

Godalming Flood Alleviation Scheme Newsletter

July 2018

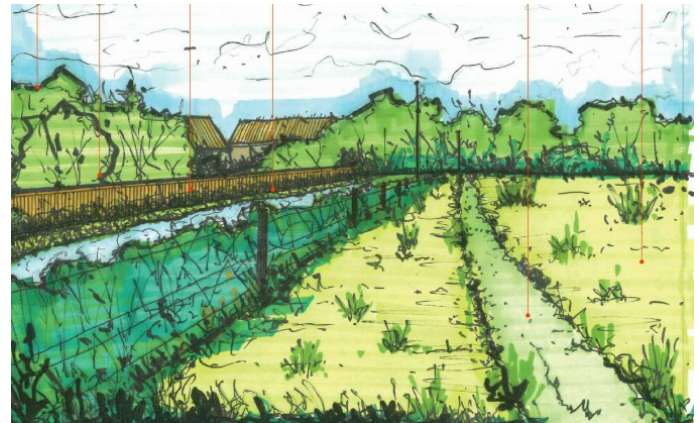
Why is a scheme needed?

Godalming has a history of flooding, with four notable events in recent years in 1968, 1990, 2000 and 2013. During the most recent 2013 flood, Meadow and Catteshall Road area was flooded with access from Meadow to Godalming severely restricted.

To reduce flooding in the Meadow / Catteshall area, we are proposing to build a flood wall along the banks of the Hell Ditch, with a demountable flood barrier on Catteshall Bridge Road. This will reduce the likelihood of flooding to at least 90 properties in the area.



Catteshall Bridge Road flooding Dec 2013



Sketch of what the timber clad flood wall could look like

What if the area floods before the scheme is finished?

The Environment Agency intend to provide temporary protection upstream of Catteshall Road Bridge in the event of a flood. This is a tried and tested method using a barrier made up of a metal A frame about 1 metre high draped in heavy duty plastic sheeting. This barrier will block a flow route from the river and reduce the likelihood of properties flooding.

What will the scheme look like?

The wall will be about 525 metres long with a sheet piling core clad in timber. It will be approximately 1m high and run along the north bank of the Hell Ditch from Lammas Cottage to Meadow House.

To the south of Hell Ditch, we are creating a couple of lowered areas within the Lammas Lands. This is to provide extra habitat for birds.

Who is involved?

The Godalming Flood Alleviation Scheme (FAS) is a partnership project between the Environment Agency, Surrey County Council, Waverley Borough Council, Godalming Town Council, Thames Water, Scottish and Southern Electricity, Regional Flood & Coastal Committee, the Godalming Flood Group and Jeremy Hunt MP. We all meet regularly to make sure the project progresses.

We have recently received planning permission which is a major milestone for the scheme

Planning permission

Waverley Borough Council granted planning permission May 2018. We are now working through the planning conditions along with other project work before we can start on site.

Next steps

Now that the scheme has received planning permission, we are completing the detailed design with our consultants which is taking us a little longer than we initially anticipated. This is because we are dealing with many constraints, including: 19 gardens directly impacted, existing road bridge, bats, badgers, listed buildings/walls, unexploded ordnance, existing utilities, work on Registered Common Land to name just a few!

Following completion of the detailed design, we need to agree with the contractor an acceptable price for the works.

Preparatory work on site such as ground investigation works, clearing away brambles shrubs and trees on the temporary defence and the flood wall route have been completed.

We anticipate starting construction work on the flood wall later this year.



Ground investigation works in the allotments



Marking the sheet pile alignment on site

We will issue a newsletter every 3 months or sooner if more information becomes available. We hope to be able to provide the next update autumn 2018.

The website will be updated soon to reflect the latest news.

Prepare for flooding

Although we work to reduce flood risk, we cannot remove it entirely. We work to help individuals and communities prepare themselves for flooding, by providing information to those who need it.

You can find out more about what to do before, during and after a flood by visiting

www.gov.uk/prepare-for-flooding/future-flooding

If you have any queries about the information contained in this briefing or would like to be added to our mailing list please contact:

Enquiries_THM@environment-agency.gov.uk

If you see blockages in the river channel which pose an immediate flood risk then this should be reported directly to our incident line on:

0800 80 70 60

Riparian ownership

If a stretch of watercourse runs on or under your land, or on the boundary of your land, you will normally be a riparian owner. For guidance about your riparian responsibilities and rules to follow for watercourses on or near your property, and permissions you need to do work around them visit:

www.gov.uk/guidance/owning-a-watercourse