

Thorne & Moorends Neighbourhood Plan

What's next?

Two rounds of consultation on the Neighbourhood Plan have now been completed. The next stage will be to prepare a 'Final Draft Plan', which will be subject to further lengthy consultation before formal submission to Doncaster Council.

The last consultation document included the main policies that we intend to include in the Plan. We aim to take these forward into the 'Final Draft', and were intending to include allocations for sites for housing, business and other developments.

Unfortunately, an issue has arisen relating to **Flood Risk**, which needs consideration before the Plan can be completed. The majority of the potential development sites in the Plan area fall within an Environment Agency defined "High Flood Risk Zone". This is mainly due to the potential of either the River Don or the River Trent "overtopping" existing flood defences.

Whilst the Environment Agency accepts that the risk of this happening is low, the impact would be significant and they are likely to object to any development proposal that had not taken this issue into account.

In addition, following recent flooding controversies throughout the UK, the government has tightened the rules regarding the evidence that needs to be provided to justify the allocation of housing and other sites within an identified "High Flood Risk Zone".

Without these issues being addressed the Environment Agency are likely to object to the Plan and it would not be approved.

While many areas will be affected by flood risk issues, it would appear that *the scale of the issue in Thorne and Moorends is unique for a Neighbourhood Plan* due to the low-lying nature of most of the land.

...So???

The impact is that we would need to carry out additional technical flood risk work to justify any development proposals that fall within the "High Risk Flood Zone". This work would cost around £30,000, and would largely duplicate work that will be undertaken in the near future by Doncaster Council as part of the production of the Doncaster Local Plan. In addition it will delay the production of the Neighbourhood Plan by up to a year.

We are keen to get the Final Draft Neighbourhood Plan in place as soon as is realistically possible so that Thorne and Moorends increase their say in the future of the area. We have therefore decided to produce the Plan without allocations in the "High Risk flood Zone". These will be considered in the Doncaster Local Plan.

What will the 'The Plan' Include?

The Final Draft Neighbourhood Plan will include:

- Policies which will guide the future of Thorne and Moorends
- Policies to guide the location of allocations in the "High Flood Risk Zone" once the flood risk issues have been considered in the Doncaster Local Plan
- Site allocations where there is not an identified flood risk
- Non development site allocation such as recreational space and sports grounds that will help protect existing sites

The Steering Group



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