

24 January 2025

*Sent to Leicestershire County Council, the Environment Agency and the Canal River Trust*

Dear

I am writing to you following the recent flooding in Charnwood in January 2025. This terrible event came almost twelve months to the day from the flooding caused by storm Henk. These two flooding events were both very significant and have caused a huge amount of distress for those affected and for the wider communities.

As a local Councillor whose ward is badly affected by the flooding and as Leader of Charnwood Borough Council, I can appreciate the very significant concerns and frustration of our residents and businesses. Therefore, I am urging all agencies to engage with the issue and to take action.

We need tangible action from the agencies primarily response for preventing and mitigating the effects of flooding.

I appreciate significant measures may take time, and in the mean time we need to support our communities to be as flood resilient as possible, but it is clear action that is desperately needed.

I also reiterate my call on the government to open the Flood Framework to provide grants and support to local residents and businesses.

I have set out below my thoughts on actions that need to be taken and I would like to see a response in writing from the relevant agency to these.

- A. That the outstanding S19 investigations into the Storm Henk flooding be completed and published without delay.
- B. For the LLFA to confirm the list of outstanding S19 Investigations and their anticipated publication date.

- C. For the LLFA to confirm if any new S19 investigations will be undertaken following the January 2025 flooding.
- D. Once contributory factors to flooding have been identified, a clear set of potential flood prevention initiatives are set out by the EA and LLFA for the areas most affected by flooding. This should provide information on the type of scheme, potential costs and funding agency with an update on its current status. As a minimum I would expect to see action plans for the following areas (based on internal property flooding).
  - a. Sileby
  - b. Syston
  - c. East Goscote
  - d. Barrow Upon Soar
  - e. Mountsorrel
  - f. Quorn
  - g. Loughborough
- E. For the Canal and Rivers Trust to clarify its approach to maintenance and flood mitigation in respect of the canal in Loughborough and to identify actions to reduce flood risk.
- F. A review of the Partnership Structures which oversee flood prevention and mitigation in Leicestershire with a view to greater political oversight by relevant stakeholders.
- G. With Loughborough in mind, I will be calling a meeting in March 2025 to follow up on the MPs round table and I am planning to hold quarterly meetings after that.

In regard to actions to be taken by Charnwood Borough Council I can update as follows;

1. An ongoing commitment to work in partnership and deliver our role as a risk management authority supporting the County Council as Lead Local Flood Authority.
2. An ongoing commitment to cleaning and maintaining watercourses for which we have responsibility.
3. An ongoing commitment to providing an annual supply of Aquasacks to parish Councils in high risk areas.
4. To provide an FAQ on planning and sustainable urban drainage.
5. To ensure that flooding is considered in line with national planning guidance and that all relevant applications are put to the LLFA, STW, LHA and EA for their consideration so that they can ensure that plans recommended for approval have appropriate drainage and flood mitigation.

6. A new commitment to provide additional funding to Parish Councils for the installation of flood lockers (size and scope to be determined) to provide storage if required for items useful in floods (barriers, sandbags, clean up materials, pumps).

I am keen that we work in partnership and with some urgency to ensure we are clear on the causes of the flooding and what can be done short medium and long term to help protect communities. Given the level of community interest in this matter I intend to publish this letter openly as part of my response to the recent flooding.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Jewel Miah

**Leader of Charnwood Borough Council**

cc Jeevun Sandher MP  
Peter Bedford MP  
Edward Argar MP  
Parish Councils