

On behalf of the above group, I would like to comment on this application.

Shaw and Whitley have a history of flooding. In September 2014 more than 20 properties suffered flooding into residential accommodation.

The catchment area of the Southbrook is acknowledged by the Wiltshire Council principal drainage engineer as being “flashy”. The streams rise very quickly in response to rainfall events. It is also surprisingly large: 12,500 Ha, or 31,000 acres. 1mm of rain over this catchment will produce 125,000 M³ of water

This group keeps records of flood events. In First Lane, at the entrance to this land, and at Shaw School, immediately downstream, the roads flood to dangerous levels. More frequently than once/annum.

This photograph was taken at the entrance to the proposed development.



This photograph – taken on 16th Feb 2020 – shows volunteer members of this group working with Wiltshire Council staff building a sandbag dam to protect Shaw School buildings.



Dwellings in the villages are marginal. As a group, we are concerned that any development – however well mitigated – will result in an increase in in-property flooding.

We urge rejection of this application.

A better use of this land would be for it to be used for an attenuation scheme, to slow flood waters in the catchment, and provide some protection to Melksham and the River Avon.

Jonathan Rumens

