

Managing Flood Risk in Northwich

Weaver Way Briefing Note

This note is aimed specifically at businesses in the Weaver Way area, to keep you up to date with plans to reduce flood risk from rivers in Northwich.

The Environment Agency and Cheshire West & Chester Council have secured £4million to design and build a sustainable flood risk management scheme in Northwich. The scheme will seek to reduce the risk of flooding from the Rivers Dane and Weaver to around 700 local homes and businesses.

Half of the money was secured from a special growth fund set up by the government following extensive flooding across the UK in 2012. This was made available for the construction of flood defences that would encourage economic growth. The bid for funding in Northwich was successful because, by reducing the risk of flooding in the town, we will protect existing investment and encourage further development that will generate employment.

Proposals for Weaver Way



Along Weaver Way, we have identified two possible solutions for reducing flood risk to local businesses that we need to investigate further before making a final decision.

Option 1 would involve the construction of a new self-raising barrier, which would be fully submerged beneath the existing highway kerb line on Weaver Way. These would then rise automatically as river levels rise to prevent flooding to properties on the High Street. Once the river levels begin to drop, the barriers will sink back into the ground automatically.

Option 2 would involve the construction of flood walls that sit flush against the rear of the buildings that back onto Weaver way. In order to maintain existing private access points, flood gates and doors would need to be installed. The doors would be designed for both flood protection and to suit the needs of each property, for example, they could have a secondary role as fire doors if required. Flood gates or new ramped accesses would be installed across public walkways. In this scenario, the flood gates would remain open when not in use, and then be closed by the Environment Agency when a flood warning was received, and would remain closed until the risk of flooding had gone.

Whatever the solution, we will do our best to keep disruption to your business to a minimum. It is intended that all commercial properties will remain operational during construction of the flood defences. However, there will inevitably be potential impacts to building maintenance, fire escape routes, deliveries/parking and security during construction. Disruption will be managed through consultation with business owners, landowners, tenants, the council and the emergency services.

Proposals for the rest of Northwich

The scheme will extend approximately 1.7km through Northwich town centre with works proposed on both banks of the River Dane and River Weaver.

Defences will comprise:

- Ground reprofiling with small embankments or dwarf walls on the right bank of the River Dane to tie into higher ground
- Brick clad sheet piled and reinforced concrete walls along both banks of the River Dane and at the confluence with the River Weaver
- Raised walls with self-raising barriers and glass panels around the Marina and floodgates
- Flood gates across Dane Street Bridge and along Weaver Way
- Flood resilience measures such as flood proofing and external building wall strengthening on the left bank of the River Weaver.

Have your say

You now have the opportunity to review our plans and speak to us about our ideas. We can arrange another drop-in session if required so that you can meet us and chat through the proposals face to face.

If you would like further information, please contact Zarina Karmali at the Environment Agency, on 01925 542416 or email her at zarina.karmali@environment-agency.gov.uk

Alternatively, please contact David Brown, on 01925 542269 or email him at david.j.brown@environment-agency.gov.uk

You can also write to the Environment Agency at Richard Fairclough House, Knutsford Road, Warrington, WA4 1HG.

customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
0845 988 1188

www.environment-agency.gov.uk

What next?

We will continue sharing our plans with the local community to give people the opportunity to review our designs and speak to us about any ideas, questions or concerns. We will arrange community drop-in sessions at key project milestones, and we will produce newsletters to keep communities and businesses up to date.

Once finalised, we will submit the plans to Cheshire West and Chester Council for approval. We hope to begin construction in Spring 2015, although it is our intention to work as quickly as we can so that we can meet the tight deadlines set out by the funding rules, and begin building the flood defences as soon as possible.

Project timeline

The following dates are indicative only at this stage, but show the steps we need to take to finalise the plans and begin construction of the flood defences:

Spring 2014: Identify the construction company that will build the scheme.

Summer 2014: Submit final designs for planning approval.

Winter 2014: Obtain planning approval and other legal consents.

Spring 2015: Construction begins.

Summer 2016: Construction complete.