

**From:** "Seed, Jonathon" <[Jonathon.Seed@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:Jonathon.Seed@wiltshire.gov.uk)>  
**Date:** 22 February 2016 11:54:41 GMT  
**To:** "Newbury, Christopher" <[Christopher.Newbury@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:Christopher.Newbury@wiltshire.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** **WARMINSTER FLOODING ISSUES**

Dear Christopher,

You wrote to me last month asking for information concerning the potential flooding threat within your Community Area and in particular to the town of Warminster.

The flooding problems in Warminster are appreciated, and have been a concern to the Council for some time. The Council has already carried out work to reduce flood risk at specific locations in the town.

The Council has been working for some years with the Environment Agency and Wessex Water to improve the understanding of the flood issues in the area, which involve river and surface water flooding. This has included several surveys and monitoring programmes to provide evidence for the modelling which has already been undertaken. In the longer term it is proposed that a joint model should be prepared in conjunction with the Environment Agency, Wessex Water, Highways England and other parties in order to develop proposals for flood alleviation schemes which could be the subject of future bids for funding.

The Environment Agency does not object to development proposals in the Wiltshire Core Strategy, but the Plan records that further work needs to be done to understand flood risks affecting the town. The Environment Agency has however agreed that the strategic allocation (West Warminster Urban Extension (WWUE)) can be delivered in advance of this assessment.

The planning process requires prospective developers for the WWUE to support their planning applications with a flood risk assessment, to demonstrate their proposals will not increase flood risks and will incorporate appropriate sustainable drainage measures. Two planning applications are currently under consideration and each application's flood risk assessment is being carefully considered. Their work has involved some more detailed assessment of the EA flood risk zoning of the site.

No Greenfield sites are being proposed for development in the draft Warminster Neighbourhood Plan being prepared by the Town Council. Further sites for housing development might be proposed by Wiltshire Council as a part of preparing a Housing Sites Allocation Development Plan document. Any plan proposals for development would result from a sequential approach, looking to avoid flood risk zones; both Council flood drainage engineers and the Environment Agency are engaged in the plan's preparation and can provide advice on what further assessment would be necessary as well as what form it might take.

I hope that the above information helps to inform and reassure your Area Board Members that the Council has been proactive on flood alleviation matters in the Warminster Community Area and will continue to be so.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathon Seed". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the letter 'd'.

Jonathon Seed  
Cabinet Member for Housing, Leisure, Libraries and Flooding  
Chairman Melksham Area Board  
Member - Summerham and Seend Division  
Wiltshire Council  
Tel. 01380 850696 Mob: 07770 774463  
[www.jonathonseed.com](http://www.jonathonseed.com)