

# **LOWDHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

Clerk's address: 25 The Green, Radcliffe-on-Trent,  
Nottingham, NG12 2LA

Telephone: 0115 933 5921 e-mail: [clerk@lowdham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@lowdham-pc.gov.uk)



E-mail: [billbanner1@virginmedia.com](mailto:billbanner1@virginmedia.com)

[www.lowdham-pc.gov.uk](http://www.lowdham-pc.gov.uk)

Right Honourable Robert Jenrick M.P  
House of Commons  
Westminster  
London

29 August 2019

Dear Mr Jenrick,

## Lowdham - Flood prevention and roundabout upgrade issues

I am writing on behalf of Lowdham Parish Council to express concern that the long-promised flood relief scheme for Lowdham cannot now be delivered by the Environment Agency (EA) and their partners. In addition, while the Parish Council recognises the need to improve the traffic flow along the A6097 between Lowdham and the A46 it vigorously opposes the current proposals by VIA to upgrade the Lowdham roundabout as part of the A614 corridor improvements.

The Parish Council recognises that you may well have received several representations from parishioners and constituents on these subjects during your recent summer surgeries, but requests a meeting with you as a matter of urgency, to explore the opportunities there may be for you, as our MP, to make representations both in support of, and on behalf of, the Parish Council.

With regards to the issue of flooding in Lowdham you are no doubt well aware of the significant risk the village faces. A partnership, headed by the EA, has been considering various flood prevention schemes over a period of 12 years for each scheme to then simply be scrapped due to insufficient funding. As of today, we are no nearer a solution than we were 12 years ago.

The Parish Council is very concerned to have learned in July that the scheme that has been under consideration for the past 3 years or so, utilising land near to Brakes Farm in Lowdham, is not going ahead. Having spent considerable time assessing the scheme, and expending significant money while doing so, the consultants engaged by the EA have advised that the scheme cannot be delivered due to the identification of increased technical issues with a resultant significant increase in projected costs. It seems the EA has only recently discovered the need for 'syphons' to enable water to pass under the A6097. It seems to the Parish Council that the basic issue, involving a requirement for water to flow uphill, should have been addressed long ago, before wasting considerable time and financial resources that could have been better used to deliver some benefits, rather than the empty promises contained in plans that never happen.

Following the announcement that the expected scheme could not be delivered the EA announced plans to provide upstream flood lagoons / reservoirs between Lambley and Lowdham. This is a recycled idea and has been re-suggested without having consulted landowners, with no specific details, timescales or costs attached. The Parish Council's faith in the ability of the EA to deliver anything of benefit is seriously eroded. This latest suggestion seems to be merely a diversionary sop to minimise criticism of yet another failure to deliver.

Moving on to consider the roundabout issue affecting Lowdham, please find attached a copy of a letter objecting to the current proposals that the Parish Council has sent to the Chief Executive and several senior politicians at Nottinghamshire County Council. Also attached is a copy of a report containing feedback from parishioners following the VIA consultation events. The Parish Council has sent this report to VIA objecting to the current proposals on economic, practical and environmental grounds

The Parish Council recognises that the proposed work at the Lowdham roundabout is part of a wider scheme to upgrade the A614 corridor to Ollerton but is surprised the DfT approved the Lowdham roundabout element given:

- its relatively remote position from the other 5 roundabouts in the scheme
- the failure to address the constraints of
  - the single carriageway road between Lowdham and the A46,
  - Gunthorpe bridge,
  - the traffic lights at the cross roads to East Bridgford and Newton,
  - the delays at the roundabout exiting the A46 onto the A6097.

These issues currently negatively impact the Lowdham roundabout and will continue to do so even after any work to upgrade the roundabout takes place. Essentially without addressing the above, the £4.4 million of proposed expenditure will not deliver significant benefit and therefore in no way begins to represent value for money.

The Parish Council would very much like to discuss both the flooding and the roundabout issues as soon as is convenient for you and looks forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Yours sincerely,

Bill Banner  
Clerk to the Parish Council

Enc. Copy of letter to Kay Cutts, Nottinghamshire County Council  
Copy of Parish Council response to VIA consultation