

Managing Flood Risk In Padiham

28th July 2017

An update from the Environment Agency



River Calder at Padiham

What is happening?

The Environment Agency are currently running a project looking at how we can reduce flood risk to the town of Padiham from the River Calder and Green Brook.

As the project progresses, we will be using this newsletter to keep people up to date with what is happening.

The project is part of a range of work that we are doing to better protect Padiham, following the flooding which took place on Boxing Day 2015.

What have we done so far?

We have reviewed the computer modelling which simulates flood risk to Padiham from the River Calder and Green Brook. We have used the Boxing Day 2015 flooding as evidence against which to compare the modelling.

We have collected data from our rain and river gauges to understand how rainfall affects the river. We have also gathered survey information on the river, information on historic flooding, and details of any existing defences.

What's coming up over the summer?

We will use the information we have gathered to test all options to better manage flood risk in Padiham. For each option, this will include estimating both the likely cost, and the number of properties and other infrastructure that would benefit from reduced flood risk.

The cost of each option will then be compared against the benefits each would provide. We will use this information to determine the level of Government funding we can secure towards the project.

Partnership Funding

In addition to the Government funding we can secure, for a flood scheme to go ahead partnership contributions from other beneficiaries are usually needed to meet the full cost. Partners can include local councils, utility companies and local businesses.

We have been working closely with Burnley Borough Council on this, who have secured an 'in-principle' approval for Growth Deal funding through the Lancashire Local Enterprise Partnership to put towards the project.

Once we have completed the review of options, and identified the preferred way to manage flood risk in Padiham, a full detailed proposal for that funding will be submitted by the Borough Council, with a decision scheduled in early-2018.

Looking further ahead

Following investigation of the shortlisted options, we are aiming to work towards a preferred option to manage flood risk in Padiham.

We are also planning to hold a drop-in event in Padiham in autumn / winter. This will be an opportunity for people to learn more about the project and other work we are doing to better protect the town. We will give further details on this and any other events of interest in future newsletters.

If we are successful in securing funding to meet the full cost of the preferred option to reduce flood risk in Padiham, we would start to develop the proposals further during 2018. This would include carrying out any required design work, working with suitable contractors, and securing any required permissions.



Green Brook at Padiham

Gravel Removal - Padiham Bridge

In addition to working towards the delivery of a flood scheme, we are also planning to carry out gravel removal work in 2018 in the River Calder at Padiham Bridge (Burnley Road).

Prior to carrying out this work, we will need to make arrangements in the coming months for access and for testing and disposal of any removed material. More updates on this work will be given in future newsletters.

Staying in touch

In the coming months we will be working hard to develop the options for Padiham and secure the required funding. We will keep you updated on progress through our regular newsletters.

In the meantime, if you would like any further information please contact Matthew Connor, Flood and Coastal Risk Management (FCRM) Advisor, on 020 302 51371. Alternatively, you can email at matthew.connor@environment-agency.gov.uk.

Community Resilience Group

In addition to the work already being done to better protect Padiham from flooding, the Environment Agency, Burnley Borough Council, and Newground are working together to set up a group to help local residents and businesses become more resilient in general to flooding and other emergencies.

This group will look to develop community emergency plans, clarify roles and responsibilities so residents know who to contact, and identify grants and other funding which may be available among other aspects.

If you are interested in taking part in such a group, please contact Christina Worsley at Newground on 01254 265163, or by e-mail at christina.worsley@newground.co.uk.

Risks of flooding

It's important to highlight that even where flood defences are present, we can never fully take away the risk of flooding. To find out if you can receive free flood warnings, and for information on how to protect your home or business from flooding, please call the Environment Agency's Floodline on 0345 988 1188, or visit the Environment Agency website www.gov.uk/environment-agency.

Help and Advice for Insurance Purposes

Flood Re is an industry owned and managed not-for-profit re-insurer. It is a publicly accountable body with statutory objectives and powers. See www.floodre.co.uk for more information.

The aim of Flood Re is to provide support to those that need it most. As a result there are a number of criteria that need to be met for a property to be eligible for entry into the Flood Re scheme, which sets the cap on the cost of flood cover. See www.floodre.co.uk/eligibility for details.