
From: [George Freeman](#)
Sent: 08 January 2021 16:26
To: trevor.bunce@btinternet.com
Subject: (Case Ref: ZA33360)

Dear Trevor

Thank you for your recent email to me on this issue

My sincere apologies for not having coming back to you sooner. As you will be aware, our part of Norfolk was particularly hard hit by flooding before, on and after Christmas Day – with a number of parishes in the constituency affected and dozens of constituents getting in touch. For many, this was the second, even third time they had been impacted in 2020 alone. I strongly appreciate the concerns, anger and frustration and agree that it is unacceptable. Much more needs to be done.

That's why, I have been flat out since then, with my team, raising all correspondence I had on this (including your own) with the Highways/Flooding team at Norfolk County Council, Anglian Water, the Environment Agency and others. I have been in almost daily conversations with the district and county councillors in the affected areas too and together we have been applying pressure at all levels in a series of phone calls and Zoom meetings.

Today, a group of us had a Zoom call with Anglian Water – the culmination of our conversations over these past couple of weeks. We most certainly have AW's attention and they were very candid about what happened over the Christmas period – assuring us that they are fully committed to doing all they can in the short, medium and long term to address the flooding issues we have been experiencing here in Mid Norfolk.

It was agreed that we will convene a Mid Norfolk Flood Partnership with the other agencies mentioned to bring ALL of the key parties together into one forum to better coordinate the local response to flooding. This is a positive step, but please be assured that I will be monitoring its progress and actively participating to make sure that it brings about the results we desperately want and need. (Updates will be provided on my website as we get this off the ground in the coming weeks)

Of course, this all highlights the dangers of planning development without the necessary infrastructure to accompany it – an issue that I have been very vocal about since becoming the MP for Mid Norfolk back in 2010.

In many of the places badly affected, new development has recently been built or is on the way – and we can clearly see the drainage infrastructure is unable to cope.

We cannot keep allowing aggressive out-of-town developers to dump large scale housing on our rural communities when they do not have the infrastructure there to support it – more often than not against the wishes of the local community, councillors and district council themselves and when they have argued the lack of infrastructure makes them unsustainable.

In the Autumn, I raised a whole range of concerns, including on this very specific issue, in the National Planning consultations held by the Government as they look to reform our country's planning system. The Government's announcement that they are taking much of this feedback onboard and are therefore going to go away and think further before implementing any reform is welcome, and shows that they are listening to this crucial feedback from MPs, councils, industry experts and member of the public alike.

Rest assured however, alongside our local councillors, I am reenergising my campaign on these matters in Parliament as we head into this new year, and I will provide updates on my work on my website: <https://www.georgefreeman.co.uk/> I am determined to ensure that issues like flooding are given greater weight in our planning system going forward.

(To read my submissions to the recent National Planning consultations, please visit my website here: <https://www.georgefreeman.co.uk/content/planning-national-consultations>)

I hope this update is helpful, but please do come back to me should you have any additional questions or points you want to raise. While we have now seen action to help many of the affected areas, I am determined to do all I can to get the key agencies involved to ensure all necessary steps are taken to try and minimise such flooding events in future.

Yours,

George

1/14/2021

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