

Report of the Corporate Director of Economy & Place

Fulford Flood Protection Funding Petition

Summary

1. A petition was presented to CYC by Councillor Keith Aspden on the 22nd March 2017, the petition was signed by more than 150 local residents, the detail of the petitions request for CYC is detailed below:

'I/we the undersigned call for additional flood defence works to happen, following consultation with the local community. This must include protection or an alternative route for Fordlands Road residents during flood events, and completion of the flood defence works for the A19.'
2. The A19 is affected during severe flood events which can cause significant disruption to travel. Fordlands Road is similarly affected and the local community living around Fordlands Road can only access their properties through the provision of emergency response measures.
3. Works to reduce the impact of future flooding on the A19 are being developed alongside the Germany Beck housing development highways schemes, the alterations to the A19 and new signal controlled junction are currently on site and the council is endeavouring to ensure that supplementary flood protection measures are progressed during this programme.
4. No funding is currently available for works to reduce the impact of flooding on Fordlands Road, a range of measures have been indicatively developed and potential funding opportunities are being actively sought.

Recommendations

5. The Executive Member is asked to consider:

- 1) **Option 1**- the Executive Member is recommended to support and endorse the delivery of A19 flood alleviation works through the works programme of the Germany Beck housing development highways improvements.

Reason: This provides the most cost effective and efficient mechanism for delivery of the flood risk reduction works and realises the views of the petitioners.

- 2) **Option 2** – the Executive Member is recommended to support the further development of funding and design options for the delivery of the Fordlands Road flood risk management options.

Reason: Flooding of Fordlands Road will continue to cause repeat problems for the local community without further intervention; further work is needed to address the concerns of the community as detailed in the petition.

- 3) **Option 3** – the Executive Member is not recommended to endorse an approach where Fordlands Road flooding is address through emergency response led measures alone.

Reason: Flooding of Fordlands Road will continue to cause repeat problems for the local community without further intervention, emergency response led measures are cost effective but place an ongoing risk and cost to the council and do not present a wider reduction of flood risk impacts to the community.

Background

6. Historic flooding has occurred in the A19/Fordlands Road area such as the 2000 and 2015 floods when high flood levels on the River Ouse flow backwards along Germany Beck, the road can be closed for a number of days causing severe delays to road users.
7. The A19 is a key arterial route into the city and the impacts of its closure are significant to the city as a whole. Discussions have been held over a number of years to develop a range of solutions that will reduce the impact of future floods on the A19, these works, incorporating a range of walls and land raising, will block flood flows from Germany Beck from overwhelming the road.

8. The current road works to facilitate access to the Germany Beck housing development have presented an opportunity to deliver the works as part of the highway improvements; the delivery of the flood defence measures is being programmed to be completed as part of these works.
9. The impact of flooding on Fordlands Road has been assessed and a range of options have been indicatively developed, these are detailed below:
 - a) Raise the level of the road above flood level – considerable works are necessary to raise the level of the bridge and to ensure the structural stability of the bridge and any services running through it are not compromised
Cost: £750k + (costs dependant on further survey results)
 - b) Flood walls alongside the road – like the A19 works the walls would reduce the risk of flood flows from Germany Beck flowing onto the road, further structural issues may arise from adapting the existing bridge and these would need to be considered further
Cost: £500k
 - c) Formalised temporary emergency access route – an option to provide a formalised access route across the southern boundary of the playing field would present an alternative option to works to the bridge, a semi metalled road surface and temporary traffic lighting would be provided to ensure safe access and egress to Fordlands Road directly from Selby Road along this route. There would be ongoing revenue cost to implement this option and disruption to the A19 caused by the temporary signals
Cost: £200-300k
10. Links have been made with the Environment Agency regarding the potential for the Fordlands Road works and wider options to reduce the impacts of flooding from Tunnel Drain (a tributary of Germany Beck flowing beneath the Fordlands Road estate) to be assessed as part of the York Five Year Plan. Options will similarly be developed to target Local Levy funding from the Yorkshire Regional Flood and Coastal Committee to support the delivery of works.

11. The Department for Transport have indicated possible future funding relating to the resilience of the highway network, a bid to attract funds towards the Fordlands Road options would be considered as part of any calls for bids that are confirmed.

Consultation

12. The layout and extent of the A19 flood protection measures has been discussed with a wide range of internal partners and has been presented to the Parish Council. Further consultation is needed with adjacent residents and landowners and this will commence shortly.
13. The high level options regarding potential Fordlands Road works have not been widely discussed at this stage due to the need to attract funding; further work is required to develop the options, funding routes and begin to consult with residents and others in the community.

Options

14. **Option 1** – support and endorse the continuation of the development of the flood risk management measures on the A19 as part of the delivery of the A19/Germany Beck housing development highways works.
15. **Option 2** – support and endorse the continued development of works to reduce the impact of future flooding on Fordlands Road through the development of refined costings for the three high level options, wide consultation on the options to identify support for a preferred option, development of funding bids internally and externally to progress design and delivery of the preferred option.
16. **Option 3** – continued delivery of emergency response led approaches at Fordlands Road. The flooding at Fordlands Road causes significant disruption to the local community but only occurs following significant flood events and it is not, normally, a yearly occurrence. The emergency planning led response of provision of boats or vehicles able to drive through the floodwaters has worked successfully in the past. This approach could be reinforced and continued to provide access to the community in times of flood.

Analysis

17. Option 1

Advantages – the works are being developed alongside the ongoing Germany Beck housing development highways works. This provides the most cost effective and efficient mechanism for delivery of the flood risk reduction works.

Disadvantages – the flood risk works need to be developed within a short programme, some work with landowners is still necessary to finalise and agree the scope of the works.

18. Option 2

Advantages – the option will show commitment to the local community that the impact of future floods on Fordlands Road will be better managed; the option will support the views of residents as detailed in the petition.

Disadvantages – the option does not currently have any confirmed funding, once selected the preferred option will need to be funded through external funding bids or through the application of CYC capital funding.

19. Option 3

Advantages – the option is low cost and could be delivered through minimal usage of CYC budgets, the option accepts that the likelihood of flooding is relatively low and presents a risk based approach to the management of flood risks at Fordlands Road.

Disadvantages – the risk of future flooding will remain unchanged and will likely happen more frequently/have more impact in future climatic change scenarios. The option will not support the views of residents as detailed in the petition.

Council Plan

20. Improved provision of flood defences supports a prosperous city for all and safer communities for residents, businesses and visitors.

Implications

21. All implications are considered below:

- **Financial** – existing funding is in place for the development of Option 1, further consultation to develop approaches under Option 2 will require further funding to be sought, CYC will work with all partners to develop any required funding strategies
- **Human Resources (HR)** – there are no HR implications
- **One Planet Council / Equalities** – there are no One Planet Council/Equalities implications
- **Legal** – there are no legal implications
- **Crime and Disorder** – there are no Crime and Disorder implications
- **Information Technology (IT)** – there are no IT implications
- **Property** – works around the existing Fordland Road Bridge will need further consideration to identify future asset management and maintenance implications

Risk Management

22. All risks relating to the works and their delivery will be considered and managed throughout; no risks exist at this stage of the scheme.

Contact Details

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Report
Approved

Date 23.06.17

Wards Affected: Fulford

All *tick*

For further information please contact the author of the report.