

## **UPDATE FROM BILLINGBOROUGH FLOOD GROUP**

Following feedback that residents affected by the flooding on Jan 6 were finding it difficult to make applications to the £5k grant funding available from LCC, the Chairman of BFG wrote a letter directly to Andrea Jenkins requesting clarification regarding the reasons for this.

The letter and the response received from the Mayor's office, can be viewed below:

Dear Andrea,

You may remember coming to visit Billingborough during the Greater Mayoral election campaigns to witness for yourself the results of the severe flooding many parts of Billingborough experienced on Jan 6th 2025.

You expressed considerable interest in the flooding problems in South Lincolnshire and stated that, if elected, you would establish a much more coordinated approach to the management of flooding and supporting flood mitigation efforts especially by communities.

Since we met you we have made some positive progress here in Billingborough with detailed reports being produced by the EA which we are following up.

However, there is one issue we wish to raise with you.

We were informed by the LCC back in February that some funding had been made available with grants up to £5k to support individuals who had been flooded which would help flood victims repair their properties.

Members of the Billingborough flood group have been keeping in contact with affected residents and to the best of our knowledge, no one has so far successfully obtained any grant support including at least one resident who had no insurance due to previous flooding. The feedback we have been receiving from residents who have applied, is that there are too many hurdles to get over and it appears the complexity is deterring residents in progressing claims. Our district councillor, Murray Turner, has been unable to obtain any feedback from LCC despite numerous attempts.

I wonder if you could investigate this situation and how LCC can help residents, many of whom 6 months after the flooding are struggling to repair their homes and restore normality in their lives.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

Krys Szokalo (Chair - Billingborough Flood Group)

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for your email, whilst this issues you have raised fall outside of the remit of Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority, the Mayor has contacted the Property Flood Resilience team and I attach below their response.

The Floods & Water team initially wrote to affected residents across Lincolnshire, including those in Billingborough, at the end of March 2025 inviting them to apply for the grant funding that had been made available through Lincolnshire County Council. At the time, the scheme was still in its infancy and required the input of our Legal Services team to advise on some contractual elements before all paperwork could be finalised and issued to residents. These documents have since been confirmed, and in the past couple of weeks, Letters of Agreement have started to be distributed to applicants who have submitted completed application forms and have been assessed as eligible. Furthermore, we are now in a position to start releasing funding to those applicants whose applications have been approved and are working with finance colleagues to ensure payments are received as quickly as possible.

All properties that were invited to apply who have not yet submitted their application, were written to again last week, giving them another opportunity to apply, and all those who have applied but have not yet provided all necessary supporting information will be contacted over the next week or so, to try and assist in finalising their applications. We shall then be reaching out to properties sitting in Phase 2, who were affected by flooding after Storm Henk but before 6th January 2025, to give them the opportunity to apply for the funding. If residents are having any difficulties accessing and/or completing the grant application form or have any specific questions, then please direct them to [PropertyFloodResilience@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:PropertyFloodResilience@lincolnshire.gov.uk) and a member of the team will look to get back to them as quickly as possible.

I hope this has provided you with some clarity and hope that the issues you have raised are being addressed.

Kind regards

Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority

Website: <https://greaterlincolnshire-cca.gov.uk/>

