

Flooding

Objective: There will be a reduction of the flood risk for properties in Mortimer.

The West Berkshire Core Strategy states that the National Planning Policy Framework with regard to flood risk will be strictly applied, in particular:

- *Development within areas of flood risk from any source of flooding, including Critical Drainage Areas and areas with a history of groundwater or surface water flooding, will only be accepted if it is demonstrated that it is appropriate at that location, and that there are no suitable and available alternative sites at a lower flood risk.*
- *When development has to be located in flood risk areas, it should be safe and not increase flood risk elsewhere, reducing the risk where possible and taking into account climate change.*
- *On all development sites, surface water will be managed in a sustainable manner through the implementation of Sustainable Drainage Methods (SUDS) in accordance with best practice and proposed national standards and to provide attenuation to greenfield run-off rates and volumes, for all new development and re-development and provide other benefits where possible such as water quality, biodiversity and amenity.*

Specifically the West Berkshire policy states that development will only be permitted if it can be demonstrated that:

- The sequential test and exception test (where required) has been used to show that the benefits of the development to the community outweigh the risk of flooding.
- It will not have an impact on the capacity of an area to store floodwater.
- It will not have a detrimental impact on the flow of fluvial flood water or surface water, nor obstruct the run-off of water due to high levels of groundwater.
- Appropriate measures required to manage any flood risk can be implemented.
- Provision is made for the long term maintenance and management of any flood protection and or mitigation measures.
- Safe access and exit from the site can be provided for routine and emergency access under both frequent and extreme flood conditions.

The Mortimer Neighbourhood Development Plan will build on the West Berkshire Policy to make it pertinent and specific to Mortimer for 1-in-30 year events taking into account climate changes predictions.