

Question from Swavesey Parish Council on item 6 (Cambridgeshire Flood Risk Management Strategy)

The Cambridgeshire Flood Risk Management Strategy Document on page 32 item 4.6 explains IDBs and states that they have an important role in reducing flood risk and that ‘The role of the IDB in the management of flood risk within Cambridgeshire is vital.’ The Parish Council is pleased to see that this is recognised, as there is a wealth of local knowledge within a local IDB.

The Strategy Document also recognises the status of the Middle Level Commissioners, saying it is a statutory body with powers and duties.... Again the Parish Council is very pleased to see that this is recognised.

The officer report also states:

“3.1 Community groups and the volunteers within them have a wealth of local knowledge and the strategy sets out how Cambridgeshire County Council will work with these groups to raise awareness of flooding”

Looking at the Strategy document, page 85 explains what CCC intends to do to improve communication to residents, some of which we have already seen improve, such as the new Riparian leaflet and warning information about flooding and what residents can do to help stop or alleviate flooding.

Under objective 4 – Ensuring Appropriate Development in Cambridgeshire (page 86), the Parish Council wishes to reiterate that it is vital for CCC to talk to Parish Councils and IDBs where there is one, and take local knowledge into account.

Item 4.1M Contribute to achieving more sustainable development, lists local communities as the partner in this. It goes on to state:

“...Cambridgeshire County Council requires sustainable drainage in all new developments. Cambridgeshire’s flood risk management organisations will continue to work closely with developers to this aim.”

The Parish Council wishes to stress that for this to happen the CCC needs to actively commit to working, right from the start of a development proposal, with the local Parish Council and IDB, not just the developers. We have experienced a lack of this with a recent housing development where the Parish Council believes a greater risk of flooding may occur following the development due to decisions taken against local Parish Council and IDB advice on how drainage for both foul and surface water is being managed on a new development.

Swavesey Community has already seen in the past 18 months, foul and surface water flooding of dwellings, gardens and garages and residents are understandably very concerned over what actions are being taken to stop future flooding and what impact new housing developments in the village will have on the risk to future flooding.

Can the Committee confirm that the above points and concerns will be addressed by this Flood Risk Management Strategy and how the CCC is going to action the policies in order to work with local communities to reduce flood risk and help ensure residents do not experience increased risk of flooding as new development continues to take place within villages?