

In partnership with:



Irwell Vale Flooding Update Newsletter

May 2020

Dear Resident

Since the drop in, in March we wanted to provide you with a further multi-agency update on the work ongoing in the area

Coronavirus (Covid-19) update

As you are aware, we are currently in unprecedented times with the coronavirus pandemic. Following government advice we are clear that the safety of everyone is our priority. We are also clear that much of our work has been identified as essential by the government and they are keen for us to continue to do much of this, where it remains safe to do so.

Our key priorities are to protect the health, safety and well-being of our own staff, the public and the businesses and partners we work with; to prevent loss of life and serious harm to the environment; and to keep our critical operations running.

Please continue to report flooding through to the relevant agencies, numbers to report flooding are included in the footer of this newsletter. All agencies have specific controls in place to keep customers and staff safe should a flood happen.

We wish to reassure you that work is continuing in Irwell Vale to further protect the communities from future flood events. We hope that you are all staying safe and well during this time.

Lancashire County Council update

A further survey of the culverted watercourses that flow under Bowker St and Milne St is hoped to take place during the 2020/21 financial year but this may have to be delayed until the 21/22 financial year dependent on coronavirus working restrictions and reduced dates for works programming due to the lockdown. The works will include excavating down to the culverts in suitable locations on the carriageway to allow access to clean them of silt/debris so that the camera survey can take place. The purpose of the surveys is to determine the routes and the condition of the culverts that take surface water from Bowker St, Milne St and upstream, to the main river. Residents will be informed prior to the commencement of the survey so that access can be made for works vehicles.



Following Storm Ciara Lancashire County Council, have checked the surface water pumps at Meadow Park and they are in full working order

These pumps are capable of pumping 120 litres a second each and are programmed to pump alternately or in tandem if required.

Rossendale Borough Council update

Flood hardship grants are available of £500 for households and £2,500 for business for any property that was flooded in the recent storms. Flood resilience grants are available of £5000 to improve properties to avoid future flooding for both households and businesses. Those who have a property that has previously benefited from the grant cannot claim a second time. Those who's properties that are unlivable following the floods may claim a minimum 3 months council tax / business rates relief.

https://www.rossendale.gov.uk/info/210193/emergency_planning_and_flooding/10736/flooding

Environment Agency update

We have been working with our Consultants, Jacobs, to refine the hydraulic modelling tool for the river Irwell and Ogden. Alongside this, we have developed a long list of options which have the potential to reduce flood risk or impacts of flooding in Irwell Vale, Strongstry and Chatterton. These options have been narrowed down to three potential solutions. We will be using the modelling tool to test the effectiveness of these options. We expect to be in a position to share the outcome of this investigation within the next few months. In addition to this, following the flooding in February, we are taking the opportunity to ensure our hydraulic model accurately represents the observed flooding.

Following this we will undertake an economics assessment. This will determine the economic benefits associated with each of the options in accordance with appraisal guidance. We will assess the benefits and costs of each of the options, and propose the most economically favorable solution likely to attract the maximum funding from Government. The likely scenario is that private contributions will be required to deliver any flood risk management scheme and we will continue to work with partners to secure this funding

Natural Flood Management (NFM)

As well as the Appraisal work being carried out, we are working with our partners to deliver Natural Flood Management (NFM) measures in the upper Irwell catchment. These measures, such as tree planting or moorland restoration, whilst not being a total flooding solution on their own, help to slow the flow of water off of the land into the rivers. This can work together with more formal flood defences by helping to reduce overall Water levels

We are currently working with Moors for the Future to carry out moorland restoration on Holcombe Moor. We are hoping that this work will start this year, however, due to government guidance and the uncertainties around Covid-19, projects may take longer than usual but rest assured we are doing everything we can to progress this project.

Topic for future editions of this newsletter

If you there are any flood-related issues that you would like exploring or explaining, please pass your requests to your Councillors Janice Johnson

JaniceJohnson@rossendalebc.gov.uk and Anne Cheetham Anne.Cheetham@lancashire.gov.uk, for them to forward to our local teams who will provide the next updates.

Advice on flooding incident

To report flooding or a blockage please contact the Environment Agency 24hrs incident hotline on **0800 807060**

Further information and help is available at the **FloodHub** <https://thefloodhub.co.uk/>

For help and information during a flood call Floodline on **0345 988 1188** Advice on preparing for a flood, what to do during flooding conditions and what to do after a flood subsides, can be found on Lancashire County Council's website: www.lancashire.gov.uk/flooding