Keeping you informed
York Flood Alleviation Scheme

September 2020

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.

Planning submitted for Marygate and Museum Gardens

As part of a wider scheme to better protect properties in Marygate from flooding, we are planning to raise and extend the existing flood embankment in Museum Gardens.

Our revised plans involve terracing the embankment adjacent to the Hospitium. This will help to stabilise the bank and reduce the need to widen it towards the rare True Service Tree. It will also provide York Museums Trust with an opportunity to create a new feature in the Gardens. Unfortunately, we will still need to remove some trees, but are committed to planting five for every one we take out. We are working closely with York Museums Trust and City of York Council to find locations for these trees, and welcome your suggestions as to where these can be planted.

We have submitted our planning application to City of York Council for validation. We will inform those on our mailing list when the plans are available to view and comment on CYC’s planning portal.

Bishopthorpe scheme gets the go-ahead

On 14 August, City of York Council approved our plans for the Bishopthorpe Flood Alleviation Scheme. This will provide flood protection for 117 properties in an area formerly unprotected against flooding.

Over the coming weeks, we will continue to work with the Council and the community to meet the planning conditions that have been set, before starting work on site over the winter of 2020/2021. Please sign up to receive our Bishopthorpe newsletter if you want to get updates via email.

Get in touch to find out how we’re reducing the risk of flooding in York.
**Spotlight on Burdyke**

The risk of flooding from Burdyke in the Clifton area is complex. We commissioned an independent hydraulic modelling study to review the causes of flooding and what can potentially be done to improve the situation.

**Flooding history**

Burdyke is a minor tributary of the River Ouse and is mostly culverted underground through the Clifton area. Burdyke flows within the culvert from Clifton Backies through the urban area of Clifton to Burdyke pumping station which then pumps water into the River Ouse when river levels are high.

In December 2015, flooding occurred when river levels on the River Ouse were high, combined with heavy rainfall, while in August 2018 a localised thunderstorm caused surface water flooding at Clifton Green. There is also the potential for sewer flooding in the catchment. Despite a frequent history of flooding within the Burdyke catchment, we have had very few reports of internal flooding to properties.

**What we have done**

We commissioned an independent hydraulic modelling study which showed that:

- In a scenario where the pump failed to work, a small number of homes and businesses are at risk of flooding;
- However, flooding is mostly restricted to roads and fields behind the River Ouse flood embankment;

- Increasing the pumping station’s capacity alone wouldn’t significantly reduce the risk of flooding to homes and businesses in the Clifton Green area.

**Next steps**

The financial costs to upgrade the pumping station are extremely high and do not represent value for money. Therefore we are unable to meet Government spending rules for flood protection work and so will not be able to proceed with this option. However, our Operations Team will continue to operate and maintain the pumping station, and we will discuss the findings of the modelling study with City of York Council and Yorkshire Water to ascertain if any other funding sources are available to make improvements to the pumping station in the future.

*Have you signed up for flood alerts?*

You can sign up to receive free flood alerts by phone, email or text message if your property is at risk of flooding. Sign up at [https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings](https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings)
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.

Lower Bootham (B11)
We are raising the existing flood embankment, wall and gates between Scarborough Bridge and Lendal Bridge. Work on the flood embankment and Almery Terrace flood defences started in June this year.

Scarborough Bridge to Ouse Bridge (B4)
We have completed work on improving the flood wall and gates on North Street. We will return next Spring to install a taller flood gate under Lendal Bridge.

Acaster Malbis (C2)
We have determined Property Flood Resilience as the best approach to dealing with flooding for this flood cell.

Naburn (C3)
Property Flood Resilience has been confirmed as the best option for this area. We are currently developing a programme for delivery and engagement.

Fulford (B9)
Flood defence work in this cell will be led and delivered by City of York Council in partnership with us.

Skeldergate and Queen’s Staith (B7)
This autumn we will be getting in touch with all eligible homeowners to arrange Property Flood Resilience surveys.

Foss Storage Area (F8, F10, F11)
We have submitted a planning application to City of York Council and Ryedale District Council.

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.

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)
Property Flood Resilience surveys at eligible properties are now completed. Our suppliers will be installing the agreed measures this autumn.
Join our Clementhorpe virtual meeting

Clementhorpe

Since our planning application for the Clementhorpe Flood Scheme was approved in June, we have been working towards discharging the planning conditions set by City of York Council. We will have submitted all relevant documents to City of York Council by the end of September. The Council will then have eight weeks to respond and approve them. It is our intention for our contractors to be on site and start work before the year-end.

Terry Avenue in Clementhorpe, looking upstream

At 6.30pm on 29 September, we are hosting a second virtual public meeting on Zoom to talk about our progress so far and our plans for managing traffic and noise during construction. Join the meeting via this link or use the meeting details below:

Meeting ID: 839 9622 5515
Password: YorkB8

If you have any questions you would like to submit before the meeting, please do so via our page on the easy to use polling platform, Slido (event code: #YorkB8) which will be open from the 23 September, or via our email account. We will seek to answer these questions in a Q&A session at the end of the meeting.

Property flood resilience update

York FAS

In some areas of the city it is not technically or financially possible for us to build permanent flood defences. In these areas, we are offering to install property flood resilience (PFR) measures worth up to £7,500 in each eligible property. These measures will help reduce the risk of water entering the property during a flood.

So far, our contractors have completed 95 individual property surveys in the Fulford, Lendal and South Bank areas. These surveys are to assess the suitability of the property for PFR and what measures would be required to increase the resilience of the property.

Following agreement with property owners, our contractors can start installing these measures. Installation has started in Fulford. Installation is expected in South Bank and Lendal in 2021.

We are offering a free property survey to eligible properties in other flood cells across the city, including Skeldergate, Naburn, Acaster Malbis, Marygate, Lower Bootham and Tang Hall. This survey will confirm the suitability of PFR to reduce the risk of flooding. We are offering this free survey to approximately 460 properties.

We are rolling out the scheme in stages, so if we haven’t been in touch with you already and you think you may be eligible, please look out for our letters or public events. Up-to-date information is also available on our website.

York FAS website update

York FAS

Over the past few months, we have been reviewing our online webpages and have now updated them to make them easier to read. You will now be able to find out about what we are doing in each area of the city, and download the most recent newsletters and updates. Access our website here.

Remember that even homes and businesses which are protected by flood defences are still at risk of flooding. Our free flood warning service provides up-to-date information about flood risk in York straight to your mobile. You can sign up to receive flood alerts and flood warnings at:

https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings