

Rochdale and Littleborough - Flood Risk Management Scheme Newsletter 4

September 2019

Welcome to the fourth Rochdale and Littleborough Flood Risk Management Scheme Newsletter. We will continue to send 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

After another wet period in late July and August it's a good time for the project team to update you work on the proposed flood scheme in Rochdale and Littleborough. Over the past two months we have had staff out across the borough working closely with Rochdale Borough Council to speak to residents and businesses who may have been affected by the recent bad weather.

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.

The project team continues to develop the detailed design for Phase 1, and we now hope to submit our planning application before Christmas and consult with the Littleborough public around the same time, to ensure that both residents and businesses have chance to comment and understand proposals. Detailed design for Phase 2 will begin before Christmas and we look forward to engaging with the residents, partners and businesses in the area at the same time. 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.

Next steps

- 1) We will continue to develop and finalise the funding for the project throughout 2019.
- 2) Drop-in events in Littleborough and Rochdale will take place during late autumn 2019. This will continue to happen at regular intervals during the project.
- 3) Planning Application for Phase 1 (Littleborough) submitted in autumn/early winter 2019.
- 4) We hope to be ready to start construction by 2020.

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.

customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
03459 88 11 88

For further information please visit 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, related to river levels, by phoning Floodline, on 0345 988 1188, or by going online: <https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings>.

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.

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

You can also follow us on Twitter @EnvAgencyNW

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