

# FULFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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24 January 2013

For the attention of Michael Tavener  
City of York Council  
City Strategy  
9 St Leonard's Place  
YORK  
YO1 7ET

Dear Sirs,

## **Re: Flooding and drainage issues in Fulford, York.**

Fulford Parish Council met on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2013 and discussed the recurrence of flooding within the Parish over recent months. It was agreed to write to the relevant authorities - the City of York Council, Yorkshire Water, Environment Agency and Internal Drainage Board.

The frequency of flooding events, particularly during the last year is heightening the long-standing concerns of residents, which are repeatedly brought up particularly in relation to the Germany Beck proposals.

It is notable that both the A19 and Fordlands Road have been subject to closure on three occasions in recent months, resulting in inconvenience for residents and motorists alike.

### **Fordlands Road:**

The disruption for over 300 households of Fordlands Road is particularly severe because the road provides the only access to the village for both vehicles and pedestrians. It is very difficult to put a 'cost' on the disruption and distress to local families but the way in which a 400 yard trip regularly turns into an 8 mile journey should not be under-estimated.

In addition, the cancellation of burials and the impact on users of the cemetery whenever the road closes causes significant disruption.

The assistance of the City in providing 'ferry' vehicles for residents is of course appreciated, but the Parish Council considers that it is now time to consider a permanent long-term solution for residents in this area.

### **Drainage:**

There are concerns regarding the ability of the foul and surface water drainage systems to cope when the level of the Ouse is elevated and the water table remains so consistently high. The water table is reported as having risen significantly in recent years, to the extent that the digging of graves in the cemetery is now affected.

Residents of Cherrywood/Fordlands Crescent and West Moor flats continue to experience problems of drainage overflow and there are constant fears that the extensive flooding of homes experienced in 2000 will be repeated.

**Germany Beck development.**

The impending development continues to be a source of great anxiety in the community and there is no confidence that the flooding and drainage issues have been thought through in a comprehensive way.

What is clear is that Persimmon's proposed new junction on its own will not be effective in solving the problems at the A19. Furthermore, the scheme fails to address the difficulties at Fordlands Road; in fact the access arrangements across Fordlands bridge have the potential to become even more problematic should the development proceed.

Further concerns:

- The sketchy plans to build defence walls along the A19 are un-costed and unfunded and it is essential to ensure that the full flood defence scheme is properly evaluated for its long-term effectiveness and that funding is in place from the start.
- Whilst the drainage has been victim of faulty valves in the past, it is clear that the surface water and foul drainage systems are under pressure now, with no evidence to show how the added volumes from the Germany Beck Housing will be catered for.
- There is no clarity on the precise level of the 1:100 year flood at Germany Beck and whether any reliance can be placed on the variety of levels cited by Persimmon over the years. The Parish Council requests up-to-date details on this important matter.
- No recent Flood risk Assessment has been submitted to support the assertions of the applicants that the flooding and drainage issues have been resolved. The FRA of 2004 is deficient and entirely outdated. It is also based on inaccurate plans of flood risk zones.
- The lack of detail regarding foul and surface water drainage does not inspire confidence that the proposals will not worsen the existing situation.
- Insurance against flooding is already unobtainable in nearby areas such as Low Moor Avenue, Main St and at Fordlands. It is likely that the proposed new homes will effectively be uninsurable where they lie within or close to the floodplain.

The Parish Council hopes that the concerns outlined above will be positively addressed and we look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "J. M. Fletcher". A long horizontal line is drawn underneath the signature, extending to the right.

Clerk to Fulford Parish Council

Copied by email to:  
Environment Agency:  
Yorkshire Water:  
Ouse & Derwent Internal Drainage Board