

Redbourne Parish Council

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Notes of the Redbourne Flooding Update meeting held at 12 noon on Wednesday 3rd March 2021, via Microsoft Teams.

Present:

Ward Councillors:	Cllr Neil Poole 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 Mike Brown – North Lincs Council
Redbourne Parish Council:	Cllr Lynn Wainwright, Chair. Holly Hanson, Clerk to Redbourne Parish Council

5 members of the public attended.

Mike Brown gave an update on works progress to date.

The Design of the headwall and Trash screen located off the B1206 is complete. A Bill of Quantity for the works have been produced and issued to the Internal Drainage Board Contractors for pricing. This will be received by NLC W/C 15/03/21.

Minor drop crossing works and the construction of an access ramp are programmed for March 2021 in order to provide access to the trash screen area for the proposed flood mitigation works and for future maintenance purposes.

This headwall and trash screen works will need to be implemented following construction of the Upstream Storage pond and downstream relief channel works in order to mitigate against any further exceedance events. Currently the trash screen is being visited every other day (or as required) on maintenance grounds.

The Design of the downstream relief channel element is now complete. NLC are currently engaged with negotiations with the Landowners regarding land acquisition options. The programme and delivery of this phase of works will follow on from any such agreements.

It is noted that during the recent inclement weather a temporary relief channel in the field beside Emmerson house was constructed following agreement between local Landowners with recompense agreed by NLC. NLC would like to thank all involved. The flood mitigation scheme will however propose a permanent engineering solution in this area.

Basic design and modelling works have been completed to restore the existing channel through the curtilage of Emmerson House. It is anticipated that full design details will be available w/c 15/03/21 in order to continue detailed discussions with the landowner.

Works have been undertaken by NLC for the clearance of the Riparian section of beck from PRoW (Park Lane) to outfall ditch and culverts. This has removed the accumulation of stone washed down from upstream and helped to reinstate the beck to capacity in this section.

It is envisaged that the drawings for the downstream relief channel can be presented at the next meeting following initial discussions with the relevant landowner.

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The design of the upstream storage element, following input and investigation by NLC has been completed w/c 22/02/21.

NLC are currently engaged in negotiations with the Landowner regarding land acquisition options. The programme and delivery of this phase of works will follow on from any such agreements.

Appropriate landscaping and management of the upstream storage element pond will be key to the holistic flood mitigation scheme. These details are currently under discussion and will be progressed through direct discussion with the landowner.

It is envisaged that the drawings for the upstream storage element can be presented at the next meeting following initial discussions with the relevant landowner.

Cllr Wainwright stated that there was still no timeframe for the works despite 15 months passing, and highlighted that during the flood event of 6th February 2021, egress into property was only averted by the swift actions of Mr Day and his staff.

Reporting that residents had lost confidence in NLC. Actions from the last report had not been progressed; she added that work would have been completed by now if this were in the private sector.

Cllr Wainwright highlighted that there had been no meeting to update since December, and that attendees had been promised a copy of the latest Pell Frischmann report 3 months ago but were yet to receive it.

Cllr Wainwright stated that commitments on timeframe were needed from NLC, as it had appeared that no progress had been made since December.

Chris Ramsbottom responded stating that the design phase of the works had progressed during this time, referencing that works had to be completed as a single project to avoid the risk of making things worse.

Currently they have a firm view of what works are required and are seeking legal approval from landowners ahead of works commencing.

Mike Brown stated that clearance works to the attenuation pond was carried out in November, and those works were essential to give detail ahead of talks with landowners.

A resident cited that there had been no mention of works to the culverts in the village, and that these were one of the main causes of flooding in the Village. In the 4 major floods since 2007, observations in the Village are that the culverts in Beck Lane and School Lane and the double culverts act as dams during flooding and cause water to flow down the road instead. The resident also cited that the relief channel was only necessary as a result of changes to the flow of water at Emmerson House.

The resident stated they were very frustrated not to have seen any modelling around the attenuation pond, so had conducted his own, calculating that the collection area for water going downstream is approximately 300 hectares. The resident went on to say that he knew there would be flooding on the 6th of February due to the saturation of the surrounding land from the 550mm of rain that had fallen over the past 3 months, as evidenced by rainfall charts. ½ inch of rain on 300 hectares results in 35,000 cubic metres of water to go through the village. When the attenuation pond is full, any further rain will just flow through the village and the drains will not cope.

The resident cited that attenuation may be a costly white elephant, with the obvious answer being to speed the flow of water through the Village. Box culverts would enable a fast and safe flow.

Alan Drury responded stating that Pell Frishmann had looked at the culverts and modelling had shown that they do not have a marked effect.

The resident responded that regardless of the lack of modelled cost benefit of replacing the culverts, practicality states that the existing culverts are inadequate, giving the example that velocity is fastest in the centre of a stream, therefore a double culvert results in concrete in the centre of the flow thus slowing it down.

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Sam Cross responded that in terms of velocity of flow, even if every culvert were replaced with a box culvert there would be no marked effect, citing that it was key to stem flow upstream and improve the exit at downstream dykes.

The resident stated that he fundamentally disagreed that the culverts had no effect, citing that there were no engineers present to witness what happened on 6th February and in previous floods.

A resident spoke in support of this view, citing that the previous resident was an expert in flooding in Redbourne having dealt with many of them; going on to say that it is blatantly obvious that the culverts are essential regardless of what professionals and consultants stated.

Sam Cross stated that all of the culverts had been entered into the final design.

Chris Ramsbottom asked if it would be helpful to meet to go through the design in detail with effected parties?

Cllr Poole stated that he supported the view on the culverts, citing that he had witnessed the issues caused by the small culverts on site in the recent flood event. The cost of replacing the culverts with box culverts is minimal, so Officers should look to include them in any plan, if only to remove the debate around them.

Chris Ramsbottom stated that he would work with Officers to see if it is something that can be incorporated into the plan

Cllr Poole stated that the catchment area for the attenuation pond was massive, and a tremendous volume of water comes through it at a monumental rate. Cllr Poole queried whether there was a need to look at stemming the flow of water to the West of the A15, and the size of the holding tanks; going on to highlight that Beck Lane acts as a funnel.

Cllr Poole stated that any issues raised needed to be addressed and included in the plan.

Cllr Foster spoke in support of Cllr Poole's statement, he recalled that it was quite horrific to see the beck on 6th of February, and that residents got away with it by the skin of their teeth, with disaster being averted not by the prompt actions of NLC but by the prompt actions of residents and Mr Day.

Cllr Foster stated that 15 months downline we are still being bombarded by science and no action, backed up by the language of Officers that it is a long-winded process. At the December meeting it was agreed that there would be monthly meetings whether there was anything to report or not, and once again this hasn't happened, there has been a complete lack of communication. There is a need for action not talking.

Chris Ramsbottom responded by stating that if negotiations with landowners went well, progress could be made very quickly.

Cllr Foster reiterated the need for strong target dates to be nailed on.

Sam Cross responded in agreement but cited that the project needed to be completed holistically and right. In terms of the engineering, we are there, the last element is talks with landowners.

With reference to the West of the A15, he confirmed that this had been looked at, but the required volume in the attenuation pond could be achieved so the flow will be stemmed there.

At School Lane the increased size highway grille will increase flow, however there is a need to be mindful of the effect downstream and could cause flooding elsewhere.

Cllr Poole stated that there were 2 things that could be actioned very quickly that were not challenging from an engineering perspective but would improve Little Redbourne and Beck Lane. There is a need to formalise with tight timeframes on the relief channel and works at Emmerson House. The vast majority of the water on 6th of

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February was going down the relief channel not the old beck, and Officers needed to work with Emmerson House to open up the flow to 1.2m so that the relief channel is the backup not the main route.

Cllr Poole stated that there was no reason that this could not be actioned ASAP, and it will have a massive benefit so should be the number 1 priority.

These works would relieve some of the fear from residents who know from experience that heavy rains will lead to flooding.

Cllr Poole stated that there was a need for commitment to works to these 2 areas.

The owner of Emmerson House stated that Mark Drust and Alan Drury had kept him informed of progress as formally NLC had not, he went on to say that it was his understanding that works to his property would progress along with the rest of the project.

A resident stated that they had received a quote to put in a serious relief channel at a cost of £8,000 and that it could be done next week with the permission of the landowner. The relief channel and box culverts were key, and without these the holistic plan was flawed.

Chris Ramsbottom stated that a formal consultation and discussion with landowners was required before anything could happen, but that NLC would go away and look at the culverts, and whilst it might be belt and braces, the low cost of the culverts was a good argument for just doing it.

Cllr Wainwright stated that she had visited Riverhead, the culvert there was under water, this being the old Redbourne River, the same level as the River Ancholme, in this situation when the sluice gates are closed at South Ferriby this will cause flooding - we need to be aware of the impact this will have on the village. The culverts do need looking at, along with the downstream plan.

Cllr Poole stated that as a result of the issues raised with culverts etc, then the next meeting needed to be in 3 weeks' time.

Cllr Foster stated that a key issue had been communication so there was a need for a written weekly report to be circulated.

Sam Cross responded that a weekly report may not give the necessary information on progression and fortnightly may be better.

Chris Ramsbottom committed to a weekly update report and the next meeting in 3 weeks' time.

Cllr Poole stated that at the next meeting he expected to have positive news and several actions ticked off, together with a date for negotiations to be completed.

Cllr Poole also cited the culvert at the pumping station also needed replacing to ensure that any increase in flow does not result in flooding there.

Cllr Wainwright stated that it was believed to belong to Anglian Water and that despite the Jetter being on-site the culvert had not been cleaned as permission had not been granted by Anglian Water.

Alan Drury stated that no discussions had been had with Anglian Water on this, and that was an action point to resolve.