

Rochdale and Littleborough - Flood Risk Management Scheme Newsletter 5

January 2020

Welcome to the fifth Rochdale and Littleborough Flood Risk Management Scheme Newsletter. We will send out these newsletters as we develop the project to keep you up-to-date with progress. Feel free to ask questions and contribute your ideas.

COMMUNITY DROP IN

Monday 3rd February 2020

Hare Hill House, Hare Hill Road, Littleborough

OL15 9LF

3:00pm - 7.00pm

COME ALONG AND SPEAK TO STAFF FROM BOTH ENVIRONMENT AGENCY AND ROCHDALE COUNCIL WHO WILL BE ABLE TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE AND TO DISCUSS THE PLANNING APPLICATION FOR PHASE 1A.

Project Update / Flood Scheme Update

You may remember that construction of the Rochdale and Littleborough Flood Risk Management Scheme will 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 in areas of Littleborough, the benefits will include a reduced flood risk for residents and businesses, not only in Littleborough but also in Smallbridge and Rochdale.

The Littleborough planning application will be further divided into two phases Phase 1a (comprising flood defence walls, bridge removal and enabling works) and Phase 1b (comprising the new Flood Storage Area at Gale, associated works and remaining sections of flood defence walls). This will ensure pace is maintained. The planning application for Phase 1a was submitted on 24th January 2020. Phase 1b is expected to be submitted before the end of summer this year.

Preliminary detailed design for Phase 2 (Rochdale) is now also underway and the main detailed design study is expected to start in late spring this year - we look forward to engaging with the residents, partners and businesses in the area once we have developed our proposals further. 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 construction works as quickly as possible.

customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
03459 88 11 88

Next steps

- 1) We continue to develop and finalise the business case for the project with the Full Business Case expected to be submitted late spring 2020.*
- 2) A drop-in event will take place in Littleborough at Hare Hill House, Littleborough (OL15 9LF) between 2:30pm and 7pm on 3rd February to provide an update and to discuss the Planning Application for Phase 1a. Details can be found at the top of this newsletter. Please come along with any queries you have on the scheme

* Project completion dependent on planning, business case and a number of approvals being in place.

Riverstone Bridge

The proposed works in Phase 1a planning application include replacing the existing bridges (both the highway and pedestrian bridges) at Riverstone Bridge off Stubley Mill Road, Littleborough to support widening of the existing River Roch channel to allow more water to flow. This will improve conveyance of the River and assist in reducing water levels locally to reduce flood risk. Please note that the works in this area will be undertaken substantially “off-line” to ensure that the existing bridges will be available for access/egress with minimal interruption. As part of our works, we are proposing to install a new, combined highway and pedestrian bridge (which will be segregated from traffic flow) as part of our works to replace the existing bridges.

We are particularly keen to discuss these proposed works and we encourage residents of Stubley Mill Road, Cutland Way, Spen Fold, Riverstone Bridge and Stubley Gardens to come along to the drop-in on the 3rd February to find out more.

Rochdale Council Update

An important note on sandbags: Please be aware that sandbags will not be provided by either the Council or Environment Agency in a flood event. You can buy unfilled sandbags and a supply of sand from most DIY stores and builders merchants. Sandbags should not be used as a substitute for other flood protection products such as flood doors and barriers. When using sandbags it is important to remember they are a temporary measure to divert water and will not stop water ingress on a long term basis. There is further information on use of sandbags on the flooding section of the Council website (see above).

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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