

APPENDIX E – SUMMARY OF LOCAL ENGAGEMENT SURVEY RESPONSES

Purpose, Methodology and Response

Purpose

Nottinghamshire County Council wanted to engage with the local community at an early stage in the development of their Local Flood Risk Management Strategy in order to gather information on local flooding incidents, flood preparedness, perceptions of flooding and local priorities for local flood risk management. Nottinghamshire County Council requested inputs from County Councillors, Risk Management Authorities, wider relevant organisations and the general public. The information collated through this exercise has been used to provide an evidence base to inform the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.

Engagement Approach

A survey was developed to gather views and evidence, which was made available on the Nottinghamshire County Council website during February and March of 2012.

The survey included questions related to:

- Historic flooding incidents;
- The preparedness of local communities to flooding incidents;
- The community perceptions of flooding and associated risks;
- Public opinion on what should be the overarching aim of the Strategy and priority areas for management;
- Concerns held by residents in relation to flood risk;
- The stance of local residents on what the County Council and partners can do to manage flood risk;
- Resident opinion on how flood alleviation schemes should be funded; and,
- Who should be consulted in the development of an LFRMS.

Response Rate

In total the council received over 430 completed surveys in response to this engagement process. The majority of responses came from Nottinghamshire (99.97%), with 4 more coming from Nottingham City and 7 coming from outside the county boundary. Where a partial or missing postcode was evident analysis was limited.

Figure E1 shows the location of residents who completed the survey.

The majority of respondents completed the survey as an individual with only 5% of responses being completed by an individual on behalf of a local community or organisation.

General Caveats

The results of this engagement are not statistically representative for the views of Nottinghamshire residents due to the nature of the methodology used. However, the level of response, information gathered and views obtained provide a useful indicator of wider opinion and any important issues that will need to be considered throughout the development and implementation of the LFRMS.

Percentages used in this analysis have been rounded and may not add up to exactly 100%. For some survey questions, respondents could select more than one response which also means that percentages, if added together, can total more than 100%.

Historic Flooding

Respondents were asked whether they have been affected by flooding in the past 10 years and which part of the property was affected.

Of the 432 responses to the consultation, 82.6% of residents had not experience flooding either at their current or previous addresses. The ward shown to be most affected by flooding was Lowdham (8 respondents) followed by Clayworth, Farnsfield and Bilsthorpe, Lady Bay, and Woodborough wards, which have 3 reported flood incidents in each ward.

The majority of flood incidents were reported to have affected road access as shown below, A third of respondents reported internal flooding with just under a fifth of people reporting external flooding of their property.

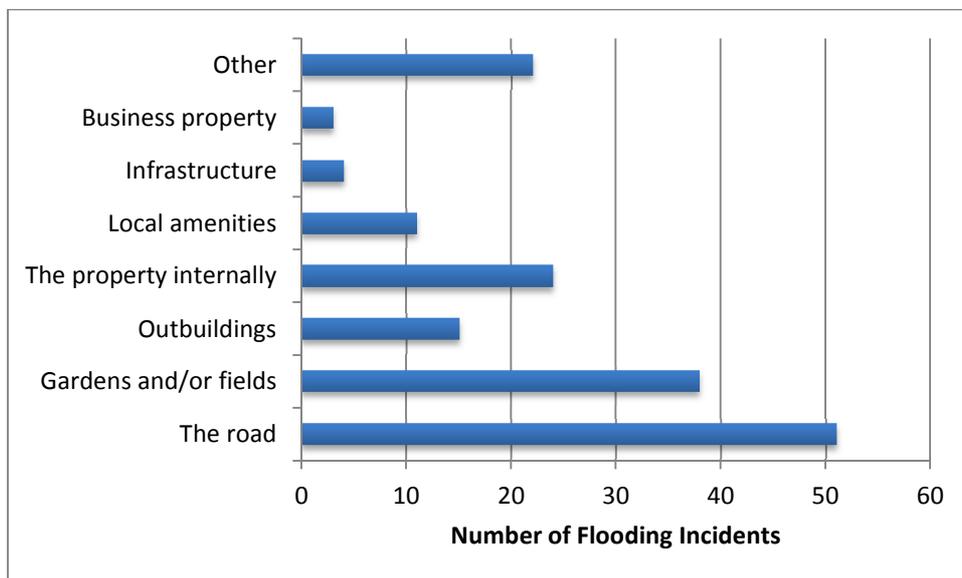


Figure E2. Number of Flooding Incidents Recorded by Respondents by Receptor.

Flood Preparation

Respondents were asked what steps (if any) they had taken to prepare for flooding. In total 249 respondents did not respond to this question. Of those who responded and had taken action to reduce flood risk, the majority had taken ‘passive’ actions i.e. thinking about what would happen should a flood occur, rather than more ‘proactive’ actions i.e. taking steps to minimise the risk of flooding in their local area.

Of the respondents who had taken flood preparedness action, the majority had sought information on flood risk as shown below in Figure E3. Of the respondents who responded with 'other' the majority had taken steps to ensure that their land had better drainage. Similarly, it became apparent within this question that the geographical location of housing is a key consideration of purchasing a property with many residents choosing their new home partially due to an area's low flood risk.

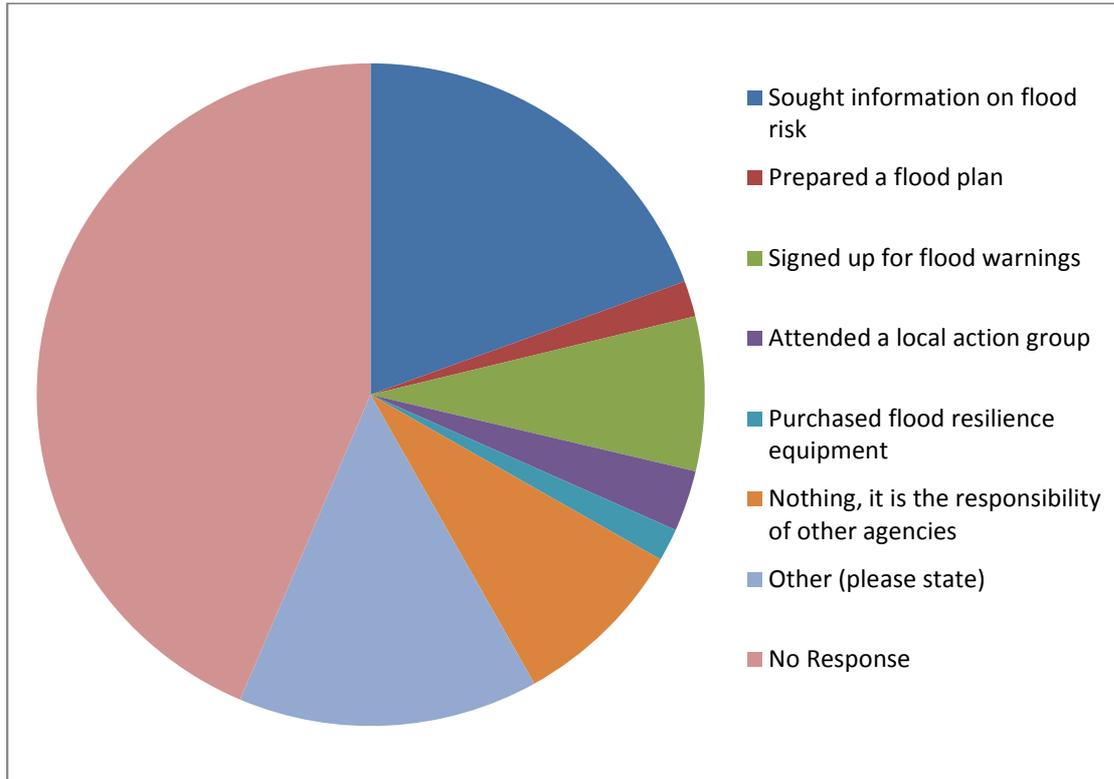


Figure E3. Flood Preparedness Measures Undertaken by Survey Respondents.

Perceived Flooding Sources

In this question respondents were asked what they considered to be the main sources of flooding for the County in order of importance. Flooding sources included:

- Large Rivers such as the River Trent;
- Smaller Watercourses;
- Surface Water
- Groundwater;
- Sewers; and,
- Other.

Large Rivers such as the River Trent was considered to be the most frequently ranked as the most important (60.66% respondents). Surface Water was also considered to be important by 18.91% of the population followed by ordinary watercourses at 15.54%. The least important source was considered to be groundwater possibly due to the difficulty in distinguishing its occurrence from surface water flooding.

Respondents who had experienced flooding were more likely to consider surface water and ordinary watercourses as more important and prevalent flooding sources than individuals who had not experienced flooding first hand.

Understanding Flood Risk

This question determined whether respondents considered themselves to be at risk of flooding, 66.1% of the respondents do not consider themselves at risk of flooding. However, flood risk mapping shows that more than 33.9% of Nottinghamshire is considered to be at risk of flooding. Therefore there seems to be a general lack of awareness in regards to flood risk amongst the County.

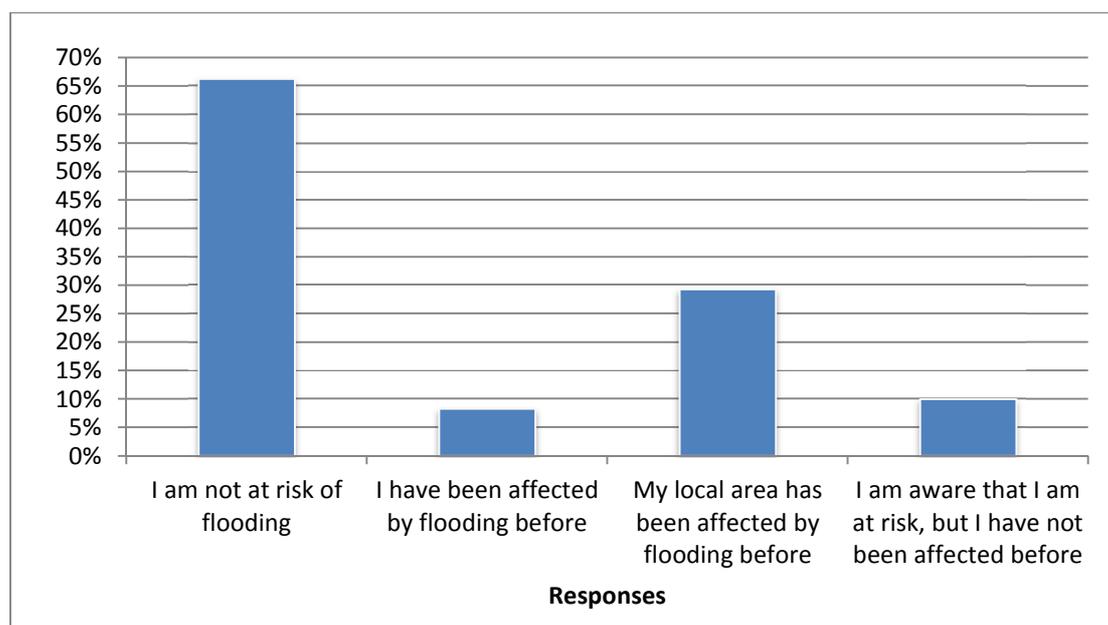


Figure E4. Perceived Flood Risk Amongst the Community.

Flood Risk Management

Respondents were asked what the overall objective for the management of flood risk should be within the County considering the fact that reducing flood risk in all locations and eventualities is not possible.

Most people agree that the overall objective should be to reduce the risk of flooding wherever possible. People who have previously experienced flooding were more likely to suggest reducing flood risk in areas which have previously experienced flooding.

Table E1. Future Flood Risk Management.

Where should flood risk be managed in the future?	% of respondents	Number of respondents
To manage the risk of flooding and maintain flooding at its current levels	10.7%	46
To reduce the risk of flooding where it has happened before	31.8%	136
To reduce the risk of flooding wherever possible	57.5%	246

Prioritising Flood Risk Management

This question acknowledges that protecting human life will always be the top priority of flood risk management measures. However beyond this respondents were asked what other receptors should be considered as a priority from the following:

- Roads;
- Gardens/outbuildings;
- Homes;
- Businesses;
- Local amenities such as schools and hospitals;
- Infrastructure such as electricity substations; and,
- Other.

Receptors were ranked in order of importance with 1 being the most important and 7 being the least important. Figure E5 below demonstrates the average score of the receptors.

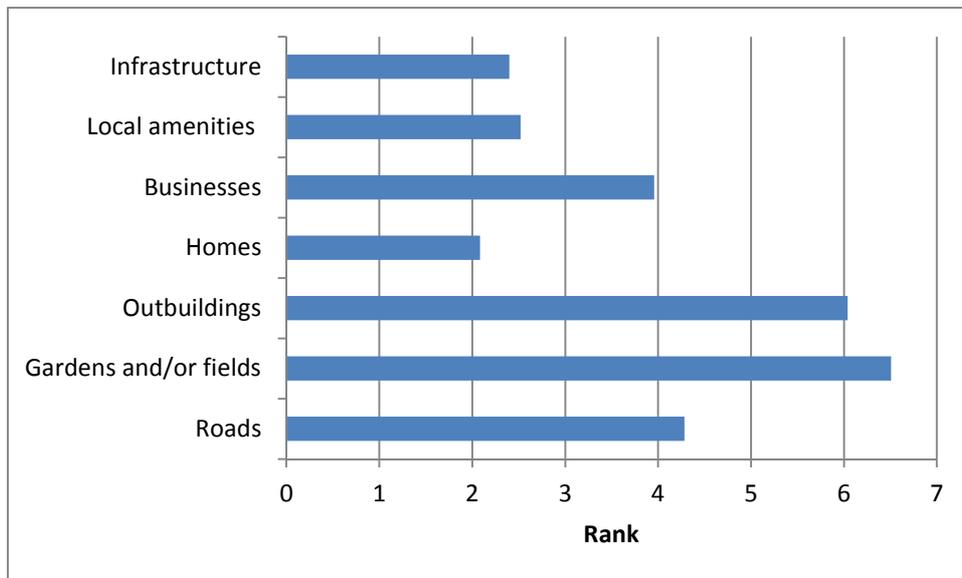


Figure E5. Receptors in Order of Importance for Flood Risk Management Prioritisation.

The majority of people considered homes to be the top priority (49.28%). Gardens/fields and outbuildings were ranked the lowest on average, possibly due to less people having outbuildings and also due to less damage being caused to flooded land than to flooded property.

Concerns Regarding Flood Risk Management

Respondents were asked what their main concerns were in regards to flood risk management and were asked to rank the following in order of importance with 1 being the most important and 8 being the least important:

- Available funding for building flood alleviation schemes;
- The effect of new development on flooding;
- Climate change and increasing rainfall;
- Maintenance of watercourses;
- Availability of insurance;
- Property values;
- Emergency planning and response;
- Rural land management; and,
- Other.

The main cause for concern regarding flood risk management is the effect of new development on flooding, especially in flood plain areas. Rural land management was perceived as the least cause for concern despite a number of people citing poor land management by farmers within their comments. 'Rural Land Management' could be a statement that confused people, who may have thought it linked to conservation or wider policy.

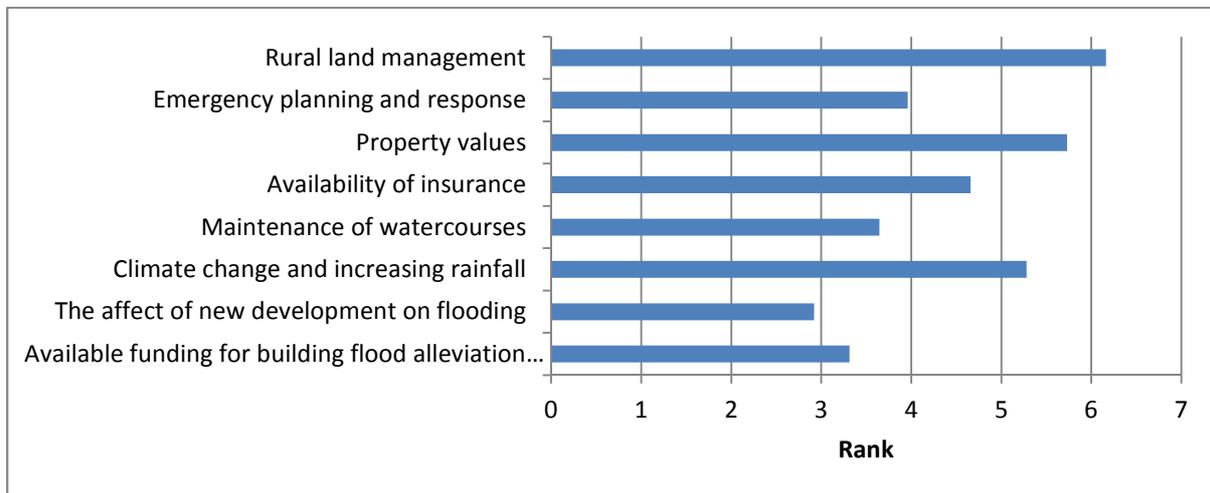


Figure E6. Concerns Relating to Flood Risk Management.

County Council Responsibilities

A number of respondents (62%) were unaware that Nottinghamshire County Council acted as lead local flood authority.

In this question respondents were asked what the County Council and partners should be doing to manage flood risk in Nottinghamshire. However this question gives closed responses and therefore may not fully capture the attitudes and opinions of residents. Respondents could tick all answers which applied to them.

Working with planners to ensure new development does not make flooding worse was seen to be a priority for the County Council's future work, in line with the findings above relating to concerns regarding flood risk management.

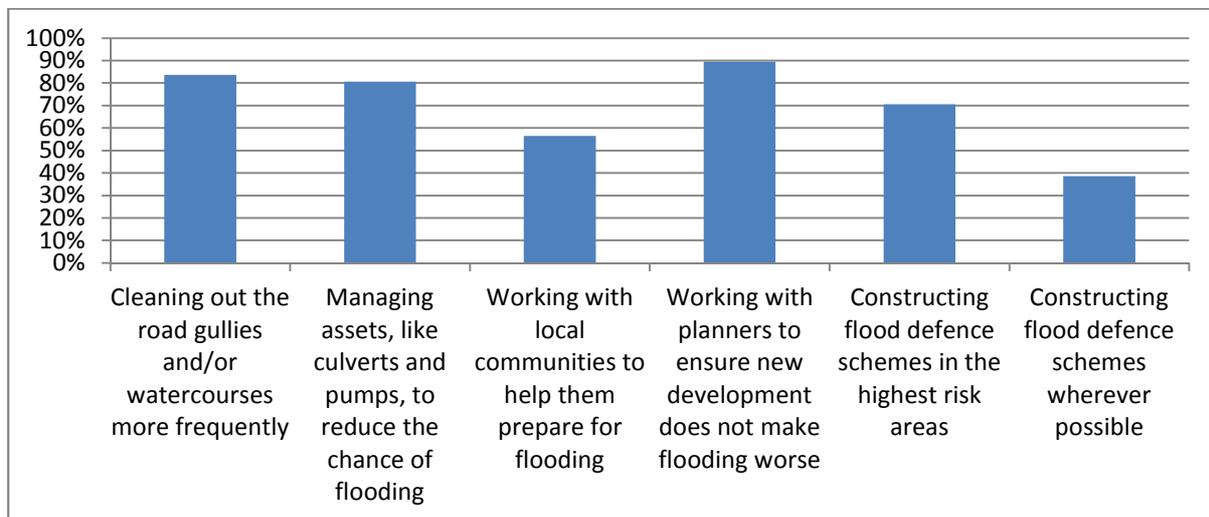


Figure E7. Perceived County Council Responsibilities Amongst Nottinghamshire Residents.

Flood Alleviation Scheme Investment

Respondents were asked to outline their preferences for flood alleviation scheme funding. The majority of respondents said that raising funds from as many different sources as possible is the best way of funding flood management strategies across the County. The least favoured option involved obtaining contributions of funding from local residents and businesses.

Similarly, question 12 asks respondents whether there is the potential for funding flood alleviation schemes from the following stakeholders:

- Residents;
- Landlords / Housing Associations;
- Businesses;
- Community Groups;
- Utility companies;
- Local authorities;
- Developers;
- International funds;
- Environmental initiatives such as those related to watercourse improvements for creating new habitats; and,
- Other.

The majority of respondents opted for a top-down funding system, where funding was obtained from larger organisations such as developers, utility companies and local authorities rather than from local communities and businesses.

Consultation

Respondents were asked which stakeholders should be consulted with during the development of the LFRMS. This question had a relatively poor response rate. Watercourse managers, utility companies, residents, emergency services and farmers were the most mentioned with residents being seen as the most important stakeholder for consultation.

How has this feedback influenced the strategy?

This feedback has been useful in that it has provided information related to historic flood risk and has highlighted a number of important considerations for the development and implementation of the LFRMS:

- A number of residents have not undertaken any flood risk preparation measures and therefore it is important that the Strategy 'helps people to help themselves';
- The majority of respondents do not consider themselves as living within an area at risk of flooding, however flood mapping demonstrates this is not the case. Therefore increasing awareness and education is required;
- Homes should be considered as a priority for protection;
- New development is a main area of concern in regards to future flood risk and as such the County Council should work with planners to reduce this risk at every eventuality; and,
- Respondents appear to favour a top-down approach in regards to flood alleviation schemes.