructed to help prevent a repeat.

The Defences.

There are two flood banks: the "Minor defence" formerly called the once in a 10-year defence and the Major defence hitherto the once in 100-year defence. The minor defence runs along the side of the actual river where low ground necessitated its construction. The major defence has been built in between areas of high ground. Both defences can be seen on the attached Ordnance Survey plan. OS are thanked for this use of their map.

The defences also consist of areas of land which can be flooded e.g., to the south of Marshgate Farm in the gravel pit area. A series of pumps, locks and gates control access to these and other areas.

Investment into defences is prioritised in order:

1. Major conurbations
2. Urban areas and
3. Smaller settlements
4. Agricultural land.

Capital investment by the EA follows this order unless immediate needs change projects.

Responsibilities.

Rivers fall under the responsibility of the Environment Agency. Smaller streams, ditches and dykes are maintained by the Area Internal Drainage Board. Since 2012 The Canal & River Trust took on 2,000 miles of canals and rivers, together with reservoirs and a wide range of heritage buildings from British Waterways.

Locally road signs and alterations are managed by Via EM the contractor working on behalf of Notts CC Highways and in conjunction with Notts Police.

The District Council has an emergency incident responsibility including sandbags, some evacuation transport, blankets and accommodation.

Bank construction and damage.

Banks are made from compacted clay, topped with soil. Damage to the flood banks is a criminal offence. This includes action or inaction by landowners on whose land the bank is. Rabbits and badgers can dig into the core and so should be reported for control. Moles are surface burrowers which cause less damage but are controlled.

Bank inspection.

The EA carries out periodic inspections of the banks and instructs their grass cutting contractors and others to do the same. Consequently, the banks are inspected at least 4 times per annum. The local EA office has 100 miles of River Trent to cover from the Humber 50 miles upstream and back. EA has a right of access to all defences for inspection

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Preparation measures.

Public. Sandbags will be available if needed through Newark & Sherwood District council who can ask for emergency services or military support for labour or pumps. In extreme cases the local authority has evacuated people to local sports centres for accommodation and provided blankets e.g., when 3,000 young people were evacuated from Newark Showground in 2000.

Private. Each household should move their property off the ground in an emergency and security should remain a priority. Preparations for a serious incident might include having bottled water, antibacterial hand gels, tins of food, a torch and spare batteries, robust wellington boots, and in case of loss of electricity even an alternative means of cooking and heating. Spare vehicle fuel and a fully charged mobile battery might also be helpful.

Neighbours. If you have a vulnerable neighbour or are going to be away when severe weather is expected, consider pooling resources and helping vulnerable, neighbours to move their items or share shopping and medical trips.

Insurance. There should be no issue for insurance as the village has not been flooded due to the effectiveness of the major defences in the last 70 years. All are advised to take copious pictures on their mobiles in case of claims. Flooding attracts “flood gawkers”, who might include criminals. All should be vigilant in this regard. Outbuildings are especially vulnerable and should be locked up.

Closure of Dunham Toll Bridge.

If closed the nearest bridges across the Trent are: Newark South and Gainsborough (North).

Fishing. The river is divided into club stretches. Vehicles are allowed onto private land by the landowners who charge the clubs for fishing rights. SCPC believes fishermen's vehicles on the defence causes damage. We are working to establish who owns which stretch so that access can be controlled, damage minimised or better, stopped. SCPC is exploring with landowners to have clapper gates and fences repaired and replaced.

Bad behaviour. A Fisheries Constable and Intelligence Officer (bailiff) is employed by the EA who can be called out to cases of bad behaviour by fishermen. He is part of the Notts Police Rural Crime Team. The FCIO can be contacted via 0800 807060. There will be a presentation from a team member at a future PC meeting.

Flood Wardens. Currently there is no designated Flood Warden for South Clifton. Details of a meeting on this important matter will be sent out soon and some funding for necessary equipment could be provided. Any volunteers should attend this meeting which will be addressed by the Flood Warden for Girton.

Communication. In case of an incident communication is crucial. The current PC members and associated numbers are below:

SCPC Chairman

Dr Ed Swain

SCPC Clerk/Newsletter/Cliftonites Gill Cobham 01522 778914

Email pcsouthclifton@gmail.com

Fisheries Constable and Intelligence Officer 0800 807060

Police for all reportable incidents 101

Emergency - Police, Ambulance and Fire & Rescue 999