

Beccles Flood Risk Management Project

January 2024

What are we telling you about?

This briefing provides an update on the progress the Beccles flood risk management project which is looking to improve flood risk management for properties at risk on Fen Lane, Bridge Street, Gillingham Dam, Northgate and Puddingmoor.

We also wanted to re-share the citizen space website for the project. This website will provide updates as the project progresses. Please use the link or QR code below to access the page.



<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/east-anqlia-c-e/becclesfm>

What's happened so far

The Environment Agency last updated you with a briefing in November 2022. This briefing and all previously issued briefings are available on the Citizen Space website link and QR code above.

In December 2020 flooding occurred from a combination of sources including from the river, surface water runoff and through the ground. Between the 24 and 29 December 2020 flooding affected The Quay, Fen Lane, Bridge Street and to some of the properties off Northgate, Puddingmoor and Gillingham Dam. 17 properties reported experiencing internal flooding with an additional 10 reports of external flooding.

Flooding has also occurred more recently as a result of Storm Babet and Storm Ciaran in October and November 2023 and due to high tides in December 2023.

We have been working with partner organisations Suffolk County Council as the Lead Local Flood Authority, Suffolk Highways, East Suffolk Council, Anglian Water, Beccles Town Council and our flood risk consultants, Jacobs, to produce a Strategic Outline Business Case.

The business case identified and assessed a list of options which could help manage flood risk from all sources of flooding in Beccles. We sought your feedback on these options via our citizen space website in November 2022. For further details on the options please visit the website.

Findings of the Strategic Outline Business Case

The Strategic Outline Business Case found there are several options that could be viable. These options provide enough benefit (through economic analysis) when compared to the cost of implementing the option.

There is an existing flood defence in Beccles consisting of brick and concrete walls, wooden flood boards and a flood gate at access points and slipways. The defences are located at Fen Lane and the Beccles Lido off Puddingmoor. A map of the defences at Fen Lane is provided on the website.

The viable options include retaining the existing flood wall at The Quay/Fen Lane but installing a new wall or embankment at the Loaves & Fishes Public House.

The existing wooden flood boards would be replaced with alternatives such as, aluminium flood boards, ramps or flood gates. Where access points are no longer needed they could be permanently closed off.

customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
03459 88 11 88

The surface water penstocks would also be fitted with non-return valves to reduce the need for human intervention.

Property Flood Resilience Measures would also be required for properties that do not benefit from the flood walls.

Next Steps

The project is now progressing to assess the viable options in more detail. In order to do this we will be refining the existing hydraulic modelling for the River Waveney and working closely with Suffolk County Council to undertake detailed surface water modelling.

This information will inform the business case and help quantify the benefit each option will provide so we can reach a preferred solution and finalise the business case.

We are keen to get your input on the refined options. Please keep checking the Citizen Space website page for the latest information.

Other Updates – Surface Water Management Plan

Alongside this project Suffolk County Council are reviewing the Surface Water Management Plan for Beccles & Worlingham, with updated hydraulic modelling to take account of recent flood data. Some measures were completed last year in Worlingham to address surface water flooding and the updated modelling will inform any further viable options to reduce the risk of flooding caused by surface water flooding.

Other Updates – Surface Water Drains

Suffolk Highways identified a surface water outfall adjacent at Bridge Street was not isolated from the River Waveney. This meant river water was able to enter the drains and

flood the road. Suffolk Highways installed a non-return valve in the outfall in February 2023. This means surface water can drain to the river, but river water cannot enter the drainage system.

Other Updates – Temporary Pump

East Suffolk Council and Waveney Norse (now East Suffolk Services), with support from the Environment Agency, set up a procedure for the deployment of a temporary pump to help alleviate flooding at Fen Lane. This procedure is still in place.

Other Updates – Community Engagement

The Environment Agency are working in collaboration with Beccles Town Council to regularly meet with residents to discuss flooding issues associated with the River Waveney in Beccles. If you would like to be more involved in these discussions, please contact Beccles Town Council via email: admin@becclestowncouncil.gov.uk or telephone: 01502 712109 for more information.

Important Numbers and Contacts

Floodline - to find latest information or report flooding

Telephone: 0345 988 1188

Textphone: 0345 602 6340

Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Incident Hotline - to report blockages or areas of concern and flooding

Telephone: 0800 80 70 60

If you have any questions, please contact: enquiries_eastanglia@environment-agency.gov.uk