To Brailes Parish Council

Dear Councillors, **Flooding**

In January this year I wrote a personal letter to the Chief Executive of the Environment Agency (EA) on local and national flood issues. From the reply I received there is an inference that the EA is being encouraged to amend its local fluvial flood map, reducing the flood boundaries.

My reason for writing to you is an anxiety that Brailes Parish Council (BPC) may be supporting such changes in the local flood map and this worries me.

After a couple of dry days there was moderate rainfall (I am told 31mm in the 12 hours to 9am) on the morning of Wednesday 9th March and considerable flooding occurred blocking the main road with three cars stuck, one abandoned until the evening and traffic diverted. Not only was there water flooding but raw sewage was seen bubbling up.

The main cause of flooding here is from surface water flowing down into our topographic basin which, when added to our river flows, has caused serious problems in the past and will continue in the future, more so with climate change. The relief channel dug by BPC gives little relief in times of serious flood. Just imagine the situation if we had received the rainfall that has recently occurred in parts of the country north of here.

I wish to know that you as the BPC will protect our village, will not encourage changes in EA local flood maps (reducing flood extent boundaries) and will in future use Surface Water Flood Maps, which include all forms of flooding, when considering flood related matters.

Yours sincerely,

Alison Binns

cc - Councillor C Saint; Councillor S Gray