

York Flood Scheme

Environment Agency Briefing July 2017

Over the past few months the Environment Agency have been busy progressing with work around our 5 Year Plan, primarily the appointment of consultants for the shortlisting and outline design stage of new flood defence schemes.

We have also been engaged in a number of other issues within the city, and whilst we have been unable to communicate this widely during the pre-election period, we want to provide you with an update.

Clifton Ings

We are currently finalising the outline design options for the Barrier Bank tie ins to both the north and south ends of the embankment. When this outline design is completed towards the end of summer, we can begin discussions and detailed design work to ensure the necessary improvements can be implemented with the minimum impact on neighbouring landowners and the SSSI habitat in the Ings. Due to the complexity of this, we expect work to start onsite in spring 2019. Construction of the works is expected to be complete by 2021.

We are also proposing to build a pumping station at Blue Beck to reduce the current operational need to supply pumps to the site. It should also give greater reassurance to the community.

Hob Moor/York Central

Following the release of the 5 Year Plan, we received correspondence from residents of the Hob Moor Drive area concerned about the proposal for a new flood defence on Hob Moor. We met with residents back in January to explain that the 5 Year Plan outlined potential options, and that we were not seeking to impose schemes on communities.

This satisfied the majority of residents, however a small group have contact us subsequently with further questions. We have offered to meet with this group to allay any concerns they may still have, and are in the process of arranging this. Cllr Mary Cannon has been kept up to date with these discussions.

Foss Barrier Progress

Works at the Foss Barrier are progressing well and the project is on schedule. All demolition works have been completed and the steelwork for the new first floor has been erected. Work is currently focussed on constructing the internal structure of the new building prior to cladding the exterior.

By the end of the year, the new building will be operational and the electrical equipment housed on the temporary platform will be relocated inside. The station will remain fully operational throughout.

The budget for the project currently stands at £17M but with approval for £19.4M. We will use some of this additional funding for the wider elements of the project such as raising the flood defence wall around St George's Field Car Park and downstream mitigation.

Fishergate & Clementhorpe

The Foss Barrier modelling scenarios show that the increase in pumping capacity from 30 to 50 cumecs could lead to increased river levels on the Ouse immediately downstream of the barrier of 8cm during a worst case scenario. This could have implications for low-lying properties in the Fishergate area and across the river in Clementhorpe.

Mitigation for any potential increase in risk will be delivered through the Foss Barrier project. We expect to be undertaking topographic surveys in these areas in the coming weeks, followed by full site investigation works over the summer. Detailed design and community consultation can then take place during Autumn/Winter with the intention of construction taking place in 2018.

Fulford Petition

We are aware of the petition from Cllr Aspden calling for flood defence works to the Fordlands Road area, and have received correspondence on this issue. City of York Council (CYC) are leading on developing a solution to the access issues which occur during flood events. Our 5 Year Plan also identified the area as having the potential to benefit from a flood defence scheme. We will be working closely with CYC to deliver an appropriate solution.

Hull Road Park

Over recent years, the Environment Agency, along with City of York Council (CYC) and St Nick's have been looking to set up a York Becks Project to improve wildlife habitat along Tang Hall and Osbaldwick Becks, as well as to introduce natural flood management measures where possible. St Nick's have had some success in clearing invasive species and replanting areas along Tang Hall Beck in Holme Road Park.

Alongside this, CYC have secured £60k to clear and improve the section of Osbaldwick Beck in Hull Road Park. The channel here is concrete lined and there are a number of weirs present. It has always been an aspiration to naturalise this channel through the park. Recently there has been discussion as to whether this funding could be used alongside funding from the Environment Agency for the York Becks Project. This discussion is ongoing.