

Agenda item 42

Should the £120,000 collected as a contribution to Southwell's Flood Defence Project, be returned to rate payers of the town?

After the 2013 Southwell floods the various interested parties put together a Flood Mitigation scheme under the lead of Notts County Council, which came out in 2014. Southwell Town council agreed to give £120,000 to the scheme, raised by increasing rates for three years. Notts C.C. is using Via to implement the scheme. It is still not completed in 2024 ten years after the project began. In 2013 an estimated 100 houses in the town were flooded.

Why we should give the money to N.C.C./Via. The money was raised as part of the funding for the capital costs of delivering this scheme as Southwell's contribution.

Why we should rethink Southwell's contribution to the Flood Mitigation Scheme.

The scheme is still not finished after 10 years! I assume funding was organised to pay for the scheme to completed in a fairly short time span. Due to the piece meal approach taken by NCC/Via costing must be far above the original estimate and can only continue to rise in the future.

Southwell Town Council has a duty to ensure it gets 'Value for Money' for all money it spends. It is unable to establish this, with this project, as it has been kept out of any discussion or organisational details of it. Councillors have effectively been barred from meetings.

When NCC/Via were reminded that Southwell Town Council had their contribution, they wanted us to keep it and take on the 'on going' management of parts of this scheme. This is not a capital cost that the money was raised for and is an open-ended commitment which in the

future could have serious financial burdens on Southwell Town Council. We Declined this offer. What this does suggestion, is to indicate that NCC/Via has no longer any need for our financial contribution for its capital costs.

Cllr S Perry