



Datchet and Wraysbury public events summary report

Datchet to Hythe End Flood Improvement Measures,
summary outputs from public drop-ins held on 24 and
25 November 2023

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Foreword

In November 2023, the Environment Agency and the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead held 2 public drop-in events in Wraysbury and Datchet. The purpose of this document is to provide a summary of the events, giving an overview of the feedback received and setting out how this will inform the next stages of the scheme.

Scheme background

The Datchet to Hythe End Flood Improvement Measures is a project run in partnership by the Environment Agency and the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, to explore ways to reduce flood risk to communities in the Datchet, Horton, Wraysbury and Old Windsor area.

The River Thames has a long history of flooding. In 2014, over 130 properties flooded in the study area, with major impacts on people and infrastructure. People were forced to leave their homes for months and years in some cases due to the severity of damage. With climate change, the risk of flooding is going to grow.

The River Thames from Datchet to Hythe End was previously included in the River Thames Scheme as Channel 1. However, Channel 1 was neither viable nor deliverable without either additional funding or greater flexibility sought over council tax. This meant that the River Thames Scheme Sponsorship Group decided in July 2020 to proceed without Channel 1.

Datchet to Hythe End Flood Improvement Measures was therefore established to explore alternative options. The main objectives of the events were to provide:

- local communities with up-to-date information about the scheme
- a timeline of activities and proposed engagement through the next stage of the scheme over the next 2 to 3 years
- an opportunity for local communities to meet with the project team members and ask questions

Event organisation

We held 2 public drop-in events. The first was at the Wraysbury Hub on Friday 24 November 2023 and the second was at Datchet Women's Institute on Saturday 25 November 2023.

We advertised the events in advance using the following media:

- local newspaper (Windsor & Slough Express)
- social media,
- one of RBWM's newsletters,
- direct e-mailing to key stakeholders
- online at Gov.uk <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/datchet-to-hythe-end-flood-improvement-measures>
- online at Citizen space. <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/thames/datchet-to-hythe-end-fim/> - Citizen Space ([environment-agency.gov.uk](https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk))

Event content and attendance

The events included 12 display boards with information about the project, which were set up at the venues. Board content included:

- background to the project
- information about the wide range of approaches we are looking at to see if they could reduce flood risk
- maps showing local flood risk
- other projects that residents may be interested in.

Information was also presented on how to reduce flood risk now, including signing up for flood warnings and how to make a flood plan. QR codes were provided for quick access to further information.

The event in Wraysbury was open to the public from 11am to 4.30pm. The Datchet event was open between 10.30am and 4 pm. Members of the project team were on hand throughout the events to engage with attendees and answer any questions.

In parallel with the events, we launched the citizen space web page, providing content in line with the panel display: <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/thames/datchet-to-hythe-end-fim/>

Across these 2 events there were 151 attendees (90 in Wraysbury and 61 in Datchet).

Event feedback

We received 35 feedback forms with 25 being completed at the events and 10 being submitted via the scheme Citizen Space online form.

You can find graphs illustrating the data from the 35 respondents in Appendix A.

Event feedback comments

There were 2 questions on the feedback forms that asked for general comments from respondents.

Question 8 asked for ideas and aspirations for the local area. In the replies to this question:

- some people indicated that they were concerned about clearing and dredging the river
- others expressed concern about flood prevention, the need to protect the environment, and the speed of implementing flood prevention measures.

Question 9 was an open question, requesting any other general comments. In response to this question:

- some people showed that they were concerned about funding and ensuring that the scheme moves forward.
- Some people took the opportunity to re-iterate their desire to have the river dredged, made various suggestions for local improvements and expressed concerns about the speed of implementing flood measures.

Next steps

We are developing potential flood improvement measures specific to the project area, which includes evaluating our options using engineering, economic and environmental criteria so that we can select a short list of potential options. As part of this, we are considering all the feedback we have received from these initial events.

We will share the findings of our proposed short list on our website and at further public events, which we aim to hold later this year. At this time, we will seek views on these shortlisted options and take them into consideration as we select the preferred option for the scheme.

Appendix A: Feedback Data

A total of 35 individual feedback forms were completed. This is a relatively small sample size in comparison to the population of the study area, of about 5000 people.

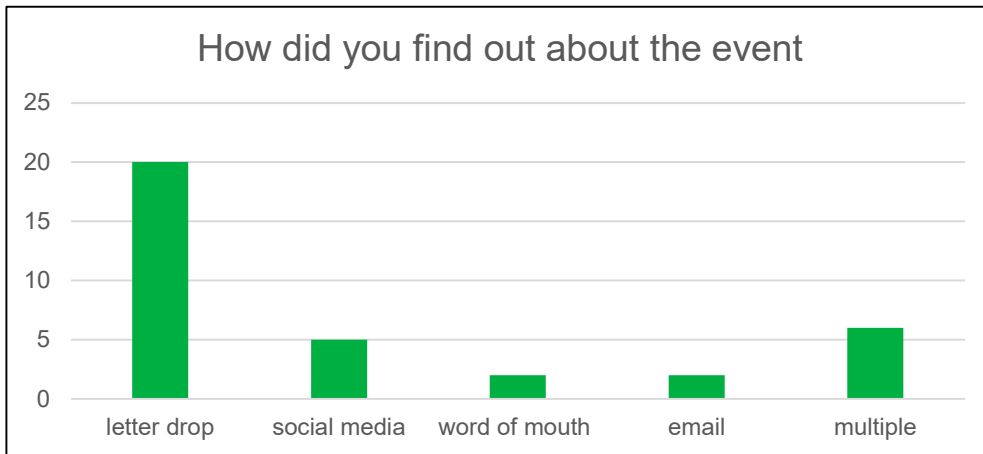


Figure A1: Feedback on how respondents found out about the events

The graph shows that most people heard about the event through a letter drop, with social media, word of mouth and email also mentioned.

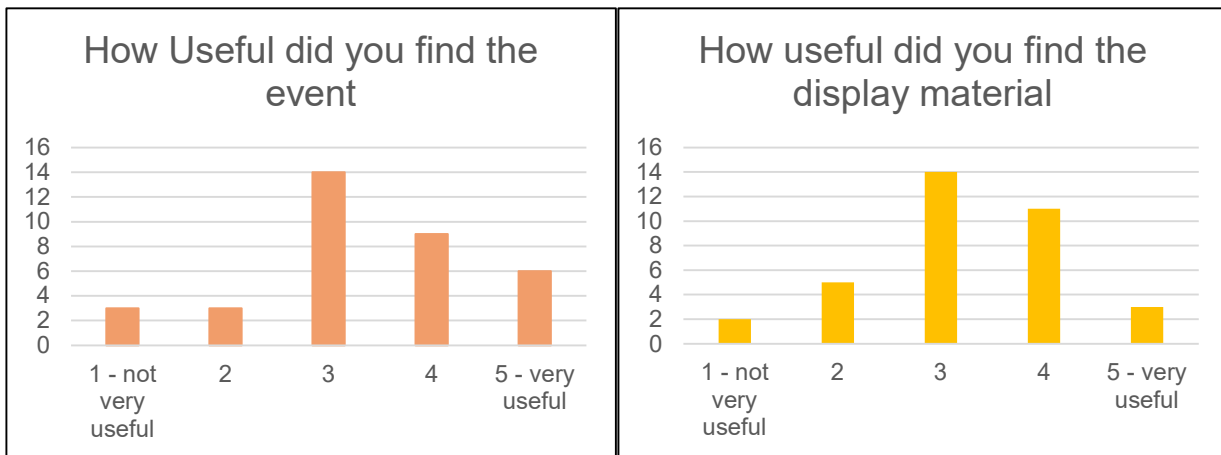


Figure A2: Responses on usefulness of the event and the display materials (scored on a scale from 1 to 5)

Both graphs show a similar response. The event and display material were most commonly described as being of average use, but a higher proportion of people described it as useful/very useful than not very useful.

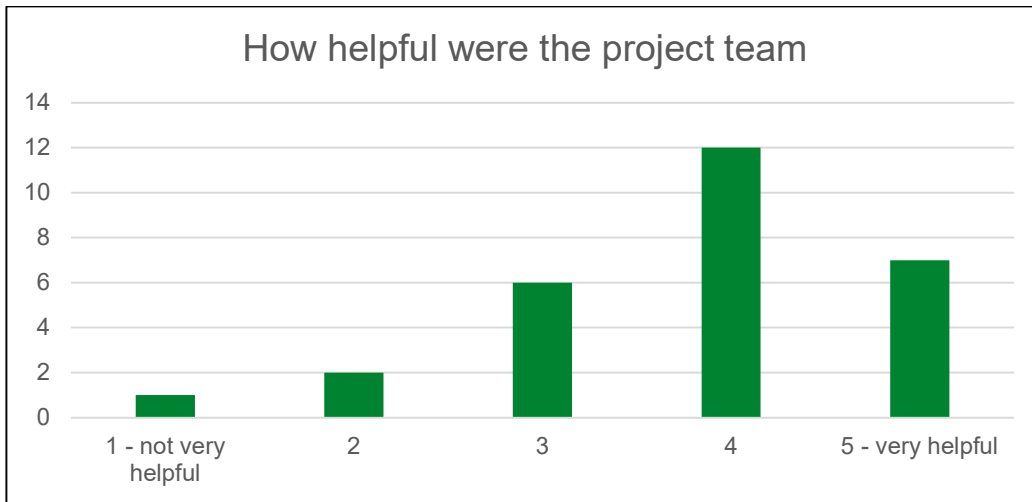
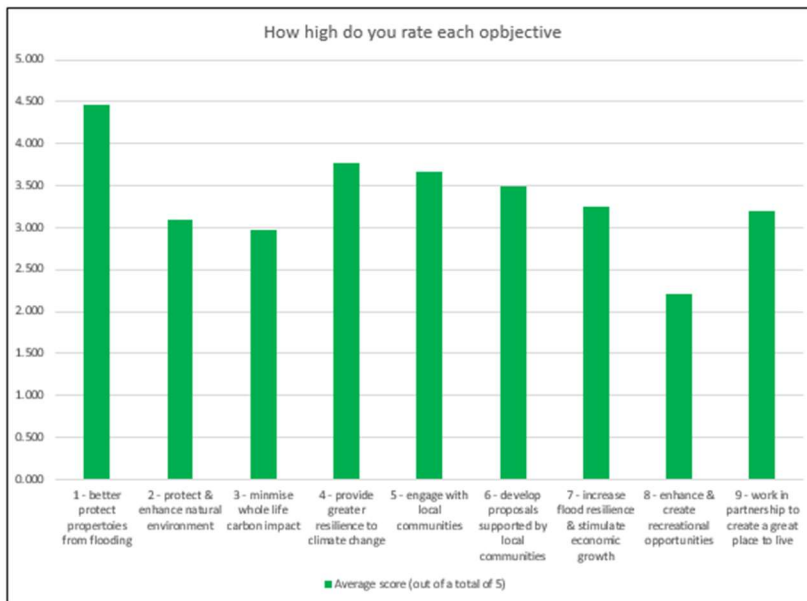


Figure A2: Responses on helpfulness of the project team (scored on a scale of 1 to 5)

The most popular score here was 4 (out of 5), followed by 5; only 3 people in total rated team helpfulness below average.



Data obtained from questionnaires completed by 35 respondents, asked to rate each objective with a score of 1-5. Scores were then averaged across the group

Figure A4: Feedback on relative importance of the project objectives.

The most popular response here was 'better protect properties from flooding', with an average score much higher than all other objectives. Most other objectives scored just above average, with the only below average score being 'enhance and create recreational opportunities'.

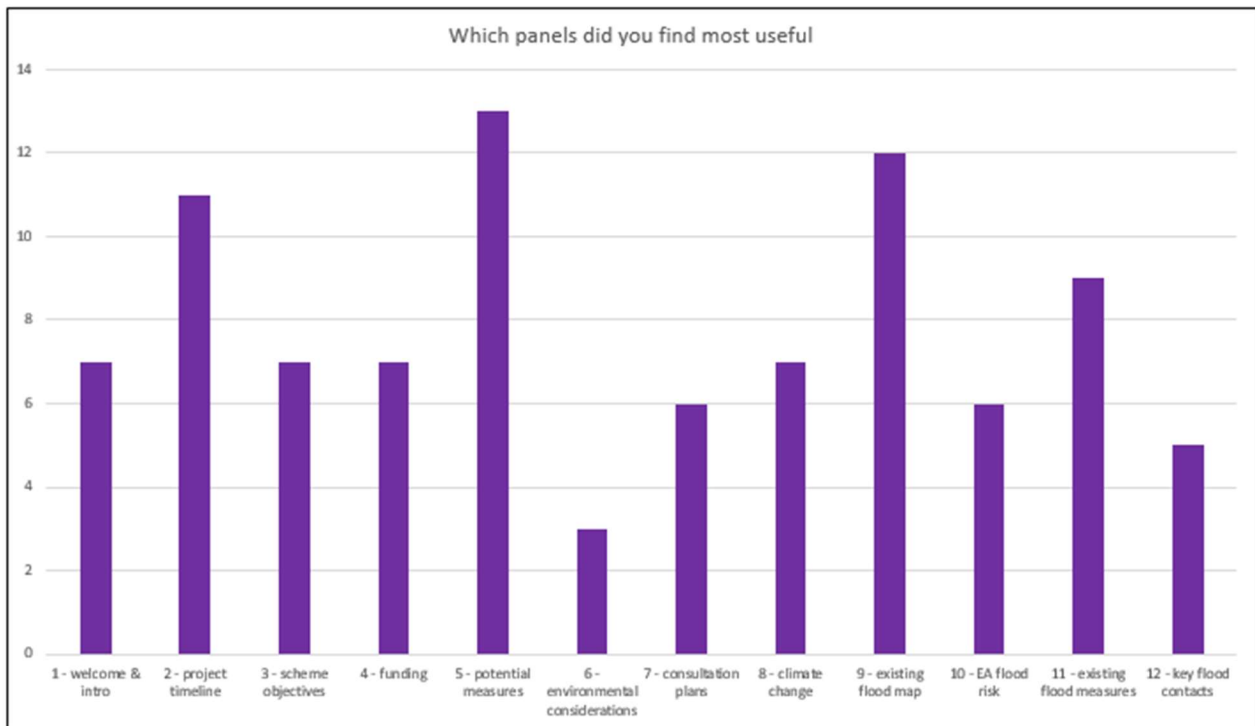


Figure A5: Feedback on the usefulness of individual panels (based on respondents nominating up to 3 panels that were most useful)

The most useful panels were those showing the potential measures (13 votes), the existing flood map (12 votes) and the project timeline (11 votes). The lowest scores were for environmental considerations (3 votes) and key flood contacts (5 votes). The other 7 panels scored between 6 and 9 votes.

The information below provides a summary of the demographic information from the completed surveys.

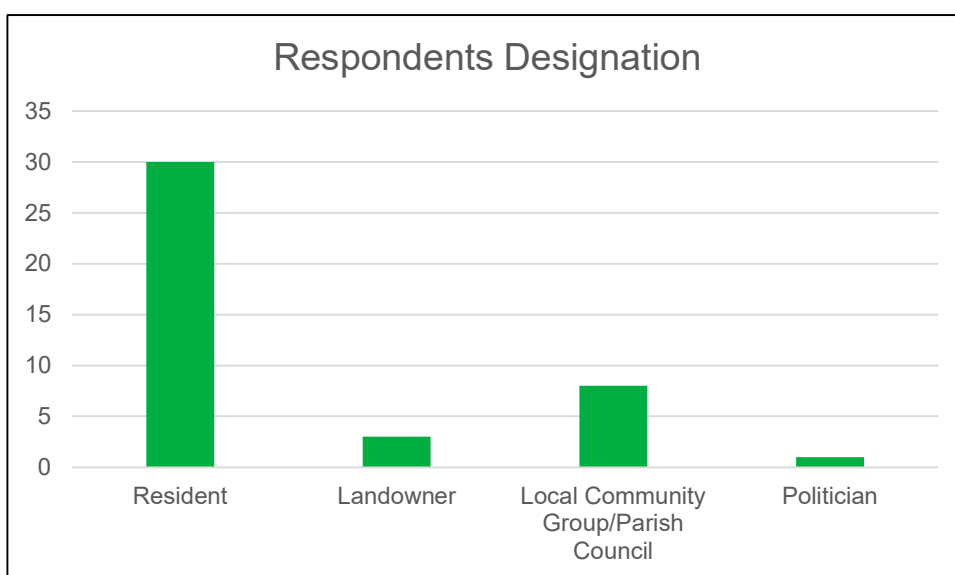


Figure A6: Respondents designation (more than 1 category was selected by some respondents)

Of the 31 respondents, 30 were local residents; 8 were members of a local community group/Parish Council, 3 were landowners and 1 was a politician.

Age category	Number of respondents
65+ years old	20 (69%)
56 - 60 years old	8 (28%)
46 - 55 years old	1 (3%)
30 – 45 years old	0
20 – 30 years old	0
Under 20 years old	0

Table A1: Age of Respondents

Ethnicity	Number of respondents
British	11
White British	5
White	4
English	3
Anglo-Saxon	1
White Australian	1
White English	1
White non-British	1

Table A2: Ethnic Group selected by respondents

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