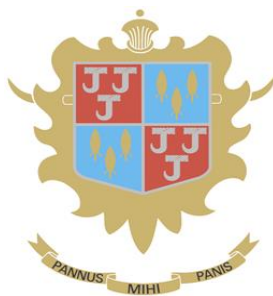


KENDAL TOWN COUNCIL

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31 May 2016

Dear Mr Coles

FLOODING RELATED QUESTIONS ARISING FROM THE DECEMBER 2015 KENDAL FLOODS

Thank you for your letter dated 26 April in response to our flooding letter dated 14 March 2016. I apologise for not replying sooner but I have had to seek further details related to question 7 "Did work carried out/not carried out by the railway authorities (c.f. Parkside Road and above Stock Beck and its tributaries for example) affect flooding".

Whilst this was the only question aimed solely at Network Rail it does need to be taken in the wider context of the other questions in our letter.

Much of the flooding in December 2015 took place on the eastern side of Kendal, and much surface water came from the slopes of Benson Knott.

A good deal of work is systematically undertaken by Network Rail on the West Coast Line, but our concerns centre on the stretch of line just before and just after Oxenholme Station - specifically on the land above Castle Green Road, Oak Tree Road, Broom Close, Sedbergh Drive, Grizedale Avenue, Whitbarrow Close, Ullswater Road, Rydal Road, Jenkins Crag Court and Whinfell Drive, (namely Upper Sandylands, in part). This area could be roughly termed as Stock Beck and its 'tributaries'.

And work has been systematically carried out for years.

There was flooding or near flooding in these areas, but more importantly the surface water and drainage situations further down the slopes (Lower Sandylands, in part) contributed enormously to the disastrous flooding the town experienced.

When work is carried out on the line itself or on the ground above or below the railway embankment, some of that work must doubtless be to do with drainage.

This can be drainage work that is necessary for Network Rail or else work that may affect the drainage systems above or more importantly below the embankment.

To what extent does Network Rail liaise/has Network Rail liaised with other agencies (Cumbria County Council, the Environment Agency, South Lakeland District Council, United Utilities and the Town Council, for example) in order to ensure that any work carried out does not affect/has not impacted on Kendal?

We asked the question about the flooding under the railway bridge at Parkside Road which took an unacceptable number of years to sort out. Why was this? Was this in part due to a lack of discussions between all parties involved? And has this been replicated elsewhere?

Discussions should probably in the main have regard to flooding, but there could also be environmental and/or ecological repercussions from works undertaken."

I hope this will assist you in examining our concerns around the terrible flooding of Kendal in December 2015 and I look forward to hearing back from you.

Yours sincerely,



Liz Richardson
Town Clerk.

Cc Cllr Sylvia Emmott, Chair of Management Committee
Cllr Austen Robinson, Vice-Chair of Management Committee

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