

September 2019

The Environment Agency are striving to improve the existing Flood Risk Management Scheme from summer 2020. This is to better protect residential and business properties in Appleby from future flooding.

We last engaged with you in August 2019 where we notified you that we were refining the options to try and find a Flood Risk Management Scheme that is economically viable, technically feasible, environmentally sustainable and socially acceptable for the community of Appleby.

## Funding

We stated in our previous newsletter that funding had been particularly challenging for Appleby due to the relatively small numbers of properties requiring protection compared with the cost of building a flood risk management scheme. More information on the process can be found on .gov.uk

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flood-and-coastal-resilience-partnership-funding-an-introductory-guide>
- [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/221094/pb13896-flood-coastal-resilience-policy.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/221094/pb13896-flood-coastal-resilience-policy.pdf)
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fcrm-partnership-funding-calculator>

## What we have done.

In 2016 we made a bid for funding to better protect homes in Cumbria following the effects of Storm Desmond and in March that year government released £33m extra in Cumbria for schemes. – to better protect 1,700 properties and key local infrastructure. Appleby received £100k in this process. Through local choices we have managed to increase the funding in Appleby to £1.5m.

We have spent time exploring other funding options and making the relevant bids. Examples of this are:

- Highways England Designated Environment Fund – The work was deemed too far from their highway.
- Department for Education – Appleby Grammar school isn't directly affected by flooding in the town
- Cutting the Carbon in Flood Defence – Exploring an innovative pumping solution which would reduce carbon compared to our traditional methods.

Unfortunately these were unsuccessful but we continue to explore funding options. We would welcome any community suggestions on any other sources of funding they are aware of.

## St Lawrence Bridge

St Lawrence Bridge Appleby was subject to a Principal Bridge Inspection by Cumbria County Council in June 2018 which confirmed that it is generally in good condition and is stable. A dive inspection was undertaken in April 2019 which confirmed that scour protection measure were in place and were secure.

Any Environment Agency scheme proposals would require consideration of the effect on the bridge, as has been the case in other locations such as Kendal and Carlisle. The Environment Agency would be required to arrange such an assessment.

## Gravel Removal

It was suggested that the Environment Agency should remove more gravel from the river in Appleby:

- Gravel removal is an important part of our maintenance programme. We consider each location carefully and do it where we know it will make a difference. Understanding where gravel removal will – and won't – reduce flood risk is key.
- We must be sure it will reduce flood risk to local homes and businesses and won't increase flood risk downstream.
- Gravel removal is unlikely to be effective in isolation but it can be part of a solution involving multiple interventions. It can, and does, contribute to reducing flooding in some locations but it's far from a universal solution to what is a complex issue.
- In many cases, gravel removal isn't the best long-term solution because rivers can quickly silt-up again and other measures such as building walls or storage upstream may be more effective. It can even increase flood risk and erosion and alter the habitat and wildlife.

## Bongate Weir

The Environment Agency does not own this asset, however, we continue to work with partners with regard to the removal of Bongate Weir that is located upstream of Appleby Town Centre. The weir is in a poor state of repair that creates dangerous currents posing a health and safety risk as well as being a barrier to fish migration up and down the river. We are working with Eden Rivers Trust, Cumbria County Council and Eden District Council who hope to remove the weir next year.

## Debris Clearance

The tree near Appleby Swimming pool, Northern Gas have confirmed the pipeline has been redundant for the last 10 years. Work has been scheduled for next week on Thursday 03 October 2019. This work may be rescheduled if river levels are deemed too high. We will also be removing the debris from the centre pillar of Holme Street Bridge.

## Community Drop In

We are holding a community drop in session in the Public Hall, Appleby Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2019 from 6:30pm. Please come and join us to find out more.

### Find out more

You can find out more about the scheme by visiting:-

- [www.cumbriastrategicfloodpartnership](http://www.cumbriastrategicfloodpartnership) for how we are contributing to managing flood risk from Source to Sea
- [www.thefloodhub.co.uk](http://www.thefloodhub.co.uk) in 'Your local area' to see a summary of what the scheme is proposing and for general information on how to prepare and respond to all sources of flooding

### Contact Us

Customer service	03706 506 506
Floodline	03459 881 188
Incident hotline	0800 80 70 60

### Keep up to date

[www.thefloodhub.co.uk](http://www.thefloodhub.co.uk) in 'your local area'