

Motions

The following Motion has been submitted by Councillor Jason Baker:
The Motion is seconded by Councillor Jenny Kenton

Flood risk alleviation and enforcement

As you will be aware many parts of our district have increasingly suffered over the last few years with more severe and regular flooding. Whilst we understand that development must take place, we want to see a more robust system of engagement between our planning department and the lead flood authority.

Flood alleviation schemes must take into account both the water that the scheme creates and the increase in flow due to the replacement of open fields with roads, this water will have travelled through the site before but been reduced by the field taking some of the water thus moving water more quickly downhill, as we build out into the upper regions of our towns we are allowing more water to move more quickly through our road system to the bottom and into small water courses that can't take it

Schemes must be fit for purpose and be fully agreed by the lead flood authority prior to planning permission, they should be checked that they are built to plan by a body like building control, they must have a robust maintenance plan in place and subject to regular checks which can be enforced if work is not undertaken, there must be a reliable body to take control of the maintenance of the scheme.

South Somerset District Council should not only seek to ensure that a fit for purpose flood prevention plan is in place for new applications, but they should also look to gain a contribution to improve the infrastructure to alleviate problems further downstream and improve the current ageing infrastructure.

South Somerset District Councils flood alleviation ponds should be subject to a regular maintenance program and be checked by a competent person regularly and a record kept of checks and work carried out, any work should be graded and prioritized within the work schedule.

South Somerset District Council passed a motion in 2019 which specifically recognised the climate emergency, and we now require Flood Prevention Officers to prioritize flood prevention schemes and advise local councils and voluntary groups on how they can assist in reporting issues as well as maintenance and emergencies.

Council therefore agrees

- All planning permissions must include sufficient information and conditions to ensure that not only are the surface water designs appropriate and meet best



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practice requirements but also that all future management arrangements are approved by the planning authority in conjunction with the LLFA.

- All relevant sites should have a maintenance plan in place that has been approved by the LLFA
 - Members request that we contact the LLFA to ask that schemes are be periodically inspected to ensure correct maintenance is taking place and an enforcement policy is put in place if schemes are not maintained.
 - Whether through providing feedback on individual planning applications or through direct representation, to seek the Council's support to ensure that water companies focus upon maintaining and improving existing infrastructure to meet current and future needs
 - To ensure that in setting priorities for the new Somerset Council and its planning policy works, that SSSC emphasises the importance of future proofing new developments in relation flood risk and flood management
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