



Introduction

Welcome to the latest edition of the Tadcaster Flood Alleviation Scheme (FAS) newsletter. This newsletter comes following the floods on the morning of the 21st February following Storms Dudley, Eunice and Franklin.

Sadly, properties and businesses were flooded, and our empathies go to those directly or indirectly impacted by the flooding.

This edition gives an overview of the flood, the actions which follow and an update on the flood defence project for Tadcaster.



Images courtesy of David Lindsay Photography

21st February Flooding

Between the 15th and 21st February the impact of storms Dudley, Eunice and Franklin were felt across Yorkshire and although the primary concern of the first two storms was strong winds, they came with reasonable volumes of rainfall over a short period. This was followed by storm Franklin, where in some locations an

average monthly rainfall fell in a 24-48 hour period. The River Wharfe was one of the catchments impacted and this led to the second highest ever recorded river level at the Tadcaster Gauging Station, peaking at 3.951m (10.499mAOD).

The defences started to be overwhelmed in Tadcaster from approximately 4:15am, resulting in water coming over the defences on the east side and then the west. Water from the river combined with a build-up of surface water and water from the sewers which were at full capacity.

This sadly led to 70 properties and business being directly impacted by the flooding.

Resilience In Action

Since the floods in 2015 a number of measures have been put in place in partnership with the local flood groups. Some businesses were able to activate flood plans so they could limit damage, clean up and reopen for business more quickly. This is recognised as positive news but is part of the continual work needed to ensure the town is as protected and as resilient as possible from the impacts of flooding. It is also recognised that not all flood protection products were as effective, please contact us if you would like to discuss the different adaptations you can make to your home to make it more flood resilient.

Post Flood

The Environment Agency's Yorkshire Area Manager, Mike Dugher, met with representatives from the town on Friday 25th February. Nigel Adams MP secured a meeting with Flood Minister Rebecca Pow, and this was attended by members of the flood defence project team and the Tadcaster Flood Action Group. A number of commitments have been agreed following these meetings, as well as a very clear steer from the Minister on the need to deliver a flood defence scheme for Tadcaster as quickly as possible.

The project team has met with the Tadcaster Community Client Group and presented to the Town Council Emergency Planning Subcommittee since the event.

Commitments

A review of the flood alerts and flood warning which were issued has been done between the flood groups and Environment Agency staff. Actions have been agreed to improve these to best prepare the local community.

Later this month we will do a review of the current defences with representatives from local flood groups, to continue to gather information on the defences using local knowledge which will help us to identify any possible remedial work which might be needed before the flood defence scheme is built.

We'll also be considering contingency plans for when the existing defences are overtopped, and if additional plans could be put in place to help limit any impact this flooding might have on properties. Once a date has been agreed, this will be done in partnership with the community groups.

Community drop-in events are being planned with Environment Agency National Property Flood Resilience experts. This will also be supported by community engagement in

partnership with the TCCG, to help provide advice and guidance on how people can use products to protect their homes and businesses.



Images courtesy of David Lindsay Photography

Tadcaster Flood Alleviation Scheme Update

Ground investigations

Ground investigations are expected to start on site on 30th May 2022. This work is expected to take 4 weeks although this depends on what is found as part of the investigations, so could take longer. To do this work, we will set up a site compound in the football ground's car park.

The results of the ground investigations are expected to be complete by the end of August 2022.

Hydraulic modelling

The first review of the hydraulic model is currently taking place, with Environment Agency consultants delivering the work. The final approval of the model is expected in May. These model results will be available in August 2022 and combined with our findings from the ground investigation work will allow us to start designing the flood defence work.

When will construction start and finish?

There is currently no change to the overall delivery dates. We are working to the following timescales:

- Outline Business Case/optioneering works completed 2023
- Construction due to start 2024
- Scheme completion 2026.

With the clear steer from the Minister and recognising the need to provide protection to the town as quickly as possible, a number of options for bringing the completion date forward to the project are being explored.

New faces

Our project team has two new faces from the Environment Agency; Karl Ickeringill joins the project as the new Project Manager and Nick Appleyard as the Senior User replacing Ed Hinton. We thank Ed for his hard work over the last few years.

Working with the community

We always aim to engage with local communities during the development of any scheme to ensure that we listen and learn from their views. Where possible, we also look to include features in the design of our schemes that enhance the natural environment or provide wider benefits, such as better access or improved facilities.

The primary focus is to provide the best possible standard of flood protection to Tadcaster, although we are really keen that the project delivers wider benefits. We are engaged with a number of groups and are exploring ideas which could be incorporated into the delivery phase. Please get in touch if you would like to get involved.

As covid-19 restrictions are easing, public engagement is becoming easier, and we are

starting to return to a degree of normality while still obeying the latest government advice. As such, regular meetings with Tadcaster Community Client Group will be organised throughout this year.

This group was set up to provide representation of the town's residents, businesses, landowners and key stakeholders.

We are working together so that the town has its voice heard, feels listened to and responded to. The group will also help to coordinate the dissemination and collation of information through their networks.

The Tadcaster Community Client Group (TCCG) is made up of:

- Tadcaster Town Council MP's Office
- Tadcaster Flood Action Group
- Tadcaster Flood Prevention Group
- Tadcaster Businesses
- Tadcaster Residents (East and West)
- Tadcaster Medical Centre
- Tadcaster Albion AFC
- Tadcaster Angling Association
- Tadcaster Historical Society
- Selby District Council
- North Yorkshire County Council
- Environment Agency



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Stay Informed

This newsletter will be reinstated as a regular update on the progress of the project as well as information being included within the Town Council newsletter.

We will have a weekly presence in Tadcaster. Members of the project team will be working from The Ark building on Tuesday mornings between 9:30-12:30. It will be an open-door policy and we are also happy to visit businesses and the community. If there is a specific element you'd like to discuss or to guarantee a meeting with us, please email us at: tadcasterFAS@environment-agency.gov.uk

Once the site compound is set up we will move to the compound's office.

Stay Prepared

Remember that even homes and businesses which are protected by flood defences are still at risk of flooding.

Our free flood warning service provides up-to-date information about flood risk straight to your landline, mobile and/or email.

Please continue to be prepared and resilient by signing up to receive advanced flood warnings.


Register by calling 0345 988 1188, or visiting www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings

If you are already registered to the Flood Warning Service, please check if your details need updating by logging in to your account.




You can also download and keep a copy of our partnership guide to the meaning of flood alerts and warnings for Tadcaster by visiting: www.tadcasterfloodaction.org/what-we-do


The Environment Agency is now offering flood warning services to several new locations in Yorkshire including Newton Kyme and Kirkby Wharfe. If you live in these locations, please

follow the flood warning service link above to check your flood risk and sign up.



Flood warnings - know what to do?

 FLOOD ALERT	<div style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">PREPARE</div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare a bag that includes medicines and insurance documents • Visit flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk
 FLOOD WARNING	<div style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">ACT</div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turn off gas, water and electricity • Move things upstairs or to safety • Move family, pets and car to safety
 SEVERE FLOOD WARNING	<div style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">SURVIVE</div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call 999 if in immediate danger • Follow advice from emergency services • Keep yourself and your family safe

gov.uk/check-flood-risk

Floodline on 0345 988 1188 #floodaware

Tadcaster Flood Action Group also provide an excellent local service in partnership with us. Please take the time, if you haven't already done so, to sign up for their system which is linked to our incident response. You can do this by visiting www.tadcasterfloodaction.org or www.facebook.com/Tadflood

 tadcasterfas@environment-agency.gov.uk  Environment Agency c/o Tadcaster Town Council The Ark, 33 Kirkstall, LS24 9AQ	 @TadcasterFloodScheme  @EnvAgencyYNE	 Environment Agency
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Get in touch to find out how we are working to better protect Tadcaster from the risk of flooding