

Clifton and Rawcliffe: Findings from the Drop-in

11 January 2018

As part of our plan to better protect the city of York from flooding, we have been working in Clifton and Rawcliffe to determine what actions could improve flood protection in that neighbourhood. We are now proposing to raise the existing Clifton Ings barrier bank by approximately 80cm and extend it into Homestead Park and Rawcliffe Country Park. We also want to install a permanent pumping station on Blue Beck. This will improve flood protection for 140 homes in the area.

On 3 December this year we held a public drop-in for residents, local groups and businesses located near to Clifton Ings to gather their views on our proposals. This took place at York Sports Club on Shipton Road. In total 64 residents attended, with 46 providing written feedback.

Information we provided

At the drop-in, we provided displays and maps to give people the information they needed to be able to comment on our proposals. We offered:

- Historic information on flooding in Clifton and Rawcliffe;
- An overview of the options, the associated issues and our proposals for the area; and
- Details of planned environmental and social improvements which will reduce the impact of our proposed work.

How we advertised the event

We publicised the event using a range of methods including:

- Laminated posters at the entrances to Clifton Ings
- Facebook and Twitter posts
- Letters sent to properties in the flood risk zone
- A press release to York Press
- Presentations at council meetings
- Contact with local interest groups



Feedback we received

We asked residents to tell us what they thought about our proposals to protect the Clifton and Rawcliffe communities from flooding, using evaluation forms. We also recorded verbal feedback that visitors gave us directly. Findings are summarised in the paragraphs below and in the adjoining infographic.

The demographic

The majority of those who attended were local residents, with half of those having heard about the event via a letter or poster. Almost half of those who came expressed concern about the risk of flooding affecting their homes.

Why did you come to this event today?

50% of residents attended the event to raise concerns and ask questions. Concerns included flooding of Blue Beck, environmental impacts of the work, relocation of the cycle path and the longer-term management of the site. Some residents were more interested in our environmental considerations and how the proposed work will impact upon access to Clifton Ings during construction.

Thinking about the scheme, do you feel you can support it?

81% of those who responded said they were in support of the scheme. Many residents said that they do not want a repeat of past flooding and that these proposals are 'essential' for future flood protection. A few people were not fully in support of the scheme due to concerns about the environmental impacts.

Are there any aspects of the scheme not fully explained at the event today that you would like to hear more about?

The majority of the residents were pleased with the amount of information we had provided at the event. Several residents wanted to know more about our plans to manage construction traffic, the environmental impacts of the scheme and our plans for the longer term restoration of the site. Suggestions included putting the cycle path on top of the embankment to reduce the loss of rare grassland and that we ensure other emergency services are fully briefed on our plans.

The event

Most visitors to the drop-in were happy with the information we had provided and felt that they had learned a lot more about our proposals, the timetable for the work and how we plan to deal with its impacts. Some suggestions for improvement included more publicity and engagement earlier on in the planning process.

Next Steps

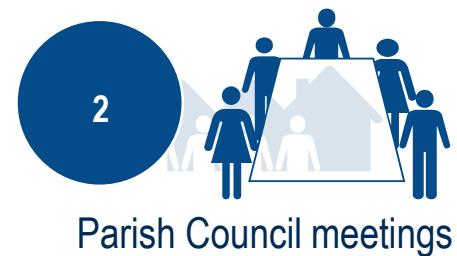
- We submitted our proposals to City of York Council for planning approval at the end of December 2018. From early February, you can view and comment on these online via the CYC planning portal (ref PP07222825v1ADS). They will also be available at our Community Flood Hub on Wellington Row, North Street.
- We will continue to meet with Friends of Rawcliffe Meadows to discuss how best to minimise and mitigate impacts from our work on the Rawcliffe Meadows SSSI.

If you have any further questions about these proposals please contact us at

yorkfloodplan@environment-agency.gov.uk



On Monday 3 December, we held a public drop-in event at York Sports Club to share our plans for reducing the risk of flooding to the Clifton and Rawcliffe communities.



presented at



Posters displayed around Clifton Ings



Properties received addressed invitations



Meetings with stakeholders

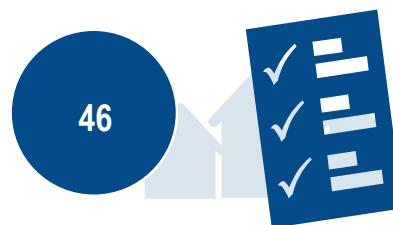
Before the event



EA staff members present at the drop-in



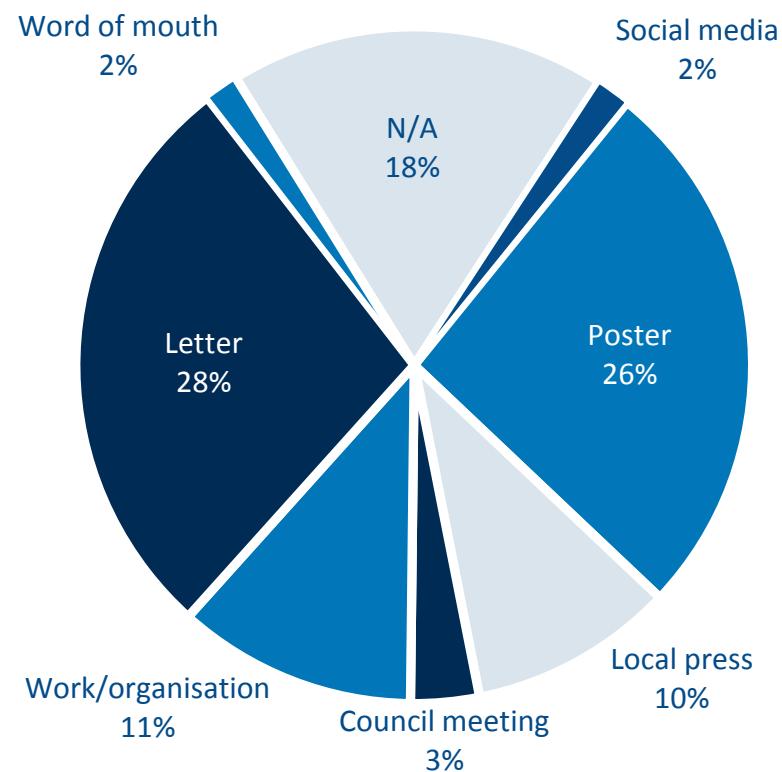
Residents attended



Feedback forms returned

At the event

How did people hear about the event?



What did we talk about?

- Access to Clifton Ings for dog walkers and cyclists
- Diversion of Sustrans cycle route 65
- Reducing the impact on local flora and fauna
- Reducing the amount of debris in Blue Beck
- Proposed construction dates and time scales

What did people think?

“it appears to be a well and deeply considered plan”

“my property flooded in 2000 so any improvement to flood defences is great news”

“at the moment it seems so huge and damaging for little reason.”

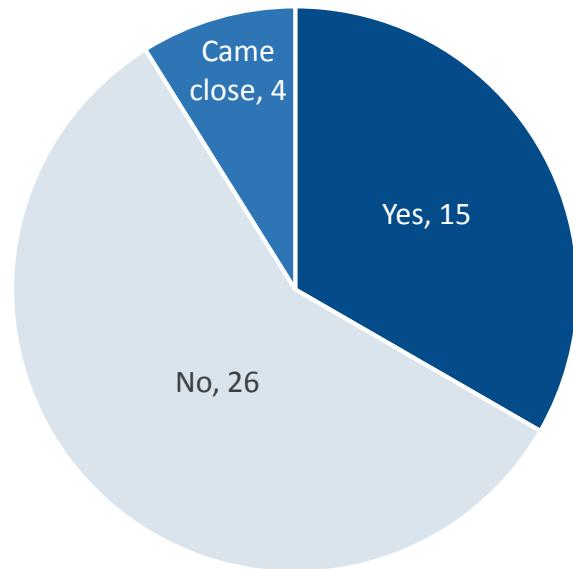
“there is a need to stop vehicles on top of bank behind the sports club”

“essential work to protect the area”

“support sorting the defences but concerned about the SSSI and tansy pond area and damage/threat to it”



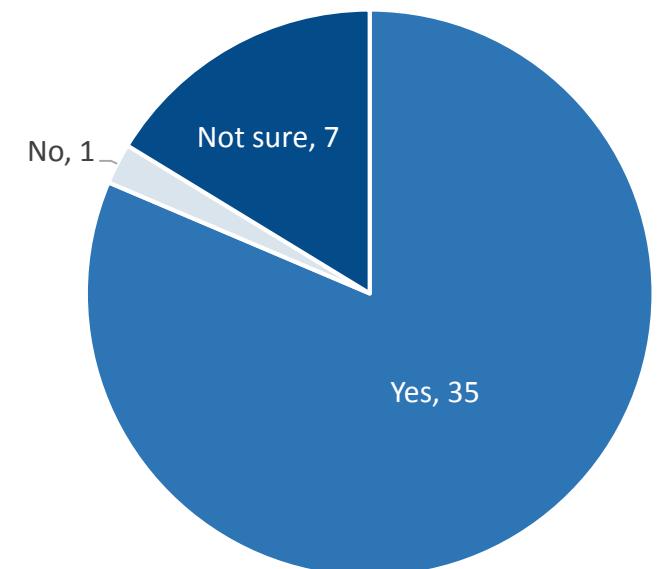
Have you ever experienced flooding at your home or business?



After attending the drop in event today, do you feel you know more about the following?



Thinking about the scheme, do you feel you can support it?



What did we do well?

“the advisors were well informed and attentive to questions and coming up with answers”

“friendly staff, informative, good exhibits”

“brilliant - lots of accessible info and very helpful staff”

“clear boards, knowledgeable guides given time to learn and discuss, the project looks to be in good hands”

“Comprehensive in its considerations, fully developed participation with local groups”

What could we have done better?

“more publicity would have been good”

“perhaps provide an order in which to read the information”

“more clarity on why this is being so late in the planning process when there's little chance of modifying the scheme”

“more details on the implications for the Friends of Rawcliffe Meadows pond area “

“more information on restoration following completion of the EA's work “

