

Marygate: findings from the public meeting

July 2020

As part of our plan to better protect the city of York from flooding now and in the future, we have been working in the Marygate area to determine what actions could improve flood protection here. Last summer, we shared our plans to improve the existing flood defences between Scarborough Bridge and Lendal Bridge and have since revised our plans based on feedback from the public and our partners.

We were aiming to submit a planning application for the work in Museum Gardens at the end of July. However City of York Council have asked us to submit a pre-planning enquiry, and full planning is now expected to be submitted in September 2020.

At 6pm on 22 July, we held a virtual public meeting to provide an opportunity to ask questions about our plans. This took place using Zoom, with a 20 minute presentation from the project team and a 20 minute question and answer session. In total, six people attended.

Information we provided

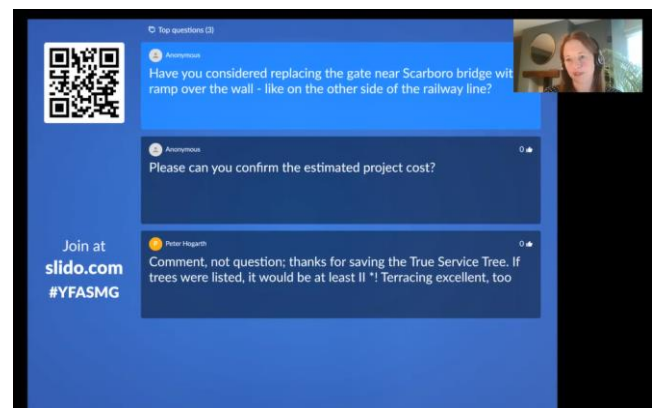
We provided an overview of:

- Why we need to raise the existing flood defences in the Marygate area, and how we are planning to do so;
- Our revised plans to raise the flood embankment in Museum Gardens;
- Our plans for vegetation management, mitigation and environmental enhancement.

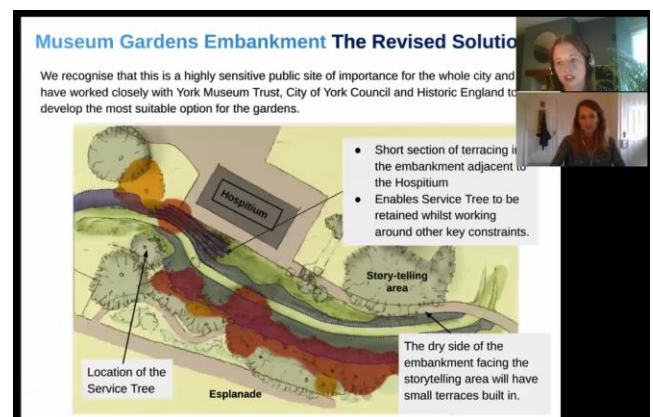
How we advertised the event

We publicised the event using a range of methods including:

- Facebook and Twitter posts;
- Letters sent to properties in the area
- A press release to York Press;
- Announcement on BBC Radio York/Minster FM;
- Invitations to local Councillors;
- A mention in our city-wide mailing list.
- A post on GOV.UK



Screenshot of the Zoom public meeting during the Q&A session.



presentation.



Questions and comments from the meeting

We asked meeting attendees to submit their questions to us via the Zoom chat function during the meeting, and used our 'Slido' page (<https://www.sli.do/>) to enable people to pose questions before the meeting began. The questions and answers below are those which were asked and given in the meeting.

- How are you going to remove all the trees around the True Service Tree and avoid having a negative impact on the wellbeing of that tree?

There are a number of trees close to the True Service Tree. Our revised embankment design will allow us to keep some of those closest to the True Service Tree, although York Museums Trust may choose to take them out in the future to give the True Service Tree more space. The trees we do take out will be soft-felled and when we carry out our archaeological excavation we will be able to check that the True Service Tree's roots aren't affected. We will have an arboriculturalist on site during the tree removal.

- 75 trees to replace 15 taken out; how substantial will the replacements be - and if they don't all go into Museum Gardens could some be signature trees?

We are currently in discussion with York Museums Trust and Historic England regarding the replacement trees which will be planted in Museum Gardens. These may include more unusual trees and we are looking at whether we can plant trees which were in the gardens historically. These trees will be more significant than saplings. We will need to get scheduled monument consent for the planting of trees in Museum Gardens to make sure they don't impact the archaeological remains in the gardens.

We are in conversation with Councillors as to the planting of street trees in the area surrounding the gardens, and would welcome any ideas as to where trees could be located in the immediate area or in York in general.

- Have you considered replacing the gate near Scarborough Bridge with a ramp over the wall - like on the other side of the railway line?

The space around the flood gate near Scarborough Bridge is very constricted so there is not enough space to create a ramp. However, with the City of York Council we are looking at ways to improve access through this flood gate while improving the protection it provides.

- Who will track and monitor the replacement planting, and how will that be communicated so that the public can be kept informed?

Where tree removal is unavoidable we aim to replace them at a ratio of 5 to 1. Our priority will be to replant on sites where trees have been removed. Where this is not possible, due to space and suitability constraints, planting will take place in sites agreed with City of York Council. All trees we plant will be monitored and maintained for five years. If something happens to a tree within these five years, we will replace the tree. This regime is not something we would usually report on, but you are always welcome to submit a request for this information.

- Please confirm estimated project cost

The work in this flood cell is currently estimated to cost £2.4 million. This includes costs of developing proposals to date, construction costs, management and landscaping works.



- The flood gate at Scarborough Bridge has been known to leak, will the new gate fix this issue?

New flood gates are being installed to have greater certainty of the new gates being able to form a good seal between the gate and the flood wall. The new gates will be tested once installed with a head of water against the gate to ensure they perform as designed.

- Comment, not question;

*"Thanks for saving the True Service Tree. If trees were listed, it would be at least 11 *!
Terracing excellent, too"*

Next Steps

- We have submitted a pre-planning application to City of York Council and aim to submit the full application in early September.
- We aim to start construction in Museum Gardens in 2021, as agreed with York Museums Trust.
- We recommend that residents sign up to our email mailing list for Marygate by emailing us at yorkfloodplan@environment-agency.gov.uk .

If you have any further questions about these proposals please contact us at yorkfloodplan@environment-agency.gov.uk

