

Managing Flood Risk In Whalley & Billington

2nd October
2017

An update from the Environment Agency



River Calder at Whalley Bridge

What is happening?

The Environment Agency are currently running a project looking at how we can reduce flood risk to the villages of Whalley and Billington from the River Calder.

As the project progresses, we will be using this newsletter to keep people up to date with what is happening.

The project is part of a range of work that we are doing with the Whalley and Billington Flood Action Group (FLAG) and Lancashire County Council to better manage flood risk in the villages.

What have we done so far?

After updating the computer modelling of flood risk in the villages, we have considered the various possible ways to better manage that flood risk.

This included considering the building of new flood defences, storing more water upstream, flow diversions, and using more localised defences.

The benefits that each of the options would bring were considered, along with the likelihood of being able to secure enough Government funding and required contributions to deliver them. This assessment is now complete and we are now ready to engage with the community on our proposals to better protect Whalley and Billington.

Community Drop-In Event - Whalley Methodist Church Hall, 2:00-8:00pm 12th October

We will be holding a public drop-in event along with the FLAG and Lancashire County Council on Thursday 12th October at the Methodist Church Hall in King Street, Whalley, from 2:00pm to 8:00pm.

This event will give residents, business owners, and other interested parties an opportunity to hear more about the work we have done, the potential solutions we are proposing, and the timescales we are aiming to work towards.

The event forms an important part of the project in engaging with the community, and we would encourage all those with an interest to call in and speak with us.

What's coming up over winter?

Following the drop-in event, we will be looking to seek approval and funding to progress to the next stage of the project. This will be to develop the preferred solution further, carry out any required design work, engage with suitable contractors, and secure any permissions and required contributions.

We will continue to meet with representatives of the Flood Action Group during this time, and look to hold further drop-in events at suitable points in the project. Our discussions with the FLAG and community will be an important part of the process as we work towards better protecting Whalley and Billington from flooding.



River Calder at Billington - Whalley Viaduct

Partnership Funding

It is important to note that in cases where Government funding can be secured, this will partially fund options to better manage flood risk.

The level of Government funding is based on the amount of properties that have their flood risk reduced, while taking into account the overall cost of any measures. Other benefits, such as protection of roads, railways, critical infrastructure, and farmland are also considered when the level of Government funding is calculated.

If any works can attract funding from the Government, partnership contributions from other beneficiaries would be needed to meet the full cost. Partners can include local councils, utility companies, community groups, and local businesses.

We would work hard to find other potential funding partners towards the proposed solutions. We would not be able to start any construction work without partnership funding to make up the full cost.

Staying in touch

As the project moves forward, we will issue further newsletters to keep interested parties updated on progress. We will also look to hold further drop-in event at key points in the project to keep the community informed.

In the meantime, if you would like any further information please contact Matthew Connor, Flood and Coastal Risk Management (FCRM) Advisor, on 020 302 51371. Alternatively, you can email at matthew.connor@environment-agency.gov.uk.

Risks of flooding

It's important to highlight that even where flood defences are present, we can never fully take away the risk of flooding. To find out if you can receive free flood warnings, and for information on how to protect your home or business from flooding, please call the Environment Agency's Floodline on 0345 988 1188, or visit the Environment Agency website www.gov.uk/environment-agency.

Help and Advice for Insurance Purposes

Flood Re is an industry owned and managed not-for-profit re-insurer. It is a publicly accountable body with statutory objectives and powers. See www.floodre.co.uk for more information.

The aim of Flood Re is to provide support to those that need it most. As a result there are a number of criteria that need to be met for a property to be eligible for entry into the Flood Re scheme, which sets the cap on the cost of flood cover. See www.floodre.co.uk/eligibility for details.



King Street - Whalley, Boxing Day 2015