

## **Fulford Flood meeting at Fulford Social Hall 28/02/2022**

Cllr Keith Aspden welcomed everybody to the first in-person meeting since the outbreak of Covid.

Steve Wragg, City of York Council's Flood Risk Manager and Indy Bagral, Aecom, gave an update to residents on the progress of the scheme and presented the proposed flood defence solution. The updated timeline of the project was also discussed (see attached presentation) Steve also updated residents on the two potential issues that have been identified from the outputs of the various surveys which were being undertaken to investigate the preferred site.

The first of these issues is the identification of the presence of European Eels, a protected species, through the water surveys. This has seen further work undertaken with the EA to redesign the pumping station to ensure that no undue harm is caused to the species, including a wide range of consultation and engagement with the EA's national fisheries team. Following feedback from the EA, the redesign is ongoing but an agreed approach is in place and a solution is possible. Work will also need to take place to understand the impact on the primary design of the pumping station caused by these alterations.

The second issue has arisen from ongoing work by local interest groups to designate the site as the location of the Battle of Fulford, a new request to designate has been made to Historic England.

Following advice from the Council's planning officers, additional archaeological survey and ground investigations will be carried out to provide further evidence on how the preferred option will minimise the impact on local heritage, this will be presented as part of the planning application for the scheme. Local experts and archaeological groups will be consulted during this work to agree the necessary surveys and the way in which their outputs provide assurances that the proposed works minimise and mitigate heritage impacts and that the scheme can be progressed to a full planning application.

Councillor Aspden updated residents on the meeting which he held with English Heritage to discuss the timescales, the importance and progress of the scheme.

Steve Wragg confirmed that, despite these concerns, officers still are working submit planning application for the scheme in autumn 2022.

### **Questions & Answers from residents:**

- 1) Have officers considered upstream solutions as part of the flood defence solutions?

The flood risk at this location is primarily caused by high river levels in the River Ouse preventing a free passage of flow from Germany Beck and Tunnel

Drain. The proposed solution to isolate the high river levels from Germany Beck is therefore essential with the proposed pumps needed to pump all flows in the beck when River Ouse levels are high. Upstream solutions would not achieve this, however, future works to manage upstream flows on the River Ouse are being considered by the council and partners and this will add to the resilience of the proposed scheme in future flood events.

- 2) Is the delivery timeline likely to be affected by the two issues identified?

A planning application submission was expected in late 2021, the further redesign and survey/investigation works required to manage the two issues has extended the project programme with the planning application submission now being expected later in 2022. The construction phase is now expected in 2023.

- 3) Are the delays likely to cause the project to incur extra costs and will this still be covered by the existing funding?

Further redesign and surveys will incur additional costs although the project team are looking to include these within the original project costs as much as possible. The existing funding will cover the additional costs which are unavoidable and necessary to develop a workable design.

- 4) What areas of the village will this flood defence solution protect?

The works will ensure that Forlands Road is passable in future flood events preventing the isolation of the Fordlands community. The scheme will reduce the flood risk to approximately 40 properties within the Fordlands community from flood risk from Tunnel Drain which flows into Germany Beck upstream of the A19 road bridge. The scheme will also provide further flood resilience to the A19 preventing it from flooding in future flood events.

- 5) Is it possible to even out the pavements on Fordlands road which have dropped due to flooding?

A site visit will be setup to look at localised issues in this area, it is unlikely that the scheme will address this specific issue but opportunities will be considered to make any required improvements.

- 6) What were the findings on the battle site and are these likely to be recognised as important enough to delay the scheme?

The additional archaeological survey work will provide further information on the archaeological finds and evidence that may be found at the proposed construction site. The design of the scheme will be finalised to ensure that it does not cause undue harm to the site. This will be presented to archaeological consultees in the planning process to provide assurances that the designs are acceptable and can be submitted in a formal planning application to develop the scheme further. This may lead to further delays but the current delays to develop the additional surveys are intended to give enough information to present a workable scheme and minimise further delays but this is still a potential issue as the scheme is developed further.

- 7) How long is the construction phase likely to last and how will the impact on the area be alleviated?

As the detailed design is finalised a construction partner will be brought on board to provide input into the construction phase programme, the working areas and methods needed and the ways in which the impacts on the community can be minimised. We will discuss this with the community in future meetings.

- 8) Could the EA flood warnings be improved to add early warnings and guidance on moving cars?

The project team will discuss this with the EA and will update the community at a future meeting.

- 9) How will residents be consulted on the next steps of the scheme?

These meetings and newsletters will continue. The project team will be happy to discuss the project at any stage if the community have any further thoughts on how we can broaden the consultation.

#### Next steps:

Cllr Aspden suggested organising another meeting in June, when further updates on the Historic England process as well as the planning permission application next steps can be presented. Cllr Aspden will publicise this once a date has been agreed.

Thank you: Cllr Aspden thanked everybody for attending the meeting.