

COUNCIL 12 DECEMBER 2024

ITEM 6 MEMBER QUESTION

URGENT QUESTION

Councillor Alex Wagner

Council response to Storm Darragh flooding

Flood warnings and alerts have been put in place across Shropshire since Saturday 7th December due to the impact of Storm Darragh. Many residents have struggled to get around the county, with trees falling onto power cables and cars, transport links of all sorts cut off, and many homes, gardens, and farms underwater.

Shropshire Council, the emergency services, community groups, and no doubt many others have done important work in dealing with the impact of the storm, and I am sure every member echoes thanks to everyone involved for their hard work under what are often incredibly difficult circumstances.

This said, the Council does not always learn its lesson from storms and emergency weather events. As an example, residents by The Quarry in Shrewsbury were promised 18 months ago, after Storm Henk, that the drains on Crescent Lane would be cleared out to allow flood pumps to work efficiently. This has not been actioned, and as a result residents have been hit harder than they would have been by Storm Darragh.

Could the Deputy Leader provide some update on the actions being taken to futureproof our county over drainage and related flooding issues like the one above, not only in terms of drain clearance but also tree and hedge maintenance, and the planning of housing developments?

Response from Councillor Dan Morris Portfolio Holder for Highways

Shropshire Council have been working to support the Quarry Flood Action Group since the flooding in 2020. The build-up of debris on Crescent Lane has been discussed on several occasions. This discussion has centred around the build-up of leaves against a private fence.

Following a flood Shropshire Council undertake road sweeping and cleansing in a number of locations across Shrewsbury, with priority given to major routes into the town such as Smithfield Road. Once levels drop Shropshire Council regularly arrange a road sweeper to attend Crescent Lane to remove any debris on the public highway. There are 2 highway gullies on Crescent Lane, however these sit above the

flood level of the River Severn. Shropshire Council have no drainage assets in the flood zone which would impact a private flood pump.

As a Highways Authority, Shropshire Council have a duty to ensure Crescent Lane is passable to pedestrian and vehicle traffic following a flood event, but are not responsible for the removal of the buildup of leaves against a private fence. The Council will however continue to engage with the Flood Action Group and can request that the owner of this private fence removes the leaves and debris following a flood in future.