

Welcome to the fourth newsletter of the Low Crosby FRMS, keeping the community up to date about the project.

This is part of a series of newsletters, for residents, businesses and visitors who live and work in and around the area around of Low Crosby. These newsletters will provide you with information and how to find more detail about the project, as we commence and progress with the design phase of the works.

What we have been working on since the last newsletter:

- The Outline Business Case has been approved; this demonstrates the validity of the project. The next stage is to produce the Full Business Case (FBC) which will: provide final approval for spend on the project, allow us to appoint relevant suppliers, and deliver the construction phase.
- An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening Letter was submitted. Carlisle City Council considers that the scheme is not an EIA development. This is welcomed and reduces the programme duration.
- Discussions regarding the Right to Flood Agreement at Warwick Holme have progressed well. The EA have tabled an offer and the respective agents are working closely to reach an agreement.
- We are continuing to work with the landowners affected by the scheme to put in place the agreements needed for us to undertake the construction works.
- Design drawings have been reviewed by the EA with comments added and any changes are now being reflected in an updated drawing suite. Once issued by the designer for approval, we will share these with the FIAG and via the Flood Hub.
- The Project Team have been actively looking at ways to reduce our Carbon Footprint in the construction phase. There are more details on this in the 'Discussion Topic' on page 2.

What we will be working on over the next few months:

- Production of the tender pack for issue to the contractor to begin generating a price for the construction element of the scheme.
- Finalising the compensation process for the Right to Flood Agreement at Warwick Holme.
- Contractor working on the Construction Feasibility Plan.
- Continuing the process of securing the relevant permissions required for delivery of the scheme.
- Working closely with the team to submit a Planning Application. We believe at this stage this will have no impact on production of the FBC or the delivery of the scheme.
- Appointment of key suppliers for the construction phase, including the Ecological Clerk of Works, Engineering & Construction Contract Project Manager and Site Supervisor.

Discussion Topic

The need for a Planning Application:

Following discussions with Carlisle City Council's Planning Department, we have taken the decision to progress with a Planning application. Whilst we originally envisaged the scheme falling under a Permitted Development, there are a few aspects of the scheme which could be considered to require Planning. The Project Team have reviewed the impact of progressing with an application from a programme and cost perspective and we believe this is the best solution. This will mitigate any risk associated with progressing under an assumed Permitted Development, and at this stage we believe that there will be no impact upon programme or delivery of the scheme.

Sustainability during the Construction Phase:

The project team is very keen that the Low Cosby FRMS remains a scheme which not only protects people from flooding, but also enhances wildlife and biodiversity. In keeping with this the EA, along with its main Contractor, are looking at construction methods which vastly reduce our Carbon Footprint during the construction phase.

Examples we are currently assessing include the use of Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) as an alternative to the traditional use of diesel. This fuel can have up to an 85% reduction in Greenhouse Gas Emissions. The use of HVO will be used extensively; as the excavators, which will be used for the bulk of the construction works, will use this fuel.

The team are also looking at the use of Hybrid Generators which utilise a 60kVA generator instead of the traditional 100 kVA. This coupled with intelligent technology inside the welfare, will automatically switch off non-essential assets when there is demand on the generator to keep it below the capacity of the generator.

This is just a flavor of the options the team are looking at and as the scheme progresses more knowledge will be obtained of the most sustainable options to utilise.

Advanced Works in the Low Crosby Village

Property Flood Resilience works on the Parish Hall & sealing of United Utilities (UU) manhole covers to prevent flood water getting into the drainage network is now complete.

Sandbag store with sandbags is installed and will be available this winter for the Parish Hall and the Primrose Bank residents.

Low Crosby/Newby East embankment:

- The EA Field Team have delivered 5 truckloads of sandbags to help lift low spots in the embankment to match adjacent bank crest levels. This will help give a consistent crest level. The EA are looking to do work in the future here to formally level the crest out and permanently repair what is a temporary fix at the location near the upstream end of the bank.

Upgrade to the existing pumping station:

- Detailed design complete.
- Drawings and bill of quantities with Cumbria County Council (CCC) for tender.
- Extent of works is significant so timing will be delayed, and funding needs to be revisited once the contractor prices come back.
- Existing Pumping station is operational but requires a more 'hands on' approach than more recently constructed pumping stations elsewhere in the County.

Willow Beck:

- Storm Arwen saw a tree fall into the garden at No. 1 Primrose Bank (EA Field Team removed and undertook some clearance works downstream).
- The wider works to the outfall are due to be undertaken in summer 2022. There is a back log due to the pausing of works nationally after a safety review.

Update on Green Lane Flap Valve:

- Additional gully, some repairs to pipe and a new flap on end of the pipe is planned.

Key Dates

- Preparing tender documents for site works – January 2022
- Preparing and submitting site works to suppliers – January/February 2022
- FBC submission – April 2022
- Award construction contracts – May 2022
- Embankment Re-profiling – Summer 2022

Upcoming Newsletters

All newsletters will be published on the dedicated Low Crosby Flood Hub webpage approximately, every 8 weeks. Please see link at the bottom of this newsletter.

Covid-19:

In the current situation we remain focused on keeping communities safe and delivering our Capital Flood Risk Schemes where we can do so safely and within Government guidelines. The majority of our staff and consultants are working remotely away from offices and each other.

Project Delivery Overview

The Environment Agency Project Team have been working with the stakeholders and the Flood Action Group to identify a preferred option to progress with, to reduce the flood risk to Low Crosby. The preferred option identified, involves re-profiling of the existing Warwick Holme flood embankments, to enable flood waters to flow from the River Eden across the Holme during periods of flooding.

We have assessed that re-profiling the embankments at Warwick Holme would enable a similar sized flood to Storm Desmond to pass down the River Eden, with peak river levels staying below the level of the homes in the village of Low Crosby.

The Environment Agency and the rest of the Project Team would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

LOW CROSBY PROJECT CONTACT DETAILS

Customer Service

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Floodline

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Incident Hotline

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