

Welcome to the December 2020 update of the Prestolee and Stoneclough Flood Risk Management Scheme Newsletter. We will be sending 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

The River Irwell at Kearsley Flood Risk Management Scheme awarded a contract to develop an Outline Business Case, to Jacobs, in October 2020. Over the next 9 -12 months Jacobs will develop the project and move from a short list of options to a preferred option – what the flood defences will look like and what form they will take. This will involve reviewing and comparing construction materials, environmental impacts, community impacts, utilities interactions and ground conditions whilst also ensuring we do not increase flood risk downstream. We hope to have established the preferred option (what the flood scheme will physically look like) by autumn next year. Following that, the option will be approved and there will be a phase of detailed design, as well as a requirement to submit a planning application to Bolton Council.

An Environment Agency geomorphologist has visited Riverside Drive with a view to understanding erosion in the area and we will feed back findings in the New Year.

Funding Update

The project team continue to speak to potential partners and beneficiaries to bring funding into the project. As has been described to the community in previous newsletters and drop-ins, it is vital that this funding is in place before a construction contract can be awarded and it is hoped that this can be achieved by the same time as the confirmation of the preferred option in autumn 2021.

Environment Agency Operations Exercise

The Environment Agency have carried out an exercise to fill the low spots on the River Irwell at the rear of Riverside Drive, Prestolee. We used this as an opportunity to train our operatives on the use of new machinery taken on by the Environment Agency to self-fill sandbags for deployment to critical assets. We then deployed the sandbags to 3 low points where high river flows are flowing through and down onto Riverside Drive. This should help to reduce impact of flooding in low level events and give more time in a high level event.



Surface Water Outfalls



United Utilities have successfully installed flap valves to surface water outfalls off Riverside Drive which will help to manage the effect of backing up from high river levels.

What will happen next?

An Environment Agency geomorphologist has visited Riverside Drive with a view to understanding erosion in the area and we will feed back findings in the New Year. A process of investigation will identify the preferred option under the Outline Business Case. We will hold a community drop during spring/summer of 2021 if government guidance due to coronavirus allows us to, so that we can discuss your thoughts in person and ensure that you are involved in the project. Ground Investigation will be undertaken in early spring 2021 in places where it is likely we will need to construct flood defences.

We will continue to work with partners, such as Bolton Council, to secure funding for the project throughout 2021. The project will need to secure full funding and resolve any other project issues such as planning and permits before starting construction. Once a preferred option is identified and funding is in place then detailed design is hoped to start before the end of 2021.

The Flood Hub Website

The Flood Hub is your one stop shop for flood advice and information. It is funded by the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC) and has been developed by Newground and other partner agencies to support communities at risk of flooding across the North West. Visit <http://www.thefloodhub.co.uk> for more information!

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 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 Prestolee and Stoneclough residents flood action group 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 how best to do this. 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 and be added to the mailing list.

Bolton Council's website for flood risk information is: <https://www.bolton.gov.uk/flooding-drainage/flooding-advice>

You can also follow us on **Twitter @EnvAgencyNW**

customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
0845 988 1188

www.gov.uk/environment-agency