



Naburn Flood Protection News

Introduction

It was the intention of the Naburn Village Flood Group and the Environment Agency (EA) to hold a public meeting in the Village Hall in March of this year to update the whole village on the latest situation regarding flood protection for the village. This was not able to go ahead because of Covid. We were hoping that it would be possible to re-schedule it to this autumn but Wave 2 of Covid prevented this. Consequently, the EA propose to hold an electronic meeting, using Zoom, hopefully before Christmas, to update you all and allow you to ask questions. The EA will be shortly giving details of the electronic meeting.

Background

Following the 2012 floods, a Village Flood Group was set up consisting of a number of Parish Councillors and residents. Over the last 8 years, the team has worked hard to look at all the possibilities of providing better flood protection for the village. It has coordinated its work with the Environment Agency, Yorkshire Water and the City of York Council. It managed to raise £60,000 to fund a feasibility study using the specialist consultancy, Aecom. After the 2015 floods in which the River Foss caused significant damage to the centre of York, a far larger project was set up by the EA to investigate improving the flood protection in the wider York area. It made sense for the Naburn scheme to be incorporated into that programme. Detailed survey work was carried out in Naburn over recent years and outline designs were created and discussed with the Village Flood Group.

Study findings

The study identified and appraised options that could reduce the risk of flooding in Naburn. It looked at the benefits that each option would deliver in terms of numbers of properties protected and compared them against the development and construction costs. The conclusion is that the only viable option to reduce the impacts of flooding in Naburn is to provide Property Flood Resilience (PFR) measures to eligible properties.

Why is PFR the only option?

The main option that the EA appraised involved constructing a floodwall along the Ouse, from Naburn Hall to the Marina. There are many engineering challenges that would need to be overcome and the study concluded that the lifetime cost of these (in the order of £6m-£7m) unfortunately outweigh the benefits. To help explain in more detail why these options are unviable, the EA will discuss this in their proposed electronic meeting.

What is PFR and how will it affect me?

PFR stands for Property Flood Resilience and involves fitting products directly to individual properties which are at risk of flooding; for example, flood doors, barriers and air brick covers. These are used to reduce the risk of flood water getting in to homes or businesses and, in some instances, to reduce the damage if it does get in. It should be noted that these products may not work on all properties. The process will be discussed in greater detail in an EA Newsletter that will be distributed very shortly and during the EA electronic meeting. It should be reinforced that PFR is only available for properties that the EA believe are at risk or have flooded in the past. There is a maximum value of £7500 per property.

What will the Village Flood Group do now?

Whilst the Village Flood Group is bitterly disappointed that after considerable effort over 8 years, a flood wall cannot be justified, it will continue its efforts to look at partial, cheaper solutions that will at least reduce the impact to residents in the event of all but the most severe floods. If anyone else would like to join us, please contact Laurie Gunson on [01904-653920](tel:01904-653920).

Further EA information

If you would like to sign up to the York Flood Plan emailing list please send your email address to the York Flood Plan Team at yorkfloodplan@environment-agency.gov.uk. This will enable the EA team to send you an electronic copy of the EA Newsletter including links to online information, and ensure you receive future updates and notice of the online meeting.