

Rochdale and Littleborough - Flood Risk Management Scheme – Newsletter 8

March 2022

Welcome to the latest Rochdale and Littleborough Flood Risk Management Scheme Newsletter.

Project Update / Flood Scheme Update

Rochdale

Although engagement has been limited throughout the Covid-19 Pandemic, the EA (Environment Agency) would now like to provide an update on the works that have been taking place in the background to progress the Rochdale phase of the Rochdale and Littleborough Flood Risk Management Scheme. We have been developing the outline designs for a flood risk management scheme for the Rochdale communities (between Smithy Bridge and the town centre, including Buckley/Hey Brook), to ensure that the solution we take forward to Detailed Design is the best value for money, whilst still providing the desired standard of protection. The next step is to start the Detailed Design of Phase 2, we will be looking to commence this once our Full Business Case has been approved later this year. When this commences the project team will invite the relevant communities downstream of Smithy Bridge, including around Wardleworth and the Town Centre for a face-to-face drop-in.

Littleborough

Construction Works are progressing at pace on Phase 1a in Littleborough, the main site compound has been set up at our Gale site off Todmorden Road, and the site compound at Riverstone Bridge which will house our customer engagement hub is due to take delivery of cabins before the end of March. The works to raise the existing flood defences on Townhouse Brook are currently progressing to programme despite the harsh weather during Storm Franklin. We continue to use the Flood Hub page to update members of the public with biweekly progress, photos, and drone footage.

At the end of March, we will be submitting our second (Phase 1b) planning application to Rochdale Borough Council. This will contain a full Environmental Impact Assessment and Planning drawings for Eales Brook, Grove Lodge, Centre Vale, Greenvale Business Park and for the proposed Flood Storage Basin at the Gale site.

Littleborough Works – Drop-in

There will be a 'Community Drop In' on the 17th of March between 3pm & 7pm at The Coach House, Heritage Centre, Lodge St, Littleborough, OL15 9AE. Please feel free to attend as there will be representatives available for any queries.

customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
03459 88 11 88

Next steps

Below are some of the upcoming dates for the project for Spring 2:

- Littleborough drop in – 17/03/2022 (details above)
- Customer Engagement hub installed on the green at Riverstone Bridge with the project team available twice weekly to discuss the project.
- Planning application for Phase 1b in Littleborough is expected to be submitted before April 2022.

Update from Council

Rochdale Borough Council with the National Flood Forum has been named as one of 25 projects across England taking part in the Flood and Coastal Resilience and Innovation Programme funded by the Government and delivered by the Environment Agency working with Lead Local Flood Authorities. Details of a five-year programme of work with residents and businesses in Littleborough and Wardleworth are being finalised and will include looking at new ways of managing surface water. This will include property and business flood resilience measures, improving and managing green spaces and getting people involved in a range of community projects to help make a local difference and raise awareness of flood risks and how everyone can be more flood resilient. We want people to get involved in how we shape and deliver the project over the five-year period and there will be lots of ways to do that through practical activities to increase flood resilience and a series of training events and consultations. More details will follow soon, and we hope to formally launch the project in the summer.

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 Flood line, 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 post fortnightly updates to our Flood Hub page (www.thefloodhub.co.uk/rochdale-and-littleborough). The updates often contain site photos and drone footage from the construction works.

We will continue to use the Littleborough and Wardleworth Flood Action Groups to share information with residents as well as producing more newsletters linked to key stages of the project. We would welcome your ideas for this.

Future newsletter will be posted on the Flood Hub page. If you have any questions that the newsletter does not answer, or if you would prefer to continue to receive the newsletter as a hard copy please email rochdaleandlittleborough.FAS@environment-agency.gov.uk

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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