TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Councillor William Frass
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Date: 27 November 2024

Dear Councillor Ross,

RE: Environment Agency request for Water Level Gauges

Further to the debate in the Council Chamber on the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and the Liberal Democrat amendment about flooding, on 20 November 2024, the Liberal Democrats would welcome the support of the Council Leader in lobbying the Secretary of State for direct funding for Water Level Gauges on Fairywell Brook.

Fairywell Brook has been a consistent source of concern for residents in Timperley, particularly since the flooding events of 2021. The Brook has repeatedly flooded, threatening homes. Significant rainfall now presents a threat to properties on Fairbourne Drive, Heyes Lane and Swaylands Drive. The continuing unpredictability of flooding is a source of great anxiety for our residents.

The Environment Agency undertook to explore a multi-million-pound investment strategy to mitigate the flooding risk associated with Fairywell Brook. This project has been delayed because the data which the Environment Agency currently relies on for this area is acknowledged, by the Agency itself, to be inaccurate.

Better data is becoming a matter of urgency because developers are relying on poor quality flood-risk modelling to inform decisions about water management, as part of the proposed developments on Timperley Wedge and Davenport Green. As such, there is a clear need for better quality data to inform these models, ensuring that any mitigation measures will be effective in the long term.

Earlier in November, the Environment Agency arranged a meeting with Trafford Liberal Democrats, as the representatives of areas that regularly experience flooding from Fairywell Brook.

The officers outlined the need for more Water Level Gauges at strategic points along Fairywell Brook to gather the data they need to produce far more accurate flood-risk models.

However, the Environment Agency currently has no funding stream available for a project in this area.

They have asked that Trafford Council formally lobby the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to provide the Environment Agency with the funding necessary to upgrade their monitoring equipment on Fairywell Brook, to gather better data, to develop more accurate evidence-based strategies for flood prevention.

This is a vital step in safeguarding the homes of Trafford residents in Timperley and Sale, who have already experienced the impacts of flooding, which will become more frequent as the impact of climate change worsens.

Thank you for your attention on this important issue. I look forward to hearing your thoughts on how we can move forward with this crucial initiative.

Yours sincerely,

Shaun Ennis Will Frass

Councillor Shaun Ennis
Liberal Democrat
Group Leader

Councillor Will Frass
Liberal Democrat
Deputy Group Leader

Councillor Jane Brophy

Councillor Simon Lepori

Councillor Meena Minnis

Councillor Julian Newgrosh