
MEETING	FULFORD AND HESLINGTON WARD COMMITTEE
DATE	24 NOVEMBER 2025
PRESENT	COUNCILLORS
APOLOGIES	COUNCILLORS

1. DROP IN/WARD SURGERY

2. INTRODUCTIONS

1. MAIN MEETING – WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS (18:30)

The meeting was chaired by Councillor Kate Ravillious who welcomed everyone and set out the housekeeping rules and reminded residents that the meeting was non-political.

3. GERMANY BECK PUMPING STATION

2. Germany Beck Pumping Station – Mark Henderson CYC Flood Manager

Project Overview:

- Mark Henderson introduced himself and provided an update on the Germany Beck flood management project. He welcomed questions during or after the presentation.

Location & Infrastructure:

- Germany Beck and the associated pumping station were highlighted. Downstream impacts affect the A19 and local SSSI areas.

Flood Impacts:

- High water levels in Germany Beck can back up, causing flooding at Fordlands Road and Fordlands Crescent.
- In severe cases, temporary infrastructure like a scaffolded bridge is required to maintain access.
- Surface water drainage from residential areas (e.g., Fordlands Estate) contributes to local flooding, with approximately 300+ properties affected.
- Historical context: Around 20–23 properties were flooded in 2015.

Scheme Justification:

- Main drivers: prevent road blockages at Fordlands Road, reduce residential flooding at Fordlands Crescent, and manage tunnel drain overflow.
- Economic and community benefits: preventing flooding protects homes, ensures road accessibility (A19 carries ~16,000 vehicles/day), and supports broader local economic impacts.

Funding:

- Central government and City of York Council are co-funding the scheme based on the business case demonstrating flood risk reduction and economic benefits.

Pumping Station Function:

- The pumping station will draw water from Germany Beck when high water levels cause hydraulic locking at the Ings.
- Water will be pumped through an offline system into a wet well and then through a new culvert under the A19 to manage flow.
- Downstream risk is minimal; modelling shows the pumped volume is negligible relative to the total water body.

Project Timeline & Procurement:

- Specialist contractor procurement planned for April–May next year; contract to be approved by August.
- Site mobilisation and planning condition discharges will occur before work starts.
- Construction is expected to begin in autumn next year.

Budget:

- Indicative cost: ~£4.5 million, including 25–30% contingency. Final cost depends on market responses.

Sequence of Works:

- Key elements: pumping station, kiosk/pump panel, culvert, downstream headwall, and structural changes to upstream/downstream areas.
- Work may be phased; exact sequencing will be determined once the contractor is appointed.

Temporary Access & Storage:

- Parts of the park will be temporarily cordoned off for access, equipment storage, and work along the bank and parish field.
- Access will be via Fordlands Road. Temporary disruptions are expected, but benefits of the project are expected to outweigh short-term inconveniences.

Project Timeline:

- Work expected to start in autumn 2026 (following mobilisation).
- Duration estimated at around one year, slightly longer than the original 64-week business case projection.
- Design refinements may occur once the contractor begins work, similar to adjustments made after an architect hands over to a builder.
- Project completion anticipated by autumn 2027.

Constraints & Impacts:

- Key considerations include ecology, landscape, archaeology, and A19 impacts.
- Ecological protections:
 - Areas of ecological importance (SSSI/triple S) identified downstream of A19.
 - Pumping station designed to be eel-friendly, using slower, larger impellers (similar to an Archimedes screw) to allow safe passage of eels.
 - Water vole surveys conducted in September; further surveys planned in April.

Ecological Surveys & Protections:

- Spring 2025 surveys planned for water voles; mitigation measures and licenses required if present.
- No signs of otters; nesting birds will be protected.
- Tree management: some trees may be removed, others retained or replaced, with protections for roots.
- Invasive species (Himalayan balsam, waterweed) will be carefully managed to prevent spread.
- Additional ecological surveys needed: bats, trees, and habitats, as previous surveys (2021) are now outdated.
- Construction will follow detailed Environmental Management Plans and method statements to minimise ecological impact.

Archaeology:

- Work with local and county archaeologists to manage potential archaeological finds, including Battle of Fulford area.
- Excavation for the pumping station may uncover historical materials, which will be sifted with volunteer involvement.
- Archaeological mitigation and recording will be integrated into the construction process.

Q&A – Germany Beck Flood Management

Archaeology & Project Timelines:

- Significant finds during excavation will be removed and investigated but will **not delay construction**. Archaeologists will work alongside contractors.

A19 & Construction Impacts:

- Options for culvert construction under the A19 include **partial road closure** or **thrust boring**; final approach pending geotechnical studies and traffic modelling.
- Work involves significant construction due to peat layers and foundation requirements.

Design & Environmental Considerations:

- Pumping station design largely fixed, with minor tweaks possible for eel-friendly pumps and sluices.
- Landscaping and tree replacement plans in place; temporary use of the playing field will not affect newly planted areas.

Flooding & Access Concerns:

- Concerns raised about pedestrian and vehicle access during floods, particularly for carers and emergency access.
- Current interim measures (scaffold bridges, pumps) will remain until pumping station is operational.
- Possibility of additional temporary structures or increased pump capacity to manage water levels is being explored.

Tunnel Drain & Sewer System:

- Pumping station will maintain free flow in Tunnel Drain, preventing backflow and flooding of properties.
- Some foul water misconnections may exist; issue to be investigated with Yorkshire Water.
- Maintenance responsibility for culverted sections is complex; currently managed by Internal Drainage Board, with cost and liability considerations.

Funding & Legacy Issues:

- Project funded by City of York Council and central government; efforts ongoing to minimise cost to taxpayers.

- Historical development (e.g., Persimmon Homes) contributed to some existing flood issues; responsibility outside development boundaries is limited.
- Environmental improvements will be made where the pumping station impacts SSSI areas, but no wider remediation beyond the project area.

Additional Notes:

- Residents' concerns about SSSI mitigation, flood season impacts, and temporary access acknowledged; further updates to be communicated as information becomes available.
- Mark Henderson emphasised transparency, cost-effectiveness, and collaboration with other agencies.

4. FULFORD PARISH FIELD CONSULTATION UPDATE

3. Fulford Parish Field – Abigail Gaines – MakeSpace York

Parish Fields Consultation – Feedback Summary

- Purpose: Provide an update on the second phase of community engagement regarding the Parish Fields and the adjoining Persimmon Field.

Current Use of the Area:

- Parish Field: children's play equipment, large grass areas used for football pitches and annual events (e.g., Fulford Show), and a sports pavilion.
- Persimmon Field: currently undeveloped; may be handed over to the parish council if proposals proceed.

Background:

- Section 106 funds from Persimmon Homes' Germany Beck development are being considered for improvements.
- First consultation (2022) engaged 341 residents, mostly sports-focused; some groups (e.g., older residents, teenagers, those without internet access) were underrepresented.
- Top option previously was improving football pitches, sports pavilion, and adding paths, nature, and gardening spaces.

Second Consultation (2025):

- Aim: reach wider community, include informal/ formal sport, active lifestyles, and broader usage ideas.
- Surveys:
 - Online survey: 394 responses.
 - School survey (Year 9 and others): 252 responses.
 - Paper surveys also available.
- Engagement sessions included:

- Drop-ins, coffee mornings, and informal discussions at Fulford Social Hall, Library, St. Oswald's Church Hall, Fulford Show.
- Workshops with Fulford students (including older girls).
- Targeted focus groups at assisted housing (United Response, Delwood) and Ouse View Care Home.
- Engagement with community champions to capture diverse perspectives.

, Chair

[The meeting started at 6.00 pm and finished at 8.00 pm].

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