

Flood Risk Management in Padiham

November 2020

Environment Agency update for frequently asked progress questions

When will the building of the defences start?

The current estimated start date for building is in summer 2021.

Why is it taking so long to start building?

Flood defence proposals are large scale engineering projects. These take years to prepare and legally agree, before building can start. This is a one-time opportunity to deliver flood defences for Padiham. It is critical that the designs are undertaken correctly so that the defences are of a high standard. This will best protect the town in to the future against the predicted increased flood impacts caused by climate change.

Why has the construction date changed?

£6 million was secured to design and deliver the original outline proposals produced in 2017-18. During the design stage in 2018-19, further required work was identified to ensure that a high level of protection is provided. This increase the cost to £9 million.

The Environment Agency and Burnley Borough Council secured the additional investments including a further £2 million of direct Government funding announced in July 2020.

In 2020 we have rightly modified our working arrangements to keep the public and our staff safe from Coronavirus. This has slowed progress but we have continued working throughout the lockdown period.

What has been completed so far?

The initial £6 million of funding was secured in 2017-18. The Environment Agency, Burnley Borough Council and partners have been working continually since then to develop proposals for the Padiham Flood Risk Management Scheme. This has included, but has not been limited to, flood modelling, site and ground investigations, environmental assessments, topographic surveys, community and landowner consultation, outline designs and securing funding to pay for additionally identified work. Over £1 million has been spent to get to the current final detailed design stage.

What is happening now?

The design and construction contractors have been confirmed and the additional funding will help to ensure that construction can start at the earliest possible date following the completion of the designs.

The detailed civil engineering designs are currently in progress and are due for completion in early spring 2021. The legally required agreement, planning, consents and approvals will then be confirmed.

The current programme is targeting construction to begin in summer 2021. With final designs, agreements, consents and planning still to be completed this date could change again although we are doing everything we can to ensure construction starts as soon as possible.

We are ensuring that our staff and contractors are implementing Government Coronavirus guidelines to protect the public, staff and contractors.

Why can the building not start tomorrow?

Building can only start once all the detailed designs, consents, permits, agreements and planning applications are agreed.

Although defences may seem like simple walls and earth mounds, they are significant engineering structures. They can have major impacts on flood risk, highways and the environment which all require very careful consideration and agreements.

The work completed to date means that the above is ongoing but these will take several months to complete to the required high standard.

Can building starts sooner?

The start date is an estimate based on the programme to complete the remaining pre-construction tasks. All of these must be undertaken to conform to legal Flood Risk Management and Planning policy before building can begin. These are being undertaken at the fastest possible pace.

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Padiham Flood Defences Overview

- Flood defences to better protect over 160 residential, business and public properties
- For the River Calder and lower section of Green Brook near Green Lane
- Will manage flooding in central Padiham to a scale similar to that experienced in Dec 2015
- £9 million total investment
- 1000's hours and over £1 million already spent on ground investigations, securing funding, flood modelling and developing proposals
- Detailed design, planning application, permitting, consents and landowner agreements due in 2020-21
- Main construction to commence in 2021

What are the proposed works?

The proposals are currently for new and improved flood walls and earth embankments along the River Calder and lower Green Brook to manage the river overtopping its banks.

Modifications to some bridges are proposed to reduce the chance of flooding along Green Brook.

New and improved highways drainage on Burnley Road (A671) and minor highway modifications will improve issues when direct heavy rainfall cannot drain away on roads and other hard surfaces.

Prior to the scheme construction, invasive non-native species such as Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam will be treated to remove these from key locations around Padiham.

Where is the sign-up for flood warnings to my phone/email?

You can find out if you live, or have a business, in a flood warning area and register by searching for your location at:

<https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings>

Alternatively, telephone **Floodline: 0345 988 1188**
(24-hour service check your tariff rates)

Is there a Community Resilience Group?

Newground have been supporting the Padiham Flood Resilience Group to help local residents and businesses become more resilient to flooding and other emergencies.

To enable the group to continue and be more proactive new members are required.



If you are interested in being part of this group please contact Andy Ainsworth at Newground via email at andy.ainsworth@newground.co.uk

Where has information been shared and where are updates provided?

Drop-in events have been held at Padiham Town Hall in 2018 and 2019 to display plans and timeframes. Newsletters have been circulated during these periods too.

All of the latest information is available at Padiham's own flood risk website on TheFloodHub. Information includes updated maps, timescales and newsletters as well as other useful flood risk information.

<https://thefloodhub.co.uk/padiham/>

The Environment Agency also aim to provide information for local press releases such as in March this year.

<https://www.burnleyexpress.net/news/people/environment-agency-says-flood-defences-padiham-are-priority-following-storm-ciara-2009772>

How to staying in touch directly?

If you would like to be added or removed from our Padiham newsletter mailing list, or for any further information related to the defences, please contact us via:

CMBLNC-PSO@environment-agency.gov.uk