

Annex A - Letter to Clementhorpe residents dated 21 January 2010

This matter is being dealt with by: Ray Chaplin.

Ext: 1600

Our Ref: RC/L210110

21 January 2010

Dear Resident,

Clementhorpe Flooding

I am writing to update you on the current position regarding the flood defences for the Clementhorpe area. Firstly, the current situation as you will have seen is that the snow melt has caused the river to rise. The Environment Agency advised us that with the expected slow thaw there would not be any extensive flooding and this is still the case.

In general terms regarding any future events the situation is as follows:

The Council has been working with a company to trial a temporary flood defence system. This has been used once at the bottom of Clementhorpe when a water level of 650mm was held back. Unfortunately, when the flood waters rose up the face of the barrier it also caused water to flow through the ground and under the its foundation to the property side of the barrier. This water lifted the road surface, flowed through cracks and was collected in the road channel from where it flowed into the highway drain as it is designed to do.

The barrier is designed to hold back up to 1.5m in height of water and at this level the assessment is that there is a significant risk of road failure on the property side of the barrier which could be sudden and catastrophic. Clearly such a failure could be dangerous to any persons in the vicinity and will as a minimum mean that the barrier is thereafter ineffective. We have been in discussions with the contractor who was carrying out the trial to see if we could make modifications which would prevent the problem, but have not reached a solution.

In order to offer some flood relief to the area it is proposed to erect a sand bag bund across Clementhorpe at its junction with River Street. It would be erected when the river is predicted to rise 4.0m above its normal summer level. This should assist resident to maintain access to their properties in River Street and above. Residents in Waterfront House, Dukes Wharf and Riverside Cottage would have to use their rear exits. This information is to be reported to Members of the Council shortly.

The Resident.

To assist you in understanding what the river is going to do in a flood situation the Environment Agency offer a Flood Warning Service and there are at least two elements of that service that may assist you. The first is to register to receive flood warnings through their Floodline Service. With this service the Environment Agency would contact you with a message if the predicted maximum flood level endangered your property. To sign up to this service you should phone them on 08459 881188 and use option 3 of the menu you will be given. Secondly, if in a flood event you would like to know what the level of the river is and what it may rise to, the Environment Agency put this information out on a messaging service. You should ring the above telephone number and select option 1 from the menu. When you are asked for the Quick Dial number it is 135801, this message will then give you information on the river levels in the centre of York.

I hope this helps you understand the current situation and if I can be of further assistance please contact me.

Yours faithfully,

Ray Chaplin
Head of Engineering Consultancy

18 – 30 Clementhorpe
Riverside Cottage, Clementhorpe
1 – 25, River Street
1 – 25 Colenso Street
3 – 41 Lower Darnborough Street (odd numbers only)
12, 14 & 16 Lower Darnborough Street
1 – 20 Waterfront House, Terry Avenue
1 - 17 Dukes Wharf, Terry Avenue
Cllr A Waller
Bill Woolley
Cllrs Merrett, Fraser, Gunnell
Hugh Bayley