



APLEY | BARDNEY | SOUTHREY | STAINFIELD

FAO Ms Emma Howard Boyd  
Chair  
Environment Agency  
Head Office  
Horizon House  
Bristol  
BS1 5AH

Date 3rd December 2019

Dear Ms Howard Boyd

**Re: Extensive Flooding in the Short Ferry area**

Bardney Group Parish Council are writing this open letter to you to raise our concerns over the role of Environment Agency during the recent and ongoing flooding.

BGPC are concerned about the Gold Command decision to allow the flood plains in Bardney to flood to protect properties in Lincoln, without considering the known weakness in the bank at Barlings Eau. BGPC would like to know the timeframe for the decision and why those downstream were not notified of this action.

The road through Short Ferry has been underwater for several weeks, however there has been no information available from the EA over the remediation plan. Communication, other than the Flood warnings, have been very vague and infrequent (two in two weeks and only received following a complaint to directly to the regional PR department). BGPC has had to rely on communication forwarded by other parish council's outside our area but not issued to us.

The road through Short Ferry is a major arterial route into Lincoln, not only for local residents but those travelling from the east of the county. The closure of the road has impacted on the other villages and the road through Stainfield is deteriorating rapidly due to the increase in traffic.

BGPC has also discovered that you attended a meeting at Barlings Eau last week, however none of the affected parish council's in the area were invited to attend. We have enquired with your regional office over this matter and were informed that it was for the NFU and landowners only, however the District and County Councillor was in attendance. The regional office also stated that the meeting was of a sensitive nature, which seems to indicate that there are extensive and ongoing problems with the current situation, if so why is information being withheld from the general public?



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Therefore, the reason for this letter is to ask the following;

- What is the timeframe for remediating the Barlings Eau area once the water has receded?
- What are the major challenges faced by yourselves when carrying out the remedial work?
- Will this work be classed as a priority?
- Will other banks in the area be assessed as a matter of urgency?
- What was the outcome from your visit last week?
- Why was there a wait of nearly four weeks before remediation work commenced at Barlings Eau whilst work commenced immediately on land owned by Sir James Dyson, when both sites had effectively the same problem?
- Will EA carryout a debrief once the flooding has been addressed and will parish councils be consulted?
- Who made the decision not to provide the local parish council's with information and what was the reason for this?
- Why have a County Councillor and a prospective MP been allowed to use the event for personal promotion?
- Will an effective and coherent Flood Plan be implemented for whenever the next flooding situation occurs?

BGPC would very much welcome your support with this matter and as this is an open letter, we will publish your response on our website and Facebook page.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Robert Webb  
Chairman  
Bardney Group Parish Council