

Rochdale and Littleborough - Flood Risk Management Scheme Newsletter 1.

March 2018

Welcome to the first 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

There has been significant progress made in developing a flood scheme since the drop-ins held after the Boxing Day 2015 flood, and also in 2017. Based on feedback provided by local residents and businesses, as well as undertaking river modelling, we now have a better understanding of the key locations at risk and the causes of flooding - either due to blockages, gravel in the channel, high river flows, tributaries or surface water. Using this information, we have been developing and finalising options, undertaking ground investigation to understand ground conditions better (photo below) and consulting with a number of partners and stakeholders. We have been using your own feedback from the local drop-ins to shape what the flood risk scheme might look like.



The project team is now close to completing the Outline Business Case, which will set out the preferred option for flood risk management in Rochdale and Littleborough, along the River Roch Valley. This will be a mixture of flood storage in the upper river catchment, raised flood walls and embankments along the banks of the watercourse, and in some locations removal of structures which can cause a constriction to flow and increase the chance of flooding. Alongside this we are also looking at smaller measures across the catchment to deal with surface runoff and slowing this down through natural flood management measures such as small debris dams and woodland planting. We are planning another round of drop-ins in July to share these plans with you.

During the earlier drop-ins we outlined to residents that the success of the project is reliant on ensuring that the necessary funding was in place. We are working hard to secure this funding and hope to have greater certainty by April 2018.

customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
03459 88 11 88

What will happen next?

Business Case completed and submitted for review - February 2018

Understanding of available funding - April 2018

Drop-ins in Littleborough and Rochdale where we will be able to tell you more of our proposals - early July 2018.

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 alerts by phoning Floodline, on 0345 988 1188, or by going online: <https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings>. You can also get information on developing a flood plan, putting together a flood kit and other ways of preparing for flooding.

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 to be added to the mailing list. We aim to send regular updates as well as quarterly newsletters. We will also let you know when we are holding community drop-ins.

If you would like more information about our flood risk management work in the area or about the project, you can email: FloodResilienceGMMC@environment-agency.gov.uk

Visit our website for further information: <https://www.gov.uk/prepare-for-flooding>

Rochdale Borough Council's website for flood risk information is: www.rochdale.gov.uk/flooding

You can also follow us on Twitter @EnvAgencyNW