

Environment Agency Update

Beales Corner, Bewdley

July 2022

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.

In the past, a flood risk management scheme had not been economically viable and temporary barriers were used to reduce the risk of flooding in the area. Following the 2020 flood events £6.2m of funding was made available to develop a flood risk management scheme for the area.

Current design

We undertook a range of community engagement events from March to June 2022 where we presented the initial proposed design. We have noted the feedback from these events and we are considering how we amend the design accordingly where possible. We plan to organise a further series of sessions in the autumn to discuss any changes we have made.

The current solution consists of a combination of the demountable barriers, permanent raised walls and glass panels. There will be glass panels forming part of the defence at key locations, this will maintain views across the river.

The photos below show the approximate alignment and extend of the proposed demountable defences by Quayside and gives an artist impression of what the defences may look like on other sections of the scheme.



The design aims for this scheme are to:

- Reduce flood risk to people, properties, businesses, and highways resulting from overtopping of the River Severn
- Deliver a flood risk management scheme that is supported by the local community
- Integrate with and where possible enhance the natural environment, biodiversity and heritage value of the area
- Design and develop a scheme which has minimal operational and maintenance requirements



- Provide the same standard of protection as provided by the Severnside flood defence on the right bank.
- Ensure the bridge remains open during flooding, benefiting the entire community of Bewdley.

Progress update

We have been engaging with various stakeholders, including Wyre Forest District Council, Worcestershire County Council, Historic England and Natural England to prepare for the submission of the planning application. We will let the community know as and when the planning application is ready for submission.

We have also been engaging with utility companies about utilities we may affect by our scheme. It is highly likely that we will need to undertake several utility alterations before being able to build the flood risk management scheme.

We have started engaging with the community, with a drop in event and a series of community meetings in the spring of 2022. We were pleased to see how well attended these sessions were.

An online 'Virtual room' consultation was also made available to the community throughout May and June.

We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all the residents and partners who took part in these engagement sessions.

We will continue to engage with the community in the autumn 2022.



Residents talking with our team at one of the community drop-in sessions in March

Next steps

Over the coming months we will focus on:

- Ongoing detailed design of the scheme
- Continue engagement with the public and key stakeholders
- Utility services diversion
- Submission of planning permission
- Preparation and approval of the Outline Business Case in accordance with HM Treasury spending rules

Contact Us

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

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