

Redbourne Parish Council

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Notes of the Redbourne Flooding Update meeting held at 2pm on Wednesday 2nd December 2020, via Microsoft Teams.

Present:

Ward Councillors: Cllr Neil Poole
Cllr Trevor Foster

NLC Officers
Chris Ramsbottom - Head of Service Assets and Infrastructure
Alan Drury - Drainage Project Manager
Sam Cross - Highway Development and Strategic Flood Risk Manager
Mike Brown – North Lincs Council
Mick Johnson – North Lincs Council
Nicholas Pickering - PA to the Leader of the Council

Redbourne Parish Council: Cllr Lynn Wainwright, Chair.
Holly Hanson, Clerk to Redbourne Parish Council

4 members of the public attended.

Chris Ramsbottom gave an update on works progress to date.

New headwall, trash screen and other works at the B1206 - design works are now complete, and costings have been received. Tree clearance works commenced w/c 2nd November and are now complete. The crack in the culvert has been repaired. Investigation is ongoing to identify any issues with other culverts. Jetting and clearing has been completed and is on a regular schedule going forward until works are complete.

Emmerson House – Investigations at Emmerson house are complete and modelling has been updated. A flood simulation has been carried out and indicated that even if there was free-flow through Emmerson House a downstream flood risk would remain without the diversion channel. One off clearing of the dyke downstream has been completed. It was queried why this was a one off clearance? Alan Drury responded that the responsibility lay with the riparian owners, however it was accepted that there was a quantity of stone debris at various points and that NLC had committed to a one off clearing to bring them up to the required standard, with the riparian owners being responsible for ongoing maintenance.

Attenuation Pond – Tree clearing has been completed and a topographical study is commencing today with ground investigations to determine capacity. As requested by the landowner, replacement trees will be planted in the future. A query was raised over the lack of maintenance historically at this pond, and a need for a future maintenance programme was cited.

Members of the public raised the following:

A query was raised over the downstream flood risk. Sam Cross responded that NLC were looking at an holistic design to combat flooding, and that the dykes downstream of Little Redbourne would be cleared this week.

A query was raised over why trees were removed from the A15 embankment, as they provided a visual and sound screen. There was no response to this from NLC.

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It was cited that the culverts in Beck Lane were too small, which caused overtopping and flooding on High Street, it was felt that these should be replaced with larger box culverts. Sam Cross stated that the model had been run with the existing culverts and with larger box culverts, and that there was no difference to the outcome due to issues with levels not matching up. Cllr Wainwright cited that many residents felt that the existing culverts were a major contributor to flooding.

This was reiterated by a member of the public, who cited that replacing the culverts with larger box culverts will do much to garner goodwill in the Village, and would inevitably lead to faster flow at this pinch point. Cllr Poole stated that there was a need to look at the effects of increasing the culvert size, in order not to risk flooding downstream, citing that no-one should be disadvantaged by the works. The works at the attenuation pond will substantially slow the water reaching the Village.

A query was raised over the differing levels of the dykes at School Lane, Little Redbourne and Emerson House. Alan Drury stated that a flood simulation had been completed at Emmerson House, and that Pell Frischman were now working on fine tuning taking into account the investigations, and will present various options. The bends in the channel at that point mean that even if the ditch is enlarged, it is impossible to achieve fast flow through the area.

A query was raised over how a diversion channel with a bend in it will have a substantial benefit in alleviating flooding over the existing channel with bends. There was no response to this from NLC, however a resident cited that the diversion channel may flood the field but not the houses.

Cllr Poole asked if NLC had information on the original route of the channel through Emmerson House, Cllr Wainwright and Landowner to send through copies of historical maps showing course.

It was cited that significant time was lost over the Summer months when works could have been progressing. Cllr Poole stated that progress was being made although not as quickly as would have been liked.

The lack of progress and subsequent frustrations were re-iterated, and a query raised over the time the modelling and re-modelling was taking. Cllr Poole asked if pressure could be placed on Pell Frischman to deliver these results. Sam Cross responded that a report was expected in the coming week. Cllr Poole requested that the information be circulated to all present as soon as it was available, as it would inform what future works were required.

It was cited that residents needed the opportunity to question the results and give feedback ahead of any decisions being made.

The next meeting will be scheduled after the report has been received to discuss contents.