

**Date:** 11 May 2016

**Our ref:** GD/1382/condition14

**Oxfordshire County Council Fire and Rescue Service**

**Headquarters**

Sterling Road

Kidlington

Oxfordshire OX5 2DU

**David Etheridge OBE**

**Chief Fire Officer**

Cherwell District Council

Planning & Development Services

Bodicote House White Post Road

Bodicote

Banbury

OX15 4AA

Dear Mr Matthew Coyne

**Re:** Condition 14 [14/00149/DISC]

Further to your e mail requesting comments in regard to the safe access and egress under flood conditions for residents of Mill Lane and Mill Street, Islip, following the closure of the level crossing.

Under normal road conditions the Fire Service would access all the affected properties via Mill Street as this provides the best access. In the predicted 1 in 20 year event all properties would still appear to be accessible in a Large Goods Vehicle by fording local roads.

In the event of the 1 in 100 years flooding then vehicles access is no longer possible. Much of the Fire Service equipment is designed to be portable to overcome such events where access to properties is restricted. The Fire Service has equipment and procedures to access affected properties in such flood events.

In the event of evacuation and the instigation of the flood management plan, the Fire Service would be most likely to be the lead agency together with the Emergency planners and the Parish Council to direct and ensure safe evacuation of affected properties and ensuring adequate welfare facilities existed for those involved.

The flood management plan appears to adequately cover all aspects of any evacuation strategy and early warning for residents.

I therefore have no adverse further comments in regards to this application and consultation on the local flood plan at this time

You should note that currently the Fire & Rescue Service has no statutory obligations to assist with flood related incidents and currently do so as part of our general rescue operations

Yours sincerely

Gary D’Anger

Station Commander Kidlington & Bicester Fire Stations

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