

# Rochdale and Littleborough - Flood Risk Management Scheme Newsletter 3

April 2019

**Welcome to the third Rochdale and Littleborough Flood Risk Management Scheme Newsletter. We will be sending out these newsletters on a regular basis as we develop the project to ensure that you are kept up-to-date with progress, are able to ask questions of the project team and can contribute your ideas.**

## Project Update / Flood Scheme Update

Following the high river levels and Flood Warnings that were issued on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March, we thought it was timely to write to you to update on progress. Over the last couple of weeks we have had staff out in the area working closely with Rochdale Borough Council to speak to residents and businesses who may have been affected by the recent bad weather.

In September 2018 we held public drop-ins in both Rochdale Town Centre and in Littleborough's Hare Hill House as well as issuing newsletter no. 2. This gave you the opportunity to see project plans and discuss the proposals with the project team. You may remember the construction of the Scheme is planned to be in two phases – Phase 1 (Littleborough) and Phase 2 (Rochdale – downstream of Smithy Bridge). We are phasing the construction works in this way because by beginning upstream, the benefits will include a reduced flood risk for residents and businesses in Littleborough, Smallbridge and Rochdale at the earliest opportunity. On Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> February we also supported the Littleborough Flood Group with their resilience day 'Help Littleborough Help Itself! Developing a Resilient Littleborough.'

The project team has been working hard on developing the detailed design for Phase 1, and in particular, focussing on some of the features necessary to be built when constructing a Flood Storage Area, such as the one proposed for Gale. You may have seen some of the rigs in position as our contractors have been undertaking ground investigation. We had hoped to submit our planning application before Christmas and then consult with the Littleborough public in January, however, we have been delayed as design is finalised. It is now hoped that we will submit the Planning Application in autumn 2019 with a view to start on site in spring 2020. We are committed to delivering the Scheme as quickly as we can and will work closely with Rochdale Borough Council and our other partners to ensure we are in a position to start on site as quickly as possible. We will of course, organise a drop-in event in Littleborough and Rochdale, once the planning application has been submitted to ensure that both residents and businesses have chance to comment and understand proposals.

## What will happen next?

- 1) Our Outline Business Case was approved in May 2018.
- 2) We will continue to develop and finalise the funding for the project throughout 2019.
- 3) Drop-in events in Littleborough and Rochdale will take place during late summer/autumn 2019 - These will continue to happen at regular intervals during the project.
- 4) Planning Application for Phase 1 (Littleborough) submitted in autumn 2019.
- 5) We hope to be fully funded and ready to start construction by spring 2020.

customer service line  
03708 506 506

incident hotline  
0800 80 70 60

floodline  
03459 88 11 88

## Rochdale Council Update

Your property may have benefitted from measures such as flood resistant doors, barriers, and self-closing air bricks through the Storm Eva property flood resilience grant scheme, as part of the recovery funding made available after the flooding experienced on 26 December 2015.

It is important to regularly inspect and maintain these measures to check for faults and damage or where adjustments may need to be made. For example, after last summer's hot weather some doors and other measures may have been affected by the heat. It is also important to follow manufacturer's instructions to make sure that flood doors are properly sealed by using the locking mechanism and that barriers are kept in a safe and accessible place so that you can fit them quickly when needed.

For further information please visit [www.rochdale.gov.uk/flooding](http://www.rochdale.gov.uk/flooding) or call 01706 924 459.

## Environment Agency Flood Alerts / Warnings

Even with flood defences in place, you can never entirely remove the risk of flooding. It is important that you prepare for this by signing up for free flood warnings by phoning Floodline, on 0345 988 1188, or by going online: <https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings>.

## The Flood Hub Website is now live

The Flood Hub is your one stop shop for flood advice and information. It is funded by the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC) and has been developed by Newground and other partner agencies to support communities at risk of flooding across the North West. You can find all the up to date information on planning and preparing for floods in the North West, to protect homes, businesses, land and wildlife.

Visit <http://www.thefloodhub.co.uk> for more information!

## How will we keep you updated and involve you

We will continue to use the Littleborough and Wardleworth Flood Action Groups to share information with residents as well as producing more newsletters and holding public drop-in sessions linked to key stages of the project. We would welcome your ideas for this.

If you are outside the flood area and would like to be kept up to date with the Rochdale and Littleborough Flood Risk Management Scheme via email, please email [floodresiliencegmmc@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:floodresiliencegmmc@environment-agency.gov.uk) to be added to the mailing list.

Rochdale Borough Council's website for flood risk information is: [www.rochdale.gov.uk/flooding](http://www.rochdale.gov.uk/flooding)

You can also follow us on Twitter @EnvAgencyNW

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