



STONEY STANTON PARISH COUNCIL

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16th September 2024

Alberto Costa MP
Member of Parliament for South Leicestershire
8A Lutterworth Road
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Leicester
LE8 4DN

Dear Alberto

Planning legislation – changes to statutory consultees.

As you know Stoney Stanton and many other villages under your constituency have suffered with flooding and this problem is ongoing in many cases.

We as a parish council have genuine concerns which we hope you may be able to assist us with, regards to the current statutory consultee requirements on planning applications. Our local water company is Severn Trent water they are NOT a statutory consultee. BDC Planning have confirmed that they do consult them on applications for new dwellings but they are under no legal obligation to respond and in the majority of cases they don't.

They can't unilaterally make STW a statutory consultee and/or force them to respond to consultations, **this needs a change in legislation.** The issues and further potential issues are why we are asking for your help, the political landscape has clearly changed recently as well as the current proposed changes to the planning regime.

One particular issue we wish to raise with you, with regards to a warehousing development (23/0740/FUL) that BDC granted without consultation from either the LLFA or STW. The LLFA stated they failed to respond due to an administrative error which isn't good enough (copy details attached)

Following a 21 page consultee letter from the parish council, Councillor Chris Stubbs spoke at the said planning meeting to make BDC aware of the issues, but the planning committee granted it anyway (copy letter attached).

Whilst the development at Highfields Farm has planning conditions relating to drainage which the applicant / developer will need to comply with. Conditions are usually recommended by

the LLFA requiring information on the future management and maintenance of surface water drainage systems but without consultation how is this managed?

Paragraph 175 of the NPPF states:

“Major developments should incorporate sustainable drainage systems unless there is clear evidence that this would be inappropriate. The systems used should:

- (a) **take account of advice from the lead local flood authority;**
- (b) have appropriate proposed minimum operational standards;
- (c) have maintenance arrangements in place to ensure an acceptable standard of operation for the lifetime of the development.....”

Guidance on waste water in relation to planning is further set out in <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/water-supply-wastewater-and-water-quality> . It says that Plan-making needs to consider wastewater infrastructure [Paragraph: 007 Reference ID: 34-007-20140306].

We would appreciate your consideration that local water companies MUST become a statutory consultee moving forward and that tighter rules and understanding must be adhered too when granting applications.

Yours sincerely



Roz Ward
Parish Clerk & RFO
Stoney Stanton Parish Council