

Redbourne Parish Council

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Notes of the Redbourne Flooding Update meeting held at 2pm on Tuesday 27th October 2020, via Microsoft Teams.

Present:

Ward Councillors: Cllr Trevor Foster
Cllr John England

NLC Officers
Chris Ramsbottom - Head of Service Assets and Infrastructure
Alan Drury - Drainage Project Manager
Sam Cross - Highway Development and Strategic Flood Risk Manager
Mark Drust - Flood Risk & Surface Water Engineer
Nicholas Pickering - PA to the Leader of the Council

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

No members of the public attended

Cllr Foster opened the meeting noting that no members of the public had been invited to the meeting.

Cllr Wainwright cited that a major concern at the previous meeting had been the lack of communication and consultation with effected residents, and a commitment had been made to ensure that the effected residents were invited to all future meetings. Cllr Wainwright also cited that the report that was to be circulated ahead of the meeting for public consultation had been sent less than 2 hours before the meeting.

Cllr Foster stated that he found it embarrassing that effected residents had not been invited. Chris Ramsbottom requested that contact details for all effected residents be sent to him, Cllr Wainwright to action this. Cllrs Foster and Wainwright again highlighted the importance of including effected residents.

Chris Ramsbottom gave a progress update on the areas of work around the village, stating that the design for the headwall, trash screen and culvert under the B1206 junction (High St/School Lane) is complete, and NLC are now working with contractors. Tree works will commence in the area w/c 2nd November 2020. Culvert checking was carried out in September and identified issues with a cracked culvert and incursions, which have been repaired.

Works at the A15 attenuation pond will commence with 2 weeks tree clearance starting w/c 9th November, requiring significant traffic management on the A15. Further topographical surveys and modelling is then required to assess capacity together with further archaeological investigations.

Councillors and Officers discussed water flow at Emmerson House. Mark Drust stated that a site visit had been conducted with a jetter and investigation team to look at how the watercourses run in the area, and 3 watercourses have been found to run through Emmerson House. Emmerson House are very happy to work with NLC to resolve issues at the property.

Cllr Wainwright cited that the proposed dyke at the back of Emmerson House is not part of the original waterway and raised local concerns that it may not solve the issues.

Alan Drury stated that the proposal is for a swale / overflow drain, 3 metres wide and 1 foot deep, at the back of Emmerson House running to the Gables to help manage peak flow, the original model showed that even if there was free flow through Emmerson House, an overflow 'drain' would still be required. It was cited that

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the landowner had already dug a furrow in this location to alleviate flooding issues. The landowner is not totally against these proposals, however, wishes for issues to be resolved with the existing watercourses through Emmerson House. Further modelling is required in light of the discoveries at Emmerson House.

Cllr Foster stated that it was important to follow the original watercourse as much as possible.

It was discussed that all works need to be completed as a scheme to avoid increasing the risk of flooding elsewhere, and upstream storage is imperative.

Alan Drury reported that at present there is no restriction at the A15 attenuation pond, it was designed as a pollution pond and so is free flowing, but that there is a requirement for storage for 4,500,000 cubic metres. Storage potential cannot be assessed until the tree clearing is complete.

Chris Ramsbotham asked if there was a timeframe for the works? Cllr Wainwright requested a programme of works. Officers confirmed that there was no programme of works or timeframe, and that tree clearance and further modelling is required before these can be produced. Cllr Wainwright stated that we are now 12 months on from the 2019 floods and that it is taking too long with no firm plan or progress. Chris Ramsbottom cited that the additional aspects that had been discovered was delaying progress. Cllr Wainwright highlighted that if NLC had engaged with the requested public consultation as requested in early 2020, they would already have this local knowledge.

Cllr Foster highlighted the importance of managing expectations and keeping residents informed, citing the necessity for the monthly progress meetings to continue, with effected residents present.

Actions Arising:

Cllr Wainwright to send contact details of effected residents to Chris Ramsbottom
Monthly meetings to continue, with invitations sent to effected residents