

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

19 April 2016

Public Participation

Questions from Mr Ian James

1. i) Was Mr Sturgis aware of the recommendation made by a Wiltshire Council Senior flood engineer when asked by the Wiltshire Planning department as to whether or not he would recommend development to the east of Chippenham?

ii) What was that recommendation?
2. Did Mr Sturgis see the photographs and comments sent to the planning department at Monkton Park on 24th December 2013 when the River Avon was bank full?
3. At the December 2015 cabinet meeting Mr Seed admitted that there was a risk to building upstream of Chippenham Town, do you agree with his assessment?
4. Will he agree that there is little risk to Chippenham Town or Melksham Town when developing downstream?
5. Are the results of the Environment Agency Modelling of the River Avon in Chippenham available to parish councils to review?
If not what date will they be made available?

Response

1. The potential issues pertaining to development to the east of Chippenham were identified by the Council's drainage staff. It is for this reason that consideration was given to mitigation measures in connection with any development.
2. The photographs were brought to my attention, and were passed on to the Environment Agency.
3. There are potential risks associated with any development, and it is important that any development has appropriate measures to reduce the flood risk. National Planning Policy aims to steer new development to Flood Zone 1 (i.e. areas with a low probability of flooding). It is evident that land is available upstream of Chippenham in Zone 1 and thus outside of Zones 2 and 3 (medium and high risk).

4. There are potential risks associated with any development, and it is important that any development has appropriate measures to reduce the flood risk. National Planning Policy aims to steer new development to Flood Zone 1 (i.e. areas with a low probability of flooding).
5. The Environment Agency modelling is anticipated to be completed shortly. It is expected that the Environment Agency will make it available as soon as it is complete. This should be in the next couple of months, but is a matter for the Environment Agency.