

Environment Agency Update

Beales Corner, Bewdley

July 2021

The Environment Agency project team, together with the local community and local authorities, is working to develop a flood risk management scheme for Beales Corner in Bewdley. This newsletter is to provide the latest update on the project.

Scheme funding

On the 27th of July 2021 Minister Pow visited Bewdley and we are delighted to say that during this visit it was announced that Government has allocated £6.2m of growth funding for the Bewdley Left Bank Flood Risk Management scheme.

This funding combined with the funding commitments made by Worcestershire County Council and Wyre Forest District Council should allow the Environment Agency to deliver the scheme. There are still risks to delivery that the Project Team needs to work through, such as securing planning application, all historic consents and managing the large number of utilities that are located along the potential alignment of any raised defence. The Environment Agency together with all partners are committed to driving forward the delivery of this project.



This funding combined with the funding commitments made by Worcestershire County Council and Wyre Forest District Council should allow the Environment Agency to deliver the scheme. There are still risks to delivery that the Project Team needs to work through, such as securing planning application, all historic consents and managing the large number of utilities that are located along the potential alignment of any raised defence. The Environment Agency together with all partners are committed to driving forward the delivery of this project.

Progress update

Over the last couple of months, we have been working with our partners and key stakeholders to develop the outline design of a potential flood risk management scheme. We have been focusing on the following areas:

The recent surveys undertaken for the temporary barrier assessment has been utilised to help inform the design development. In addition we have undertaken further ecology surveys and the archaeology desk based survey.

We are working with Historic England and local planning authority to understand the historic and conservation impact on any design.

Along the riverfront of Beales Corner, there is a large number of buried utilities. We are working to understand the exact locations and any impact that these may have on the potential design. As part of this work, we are working with Severn Trent Water to consider future pumping arrangements.

Future developments

The project is progressing and the team are now working on developing the potential design for the scheme, incorporating the results from the site surveys. Understanding the utilities information and the ground conditions across the site allows us to produce options that are technically viable and would be able to resist the force of the flood waters around the site. We are also undertaking the following activities;

We are working to produce an Environmental Impact Assessment report. This report will help inform the eventual planning application.

Potential outline design, including preparation of design drawings for discussion with key stakeholders, the community and landowners.

We are preparing for public consultation in September 2021. Please keep your eyes out for our next newsletter with more information on the consultation.

Contact Us

More information will follow, but in the meantime, please contact BLBFRMS@Environment-Agency.gov.uk if you have any queries or comments, or contact us via your town council.

We're on Twitter: Please follow @EnvAgencyMids

We're on Facebook: www.facebook.com/environmentagency

On the web: <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/west-midlands/bealesfrms/>