

Haxey Parish Council

(County of North Lincolnshire)

Mrs. N. ATKINSON

Clerk

Tel/Fax. (01427) 754968

Mobile. 07800569589

E-mail: nichola@atkinson50.orangehome.co.uk

1 Eastmoor Villas
Epworth Road
Haxey
Scunthorpe
North Lincolnshire
DN9 2LH

Loreta Adams
Environment Agency
Olton Court
10 Warwick Road
Olton
Solihull
B92 7HX

29th January 2008

Dear Mrs. Adams,

Re: Response to the Trent Catchment Flood Management Plan

Haxey Parish Council objects most strongly to the proposal in the Trent Catchment Flood Management Plan that Axholme and North West Lincolnshire (Policy Area 1) should be allocated Policy 2 the consequences of which the report concludes would be ‘fresh water levels will increase considerably and large areas of currently drained farm land will become permanently or at least seasonally wet. Much of the area will revert back to marsh and fen landscape. Flooding will no longer be considered “flooding” and will become part of the natural seasonal inundation.’

In 2006 the Environment Agency Midland Region decided that its maintenance operations would be targeted according to either high, medium or low risk. Much of the Axholme/North West Lincolnshire area was shown as high risk and works would be undertaken to ensure that the watercourses and pumping stations were operating to a satisfactory standard. The Parish Council cannot understand why there has been such a dramatic change of policy.

The surface water drainage system at present is provided by a joint working arrangement between the Environment Agency and internal drainage boards. If the Environment Agency is withdrawing support for the area, the internal drainage boards would find it extremely financially challenging to undertake the present role of the Environment Agency. Where would the extra funding come from and is this new policy all about a lack of resources and the sacrificing of area such as the Isle of Axholme for the larger more populated areas of the country.

Why should the lowland area be expected to deal with major rivers such as the River Idle and River Torne which have received their major input from the urban areas of Mansfield, Worksop and Retford and the south east of Doncaster respectively. Similarly the Waring Drain receives its largest flow from the Finningley area which contains Robin Hood Airport.

If the Environment Agency is considering reducing their pumping operations in the Axholme area the commercial and domestic development of the area would be blighted.

The impact upon agricultural and food production cannot be ignored. Food production is again increasing in importance on the political agenda and the area is highly productive particularly in the areas of vegetable production.

Haxey Parish Council is adamant that the Environment Agency should reconsider the allocation of Policy 2 to the area of Axholme and North West Lincolnshire and retain the present standards as represented by Policy 4.

Yours sincerely,

Nichola Atkinson
Clerk to the Council