

# PRESS RELEASE

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## Community Flood Scheme Information Hub ready to welcome visitors

- **Community flood scheme information hub opens on Little Aynam in Kendal**
- **Information Hub will be open every Tuesday and Thursday welcoming the local community and visitors to view scheme information and speak with project team members about the multi-million flood project**
- **Flood scheme committed to investing in the local area, both through materials used for the scheme and by introducing new community areas alongside the river.**

A Community Flood Hub is opening on Little Aynam, Kendal to provide people with the opportunity to find out more about the multi-million-pound investment to better protect the town from flooding.

The building next to the River Kent will be open Tuesdays and Thursdays between 10am and 4:30pm and will provide information on the Kendal Flood Risk Management Scheme.

The Community Flood Hub is a one-stop-shop to find out about the Kendal Flood Risk Management Scheme and a meeting point for residents and business owners to come and discuss the plans with members of the project team.

**Environment Agency, Flood Risk Management Scheme Engagement Advisor, Maria Ulliyart said:**

“The Community Flood Hub provides a place for the community to ask questions and find out more about the plans and the development of the town’s Flood Risk Management Scheme. As well as having the plans, designs and artists impressions of the scheme, we will also have the samples of the flood wall finishes which will feature through the town.

“As well as providing better flood risk management for Kendal, the project also provides local economic and community benefits.”

During construction local firms and specialists are being employed and specialist contractors from outside Kendal are encouraged to stay in local accommodation. Building materials are being sourced locally, including the stone for facing of the walls which is coming from a quarry in Orton.

In the town centre the flood defences will be made mainly from re-using existing stone or natural stone cladding, this is the same stone as Cumbria County Council are using for the cladding on the new footbridge.

The scheme includes a new community nature area in the centre of Kendal, at Beezon Fields, and the Environment Agency is working with archaeologists and historians, as initial groundwork unveils the historic past of the town.

Kendal’s story is closely connected to the River Kent, and the finds being made by the archaeologists who the Environment Agency is working with, add to what is currently know about the area in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD and post-medieval times.



**European Union**  
European Regional  
Development Fund

The integrated design will improve access for all to the riverside area of Kendal, with new paths, seating areas and greenspaces to enjoy.

Information about the flood scheme is also available online at [www.thefloodhub.co.uk/kendal](http://www.thefloodhub.co.uk/kendal) or download the Volkerstevin Engage App which is available from your app store, free of charge for iPhone and Android phones.

Kendal Community Flood Hub will open on Tuesday, May 24, 10am to 4.30pm.

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#### Notes to editors

- More information on the Kendal Flood Scheme can be found on the flood hub [www.thefloodhub.co.uk/kendal/](http://www.thefloodhub.co.uk/kendal/)

The Environment Agency is delivering a Flood Risk Management Scheme to better protect homes and business from flooding in the Kent catchment and improve the local environment and community amenities. Kendal is the first area to be delivered, followed by Burneside, Staveley, and Ings, and upstream measures including flood storage.

#### Economy

The Kendal Flood Risk Management scheme represents £76 million of investment £12 of benefits for every £1 of investment by protecting homes, business and infrastructure from the damage caused by flooding. This is a considerable opportunity for Kendal and will lead to future investment from the private sector once the flood defences are complete. Some of this funding will go into the local supply chain and local businesses will no doubt benefit from increased trade.

#### European Regional Development Fund

The project is receiving £5.34 million of funding from the England European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) as part of the European Structural and Investment Funds Growth Programme 2014-2020. The Department for Communities and Local Government is the Managing Authority for ERDF. Established by the European Union ERDF funds help local areas stimulate their economic development by investing in projects which will support innovation, businesses, create jobs and local community regenerations. For more information visit <https://www.gov.uk/european-growth-funding>

The Northern Powerhouse is committed to local growth in the North of England for more information visit <https://northernpowerhouse.gov.uk/>