

# Keeping you informed York Flood Alleviation Scheme

We are dedicated to better protecting 2,000 properties in York from flooding. The aim of this newsletter is to update you on progress with our schemes and inform you of upcoming public events.

## Almery Terrace flood defences get a makeover

*Lower Bootham*

At the beginning of November, heavy rainfall upstream in the River Ouse catchment led to flooding downstream. In York, the river level peaked at 4.24 metres AOD – the 13<sup>th</sup> highest peak recorded at the Viking Recorder.



*Left: floodwater against the flood embankment in St Peter's School field. Right: the new glass panels on Almery Terrace.*

The flooding had an inevitable impact on our construction work in Lower Bootham. We had to delay work on the flood embankment, which in turn, has led to us extending the footpath closure between Westminster Road and the riverside to mid-December.

Despite the delay, we have finished the majority of work on the flood embankment and have successfully installed the glass panels and new flood gates at Almery Terrace. We will return in spring next year, to install a flood gate on top of the Almery Terrace steps and join this to the Network Rail embankment to complete the new line of flood defence. This will reduce the risk of flooding to 156 homes and businesses in Lower Bootham.

## Join us to talk about property flood resilience in Naburn

*Naburn*

On Tuesday 15 December, we are hosting an online public meeting to provide the Naburn community with more information about the Property Flood Resilience scheme we are offering to homes and businesses vulnerable to flooding. The Zoom event will start at 6.30pm and consist of a short presentation from the project team, followed by a question and answer session. To submit questions to our Slido page before or during the meeting, go to <https://www.sli.do/> and enter the event code #NaburnC3. To join the Zoom meeting, use the details below:

Meeting ID: 845 2763 9643

Passcode: NaburnC3

## Our work in Museum Gardens gets approval

*Marygate*



*The flood embankment in Museum Gardens*

On 26 November, City of York Council approved our planning application to increase the height of, and extend, the flood embankment in Museum Gardens. This work is part of a wider scheme to reduce the risk of flooding to 57 homes and businesses in the Marygate area.

Alongside work on the embankment next summer, we will install glass panels and flood gates, similar to those we have installed at Almerly Terrace, at Earlsborough Terrace. We will also increase the height of the flood wall between Esplanade Court and Museum Gardens and install demountable panels on top of the Marygate flood gate. As part of this work, we will adjust the step in the flood gateway next to Scarborough Bridge to improve ease of access.

## New year, new Clementhorpe

### *Clementhorpe*

We have not yet satisfied the pre-start planning conditions. As a result we are now looking to start construction of the Clementhorpe flood defences after Christmas. This will help limit disruption to residents over the holiday period, but will mean the completion date for the scheme is pushed back.

The £7.7 million scheme runs from Skeldergate Bridge to Rowntree Park to better protect 135 properties from risk of flooding by the River Ouse, was approved by City of York Council last June.



*Diagram of our proposed flood scheme for Clementhorpe.*

Setting up the compound will now start in the New Year to minimise disruption to the local community during the holiday period. This will also avoid having a half-built compound in place over the Christmas holidays, which could be at risk of flooding or vandalism. Once the planning conditions have been approved, we will be able to begin construction.

Residents need to be aware that during construction of the scheme, they will not be able to park on the north side of Butcher Terrace, to provide adequate space for wider construction vehicles and other road users such as cyclists to pass safely. However, once the construction compound is built, there will be alternative parking provided at the compound for at least 10 vehicles. Residents who have houses with private driveways will not be impacted.

Any resident who has concerns about the project can discuss them with the project team by emailing: [yorkfloodplan@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:yorkfloodplan@environment-agency.gov.uk) or can contact our National Customer Contact Centre at Tel: 03708 506 506.

## Decision time for the Foss Storage Area

### *The River Foss*

We are proposing to construct a flood storage area north-east of Strensall to help reduce peak flows in the river, and so reduce the risk of flooding to 490 properties downstream. During heavy rain, the structure will fill with water, temporarily holding back flood water. Once the flood has passed, the water in the storage area will be gradually let out. For the vast majority of time the structure will remain empty which means that farming practices will be able to continue in the area.

Materials for building the embankment for the storage area will be taken from within the site, creating pits which fill with water and act as permanent shallow ponds, providing wetland habitat for wildlife.

Due to its location, we needed to submit planning applications to both City of York and Ryedale District councils. City of York Council approved the scheme at their Planning Committee meeting on 19 November and Ryedale District Council also approved it at their Committee meeting on 8 December.

**To sign up for updates on any of the flood schemes mentioned in this newsletter, please email us at [yorkfloodplan@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:yorkfloodplan@environment-agency.gov.uk) and include the scheme's name or location in the subject of the email.**





## Spotlight on our Tree Strategy

*We are committed to planting five trees for every tree felled in the construction of our flood schemes. Now we need your help to tell us where to plant them.*

Our first priority will always be to adapt the design of our schemes to minimise the number of trees which need to be removed. However, we often need space to build embankments, move large machinery around, ensure access for maintenance or make sure that there are no obstructions that could damage flood defences. In these situations, we must remove some trees to enable our flood defence work to proceed.

We are working with City of York Council, the Woodland Trust and other organisations to find the best sites for replacement tree planting around the city and surrounding areas. Where possible, we want to deliver multiple benefits, including maintaining or creating new habitats, linking areas through ecological corridors, and improving the health and wellbeing of local residents.

You can [read more about our Tree Strategy on our website](#).

### What we've done so far

We have adapted our schemes on a number of occasions to reduce the number of trees which need to be removed. In Clementhorpe, we have opted to crown lift the trees along Terry Avenue to create space for our construction vehicles without the need to remove the trees. In Museum Gardens, we have adapted the design of our flood embankment to save the rare True Service Tree from being felled.



*Crown lifting is the removal of the lower branches from a tree.*

In November, we provided Foxwood in Bloom with 22 saplings for volunteers from Aviva and Foxwood Residents Association to plant in Dickson Park.

Some local residents have kindly agreed to assist with the maintenance of these trees. As for any of the trees we plant, we will also be arranging for a local contractor to do regular maintenance for five years to help the trees establish fully.



*Volunteers planting the trees we provided for planting in Dickson Park.*

We are also planting some trees as part of the post-construction landscaping work in Memorial Gardens this winter. We removed three trees here in March 2019 to provide space for the small flood embankment which links the Memorial Gardens flood wall to higher ground. There isn't space for us to plant all 15 replacement trees here, so the remainder will be planted elsewhere in the city.

### Next steps

Next year, we will continue to look for opportunities for tree planting throughout the city. We are already in conversation with a forest school in the Heslington area, and plan to get involved with many other small community and environmental groups over the next year or so. Overall, we expect to need to plant over 300 additional trees as a result of our scheme. We will continue to work with our partners to find suitable locations for these which maximise the benefits to York's environment and its communities.

If you have any suggestions as to where we can plant our trees, please let us know by emailing us at [yorkfloodplan@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:yorkfloodplan@environment-agency.gov.uk).



## What's happening in our other flood cells?

### Clifton and Rawcliffe (B10)

We are developing a programme for work to start in early 2021. We will provide more information about our construction work and timescales before this work starts.

### Foss Storage Area (F8, F10, F11)

City of York Council and Ryedale District Council are deciding our planning applications this month and we should know the outcome by the end of the year. If the scheme is approved, we plan to start work in summer 2021.

### Westfield Beck (F12)

We are carrying out some more appraisal work to find the best way to reduce flooding for this flood cell. We are continuing discussions with Yorkshire Water regarding their sewer infrastructure and City of York Council regarding surface water flooding.

### Lower Bootham (B11)

We have increased the height of the flood embankment and the flood defences along Almerly Terrace. We will return in 2021 to install a flood gate on Almerly Terrace steps and work on the Network Rail embankment.

### Scarborough Bridge to Ouse Bridge (B4)

We have completed work on improving the flood wall and gates on North Street. We will return in spring 2021 to install a taller flood gate under Lendal Bridge.

### Skeldergate and Queen's Staith (B7)

We will get in touch with eligible homeowners to arrange property flood resilience surveys in 2021.

### South Bank (B8)

Our contractors JBA have finished the property flood resilience surveys here. If you feel like you have been missed, please get in touch.

### Acaster Malbis (C2)

We have determined Property Flood Resilience as the best approach to dealing with flooding for this flood cell.

### Naburn (C3)

We are offering property flood resilience measures to homes and businesses vulnerable to flooding and will be engaging with the community this month.

### Tang Hall and Osbaldwick Becks (F4&F5)

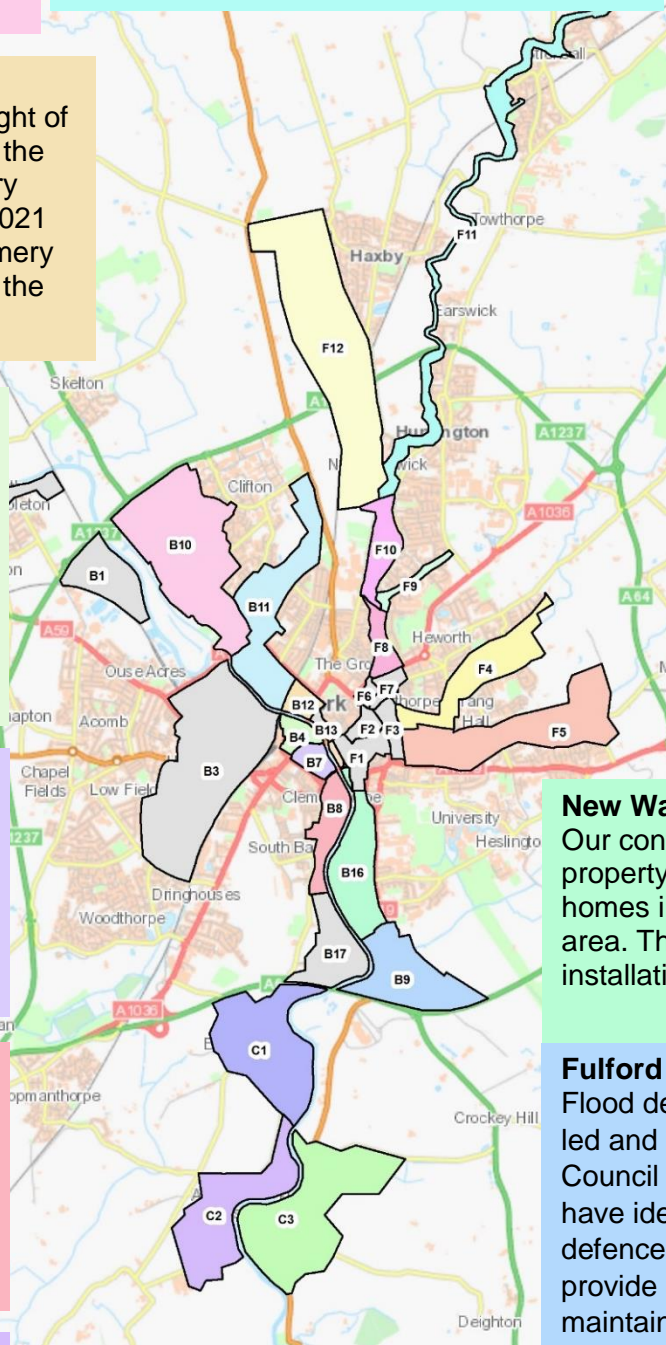
We have completed ground investigations at St Nick's Nature Reserve and are still assessing the feasibility of creating a new channel for Osbaldwick Beck in the nature reserve.

### New Walk (B16)

Our contractors have started to install property flood resilience measures to homes in the New Walk and Fulford area. They will continue with these installations into the new year.

### Fulford (B9)

Flood defence work in this cell is being led and delivered by City of York Council in partnership with us. They have identified a preferred option of defences and a pumping station to provide protection to homes and maintain access on Fordlands Road during flooding. The scheme will also aid future flood resilience on the A19. The next stage of detailed design and preparation of all planning and other approvals will start in January.














## Be prepared for winter flooding

### Our Flood Action Campaign

In England there are over 5 million properties at risk of flooding, but most people assume it'll never happen to them. According to recent polling, only a third of people in areas at risk of flooding believe that their home could be at risk. And with climate change already causing more frequent, intense flooding and rising sea levels, we all need to know what to do, should the worst happen.

### DO YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO IN A FLOOD?

FLOOD ALERT <b>PREPARE</b>	FLOOD WARNING <b>ACT</b>	SEVERE FLOOD WARNING <b>SURVIVE</b>
 Pack medicines & insurance docs	 Move things upstairs or to safety	 Follow emergency services' advice
 Visit the flood warning information service	 Turn off gas, water & electricity	 Immediate danger? Call 999
 Visit the flood warning information service	 Move family, pets & car to safety	 Stay safe

**Knowing what to do in a flood could save your life.** We estimate that the average cost of flooding to a home is around £30,000. Flooding also brings a significant risk to life. The mental health impacts of flooding can last for 2 years or more after flooding has happened. Depression, anxiety and PTSD can affect up to a third of people who have been flooded. But, crucially, taking steps to prepare for flooding, and knowing what to do in a flood can significantly reduce the damages to a home and possessions (by around 40%), reduce risk to life, and reduce the likelihood of suffering from mental health impacts in the future.

**Know how to Prepare. Act. Survive.** The good news is that there are some simple things you can do to prepare for flooding. Knowing what to do in a flood could help keep you and your family safe, and save you thousands of pounds in damages and disruption.

For more information and to find out if you are at risk [visit the 'what to do in a flood' page](#) on GOV.UK to get prepared.

## Thank you Bishopthorpe!

### Bishopthorpe

Thank you to those from the Bishopthorpe community who joined us for our online public meeting on 4 November. The meeting was held to provide more information about our scheme which will better protect 117 properties in the village from flooding by building a flood wall and gate on Chantry Lane.

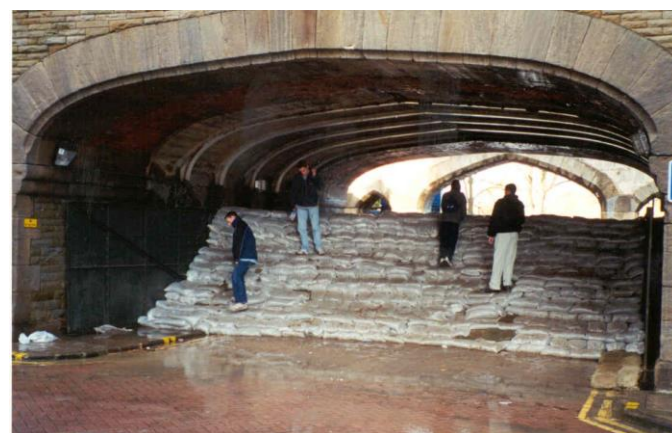
25 people attended the event, and 49 questions were asked in the Q&A session. A recording of the meeting is now available to [view on our Youtube page](#).

If you would like us to provide you with a summary of the event, please email us at [yorkfloodplan@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:yorkfloodplan@environment-agency.gov.uk)

We are currently focussing on the pre-works activities described in the presentation and hope to start work on site early in the New Year.

## A look back on the floods of November 2000

### York FAS



Sandbags against the Lendal Arch floodgate in 2000

In his recent blog on the GOV.UK website, our colleague Mark Fuller looks back on the Environment Agency's response during the November 2000 floods. This is still the highest flood we have on record for York and as Duty Operations Manager at the time, Mark and his incident response team had quite a lot on their hands.

You can [read the blog on the GOV.UK website here](#).

