

Flood risk at Violets Lane, Furneux Pelham

September 2018

What we have been doing

We have recently investigated a range of options to reduce flooding from the River Ash along Violets Lane. One option was deemed to be viable based on the benefits outweighing the costs. These options were presented to members of the public at the village hall in May 2018.

Viable option update

The viable option would have involved partially realigning the river a few metres to the west adjacent to properties on Violets Lane, creating space to construct a low earth embankment at the rear of the gardens. The total estimated cost was approximately £610,000. UK government funding policy indicates that approximately £565,000 of contributions would be required to fully fund the project.

Unfortunately we are not able to secure sufficient contributions from external sources to fully fund the project. The scheme also does not attract any further government funding over and above what has been made available to date. We have also considered the communities feedback, but any variations to the option would also be subject to the same funding constraints.

Embankment update

As part of our recent project, we investigated the hand dug holes in the earth embankment opposite Violets Lane. These were dug by residents during the 2014 flooding. Our investigation shows that the holes may slightly reduce maximum river levels during smaller more frequent flood events. However, it may increase maximum river levels during larger flood events.

Property flood resistance

Property flood resistance (PFR) offers a cost effective alternative approach to reduce flooding impacts for individual properties. A wide range of PFR products are available. Some are simple and temporary while others involve permanent structural work. Examples of PFR include purpose built doors that act as a barrier to flood water. Other examples are barriers that can be installed in doorways when flooding is imminent, fitting non-return valves to drains or specially designed covers that are easy to fit over ventilation bricks.

Making your property resilient to floodwater will limit damage caused by flooding. This means less costly repairs and less time out of your home. You can also make improvements that reduce the effects flood water has in your home. For example, drying-out and cleaning up times are faster and easier.

The cost of purchasing and installing PFR products varies. An independent study in 2012 reported that the average cost of PFR per property was less than £5,000 which includes independent property survey, design, products and installation etc.

Further independent information on PFR is available, including a comprehensive list of products found in the 'Blue Pages' directory, on the National Flood Forum website www.floodforum.org.uk.

In the future Government funding may be available for the installation of PFR measures. This funding would be for homes that are at the highest risk of flooding. We are investigating a plan to support the installation of PFR for the properties that meet these criteria. This would focus on those communities where flood reduction projects have been found to be unviable. If this plan goes ahead, installation of PFR would not begin until at least 2021.

customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
03459 88 11 88

Know your flooding

We want communities to better understand their local flooding and know what to do before, during and after a flood. Our website is a good resource to find out more: <https://www.gov.uk/check-flood-risk>.

Planning for a flood can help reduce stress and panic during an emergency and also aid a fast recovery. We recommend that residents at risk of flooding along Violets Lane create personal flood plans. You can also work as a community to help each other prepare and respond. Personal and community flood plans have multiple benefits. They can help to; identify who may need extra support; who is able to help others; what useful and practical resources are available to support. They can also be used to support homeowners who require manual installation of PFR before a flood.

If you would like to find out more information then please contact us at frr-hnl@environment-agency.gov.uk.

Maintenance schedule 18/19

Each year we make decisions on where and when we will carry out maintenance to main rivers. We plan our maintenance to make sure we provide the greatest benefits to people and property at risk of flooding.

This year we have decided to continue our bi-monthly maintenance of the River Ash along Violets Lane. This will help ensuring the river is able to flow freely. Typically this will include vegetation management and debris removal where the sewer pipe crosses the river behind the Brewery Tap and grass cut downstream of The Street.

We have published the updated annual flood and coastal maintenance programme for 2017/18 on the GOV.UK website.

Next steps

We will continue to be available to provide guidance and advice to residents who are interested in installing PFR.

Further information on the project is available on the following link:

<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/hnl/violets-lane/>

Contact us

Please contact us if you have questions about our investigation: Contact us on 020 847 47306, or alternatively send an email to hnl-pso@environment-agency.gov.uk.

Call our incident hotline to report:

- blockages and fly-tipping in rivers that poses an immediate flood risk
- river flooding
- pollution in a river
- Illegal fishing, dead fish or fish gasping for air

Telephone: 0800 80 70 60 (24 hour service)