

AN UPDATE ON FLOOD PREVENTION SCHEMES IN NEWARK & SHERWOOD

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report updates Members on the current position of proposed flood alleviation schemes within the Newark & Sherwood area.

2.0 Background Information

- 2.1 There are a number of flood prevention schemes across the district that are at various stages of development. The details below provide an update to Members of the progress of these schemes.

- 2.2 **Lowdham** - The Environment Agency are continuing to develop the outline business case for a flood alleviation scheme to protect Lowdham with a view to submitting their business case for funding. The EA recently gathered improved topographical information that highlighted difficulties with the proposal to drain floodwater away from the village. The option to divert flood flows via culverts underneath the A6097 and A612 will now not be possible without the aid of a syphon and other earthworks. The construction of a syphon will be a technical challenge and have maintenance and health and safety risks that increase the cost of the scheme. The consultants, Jacobs, have estimated that this additional cost may be in excess of £1m, to a scheme estimated to be £6.5m.

Preliminary results from the Natural Flood Management (NFM) project in the upper Cocker Beck catchment encouraged the consultants to review further upper catchment storage options. An initial technical investigation has identified that several potential storage areas in the catchment, on land upstream of Lowdham, would be effective at reducing flood risk in Lowdham itself. The investigation has identified that the cumulative effect of these storage areas will remove the need to divert flood waters in Lowdham, and also reduce the amount of defence construction downstream of Southwell Road, in Lowdham itself.

The EA are working with the consultants to identify the best locations for the storage areas, and to undertake ground investigation works to support future designs of the areas. The storage areas will not be permanently wetted areas and will only operate during periods of high flows, like those experienced recently in Lowdham. The EA plan to engage with landowners early in this process, to identify the best locations for any new flood storage areas. As the timescales for this work become clearer, we will communicate these with the relevant partners, along with design details as they begin to emerge.

Discussions with partners will continue to ensure that all sources of flood risk are captured and brought into the design of the preferred flood risk reduction option. The EA have committed to continue to explore all opportunities to work closely together, with partners, to deliver schemes efficiently and minimise disruption to the village.

- 2.3 **Thurgarton** - The Internal Drainage Board are continuing to pursue cost effective options for the catchment prior to seeking funding.

- 2.4 **Gunthorpe** - The County Council is working with the Environment Agency (who have the lead role) to develop proposals to protect the village from flooding. A technical report into the options is expected in 2019, however the economic benefits that would be achieved by reducing flood risk in the village, means that there is an expected shortfall, between scheme costs and available Flood Defence Grant-in-Aid funding
- 2.5 **Girton** - The County Council is working with the Environment Agency to explore the possibility of developing a deliverable scheme to protect this village which suffers from main river flooding.
- 2.6 **Sutton on Trent** - Following severe flooding in 2018 the district Council along with the County Council and the Internal Drainage Board have worked together to understand the causes of the flooding and ways to reduce the risk of future occurrences. The Internal Drainage Board and NCC Highways have carried out some repairs and improvements to their assets and both are currently looking at ways of improving the performance of their assets to further reduce the risk of future events. NCC, the Parish Council and the Internal Drainage Board are working together on progressing all options.
- 2.7 **Southwell** - In December 2017 The County Council submitted two business cases to the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, one for Natural Flood Management (NFM) and the other a more traditional engineering proposal to construct new flood defences for the town. In February 2018 £4.4 million was secured in Flood Defence Grant-in-Aid from Central Government for the engineering scheme and £350k of Local Levy funding for the Natural Flood Management scheme.
- 2.8 As part of securing the Flood Defence Grant-in-Aid and Local Levy further partnership contributions were secured including £600k investment from the County Council, £220k from Newark & Sherwood District Council, £120K Southwell Town Council, £25k Southwell Flood Forum, an additional £300k Local Levy for the flood mitigation scheme and £233k Renew and Repair grant funds. Project management is overseen by the Project Board, chaired by the Service Director for Place Communities. The Board consists of representatives from NCC, Via, Newark & Sherwood DC and the Southwell Flood Action Group.
- 2.9 The flood defence proposals have two key elements: hard engineering solutions and Property Flood Resilience (PFR) measures. Development of detailed design for the hard engineering proposals is currently progressing with Via and has a scheduled construction start date of autumn 2019 with completion in 20/21. A contract to deliver the PFR works has been awarded to Whitehouse Construction using the Environment Agency's PFR Framework. The contract covers customer engagement, PFR survey, design and installation. Two well attended drop in session for affected residents were undertaken in May. Survey appointments are being made and the works are scheduled for completion by December 2019. There are 145 properties currently registered to have PFR measures installed.
- 2.10 The NFM proposals look to enhance the level of flood protection to the catchment utilising measures such as the installation of leaky dams, changing of farming techniques and renaturalisation of watercourses. Part of this work includes the retrofitting of sustainable drainage features at Lowes Wong School. In addition to protecting properties affected by flooding from the site we will work with the school to educate the children on this

sustainable approach to water management and their understanding of the environment. The preliminary design is being finalised for the Lowes Wong site and the schools are both happy with the proposed layout and excited to see the proposals progress. Site works are now taking place with an aim to complete the works by October 2019.

2.11 Summary

Since 2015/16, the Council has received the following Grant money:

Severe Weather Recovery Grant (DCLG)	150,000
Govt Dept for Food & Rural Affairs	233,421
Council's Own Funding set aside	500,000
	883,421

The table below shows how that money has been spent, or is committed and what is left uncommitted at this time.

Area	Actual Spend	Committed	Uncommitted
Girton	10,000	140,000	
Southwell		453,421	
Lowdham		200,000	
Uncommitted			220,000
Total	10,000	793,421	220,000

2.12 Town and Parish Emergency Resilience Stores

Members will recall that in June and July of 2007, abnormal incidents of intense rainfall occurred causing significant flash flooding to the Southwest of England, the North Midlands and Yorkshire, affecting 48,000 homes and 7,000 businesses. In Newark and Sherwood District some 70 parishes were affected by flooding and the Council opened and maintained an emergency control room which dealt with over 4000 calls in 7 days of operation.

2.13 One of the district Council's responses to this was to provide and stock Emergency Residence Stores located in Towns and Parishes across the district. There are 24 such stores within the district. They are located in the following areas.

Balderton
Bleasby
Bulcote
Carlton on Trent
Caunton
Collingham
Eakring
East Stoke & Thorpe
Egmanton
Girton & Meering
Gunthorpe
Holme
Hoveringham
Laxton & Moorhouse
Lowdham

**North Muskham
Norwell
Oxton
Rolleston
Southwell
South Muskham & Little Carlton
Sutton on Trent
Thurgarton
Weston**

- 2.14 The stores were stocked with a range of equipment equipped to help in the case of an emergency flooding situation. The contents of the stores are set out in **Appendix One**.
- 2.15 The heavy rain this year resulted in many of the stores being used and this has prompted the question from a number of parishes as to who is responsible for the restocking of the stores.
- 2.16 It would appear that at the time of setting up and stocking the Stores there was no formal decision as to who would take responsibility for financing the restocking of the stores. It is only now that the stores are running low that the question has arisen. When consideration is given to the contents of the stores the only item that is in effective disposable and will require regular restocking are the dambuilder sacs(sandbags).
- 2.17 Every store was initially provided with 200 sacs. The cost of providing 200 new sacs is £700 plus carriage. A range of options for restocking the stores is set out below.

3.0 Proposals

- 3.1 It is proposed that Officers continue to work with the relevant partners, particularly the County Council, the Environment Agency and the Trent Valley Drainage Board and continue to attend the Southwell Project Board meetings.
- 3.2 The proposed options for restocking the resilience stores are:
1. The Town and Parish councils have full responsibility for restocking their own stores.
 2. The Town and Parish councils have full financial responsibility for restocking their own stores but the district procures the products so as to retain some consistency in the quality of the sacs.
 3. The District Council, as a gesture of goodwill, provides one replacement of 200 sacs to each parish (a total of c£16,000 phased to meet requirements) and from then it becomes the responsibility of the town and parish to restock.
 4. The district councils takes full responsibility for restocking the own stores. This could be done on a phased basis with a number of stores being offered the restock each year. The ones that have depleted stocks would be dealt with first. It is estimated that 100 sacs (enough to completely restock 5 stores would be £3,500. A smaller (£1,500) amount could then be set aside each year to contribute to a repairs and renewal fund for stocking future stores.

4.0 Equalities Implications

4.1 The benefits from these schemes will assist all members of the communities identified.

5.0 Financial Implications (FIN19-20/7709)

5.1 The table at paragraph 2.11 shows the amounts spent and committed. The committed amounts were approved and added to the Capital Programme with a view to spending within the current financial year. This may need to be re-phased following recent conversations, but is fully financed by grant and the Council's own funds already set aside.

5.2 There is £220,000 uncommitted at this stage.

5.3 If option 3 is chosen, the costs of replenishing 200 sacs per Parish, the costs could be met from the Emergency Planning reserve.

5.4 If option 4 were chosen, the initial outlay could be met from the Emergency Planning reserve, with the ongoing increase added to the revenue budget.

5.5 Any budgetary implications will be brought back to this committee and reported to Policy & Finance Committee as part of the budget cycle.

6.0 Community Plan – Alignment to Objectives

6.1 Objective 9: Improve the health and wellbeing of local residents, with a particular focus on narrowing the gap in healthy life expectancy and other health outcomes (Directorate Communities and Environment)

Flooding can have a serious impact on both the physical wellbeing of residents but more importantly on the mental wellbeing of individuals. Having a property flooded is a very stressful occurrence and any schemes that reduce this should be a positive impact on the health of our residents.

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS that:

(a) the current situation is noted along with the current financial contributions for these schemes; and

(b) the preferred option for restocking the resilience stores is identified and approved.

Reason for Recommendations

To provide an update for Members on the various flood alleviation schemes across the district and to confirm the responsibility for restocking emergency resilience stores.

Background Papers - Nil

For further information please contact Alan Batty ext 5467 .

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