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Supplier / Publisher : 105

Date Receive : 15/3/2016

local authorities and other organisations responsible for dealing with flooding get provided with more funding to build resilience into our vital infrastructure including roads, bridges and structures as well as homes. Flooding is no longer a rare event but very much the norm. Yet even more funding isn't the answer. There is only so much you can do with flood barriers and protection schemes. Who really wants a 12 foot wall around the outside of their property?

The ICE's flooding expert and ex-president, David Balmforth, says a focus on resilience in all areas of infrastructure goes a long way towards dealing with the issue more effectively. But resilience needs to go further than sand bags and flood protection barriers.

We have to be more proactive in developing resilience into our infrastructure so it is future-proofed before the first drop of rain hits.

In his assessment of the current situation, Mr Balmforth makes an excellent point. He makes reference to how the building sector has reduced the risk of fire in all new properties with strict fire regulations put in and clear guidelines before even the first brick is laid. This can easily be applied to the housebuilding process for flooding and even to roads and structures which can be raised and re-enforced. Research is also needed to consider whether to introduce new materials onto the network to help with drainage and recovery.

What is important is that the infrastructure community takes these possible new approaches forward together. Flooding cannot be tackled effectively if one part of the system is left exposed. Taking on extreme weather events is no easy task but with more of a proactive approach it can be managed more effectively.

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Subscriptions & back issues: 020 7973 6694. One year, £59; two years, £94; three years, £124. Published by Hemming Group Ltd, 32 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London SW1V 2SS. Tel: 020 7973 6400. Printed by Headley Brothers Ltd, Invicta Press, Ashford, Kent.

• No. 6220 Vol. 197 ISSN 0039 3508 © Hemming Group Ltd. 2016

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