

## Woodborough Parish Council Meeting - Environment Agency Flood Risk Update – 6<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Attendees:

27 people attended this virtual meeting.

Item	Actions
<p><b>1. Welcome and introductions</b></p> <p><b>Environment Agency:</b> David Woolley (senior flood risk advisor), Heather Convey (flood risk advisor) and Lucy Jarvis (flood resilience team leader).</p> <p><b>Woodborough Parish Council:</b> Averil Marczak</p>	
<p><b>2. Work we are undertaking – flood warning</b></p> <p>The Flood Warning Expansion Project links to funding that can be used to offer our flood warning service to areas that are at a high risk of flooding (&gt;1 in 30 year or 3.3% chance of the flood occurring in any year).</p> <p>The new gauge will be installed on Main street at grid reference SK 62548 47846 (blue dot below). This will warn the community when the risk of flooding is possible and be used to deploy EA field teams. A flood warning will be issued when there is a risk of property flooding.</p> <p>As this is a new gauge we will appreciate any feedback from the community to refine the levels once the service has been introduced.</p>  <p><b>Action:</b> community to feedback to us on the levels at which a flood warning is received when the new gauge is in use. Please contact <a href="mailto:lucy.jarvis@environment-agency.gov.uk">lucy.jarvis@environment-agency.gov.uk</a></p>	<p>All</p>

<p><b>3. Work we are undertaking – flood wardens</b></p> <p>We will be undertaking more flood warden training sessions in the future. These are likely to be a hybrid between face to face and virtual learning.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Contact <a href="mailto:lucy.jarvis@environment-agency.gov.uk">lucy.jarvis@environment-agency.gov.uk</a> if you would like to attend a session in the future.</p>	All
<p><b>4. Flood alleviation scheme - Initial assessment</b></p> <p>Terminology:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fluvial</b> – flooding from rivers</li> <li>• <b>Pluvial</b> – flooding from surface water</li> <li>• <b>Natural flood management (NFM)</b> – when natural processes are used to reduce the risk of flooding, such as flood attenuation ponds and natural flow restrictions.</li> <li>• <b>Property Flood Resilience (PFR)</b> - measures that be implemented to limit water entry to a property. For example, flood barriers, non-return valves and air brick covers.</li> </ul> <p>The EA employed a consultant to carry out an Initial Assessment (IA) of the flood risk in Woodborough. The study area was broken down into sub-catchments. The IA identified a significant source of fluvial flooding from the Main catchment of the Woodborough Brook. It also identified another source of flooding from the catchment to the south, where an overland flow route effects the southern part of the community.</p> <p>The original wetland scheme was designed to store water upstream of Woodborough (to the west). The costs for this scheme became much greater than the government funding rules would allow for and was not developed further.</p>	
<p><b>5. Next steps</b></p> <p>We will reassess the costs of a potential flood risk management scheme in Woodborough. We will look to use our framework suppliers to investigate an optimum economic and environmental solution.</p> <p>We will explore Natural Flood Management opportunities. There will be a need to store water in the right location to avoid combining peaks from two watercourses.</p> <p>We have identified Woodborough as a community that could potentially require Flood Defence Grant in Aid investment within our 6 year capital programme, but any future scheme has to be cost beneficial, which does limit options for delivery and makes any scheme unlikely at this stage.</p>	
<p><b>6. Questions</b></p> <p>Q: The revised cost of the scheme seems high as the original scheme was much lower than this. The landowners have also changed and the needs of the new landowners are likely to be different to the original. Can alternative funding be sought?</p> <p>A: The original cost shared underestimated some elements of the works and did not fully take into account of the land value. We also have new framework arrangements with our supplier (consultants that design and contractors that build the schemes). We will use this framework</p>	

to produce an estimate of what the original scheme would cost using this framework. Once we have an idea of the costs, this will determine whether the original scheme is cost beneficial (a requirement of treasury). We can also look into using alternative funding sources if the partnership funding calculator allows. Guidance on partnership funding is available [here](#).

Q: We see river levels change quickly on the gauge, and there can sometimes be a time delay in this. Can we improve monitoring in the short term?

A: During a flood event it can be difficult to update the website as the situation changes rapidly. We can also only install gauges at certain times of the year and we will need time to assess the accuracy of the gauge.

Q: Is one gauge enough?

A: We only have funding to install a finite number of gauges and this is assessed on catchment size and need. We also need to factor in maintenance costs. We will also be utilising our existing rain gauge network and will be investigating the use of developing technologies in the future such as CATmax which uses radar modelled rainfall to simulate what would happen in fast responding catchments.

Q: What are the thoughts about Pluvial flooding from the fields on the North side of the village as it is a major source of water onto main street?

A: We are looking to identify locations of storing water in the catchment, preferably using NFM measures to help to reduce flow.

Q: What are the timescales for the NFM opportunity mapping work?

A: Opportunity mapping is a suite of modelling/ data gathering exercises so we can calculate where the measures will be best placed. Then we can make a decision on whether or not NFM can be used successfully or if physical interventions will be needed. We hope the opportunity mapping will be available in the next 3 – 6 months.

Q: If the EA can't lead NFM schemes outside of main river who will?

A: Typically NFM schemes are delivered through a group of partners collectively working together. At this stage, the EA would be unlikely to project manage a scheme on non-main river. However, we are keen to understand the opportunities NFM can offer and will work with all our partners to identify the most successful way to deliver these should opportunities arise. We have a range of partners that we work with, and these include (but not exclusively) the Parish Council, Trent Rivers Trust, Nottinghamshire County Council (lead local flood authority), and Severn Trent Water who manage services.

Q: What can the community do to help?

A: Please feedback to us. We can't completely take flooding away and a risk will always remain due to the nature of the river and culverts throughout the community, but we are trying our best to help reduce the frequency of flooding. We acknowledge the amazing work Flood Wardens and individuals do to improve the communities resilience, and we ask that you remain engaged with our flood resilience team. We will also ask for feedback on the river gauge, once it is installed, so that we can tailor the flood warning to best support you. We aim to have another meeting in 3-4 months time, where we can update on progress.

Q: What are the EA comments on the Nottinghamshire Strategic Plan as the site of the original wetland scheme is included in this?

A: This is an outstanding response. David Woolley has requested this information from the Sustainable Places team and will update this update note once we have a response.

**6. AOB**

Heather Convey (EA) will be continuing the work of Paul Hands.

Next meeting to discuss progress: suggested in **3-4 months (October/November 2021)**

DW/HC