

LOWDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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Lowdham Flood Relief Scheme Update 17 October 2019

At the beginning of July this year the Environment Agency advised Nottinghamshire County Council that it would be unable to deliver the flood relief scheme it had been working on for several years. The Environment Agency's reason was that it had identified a number of previously unrecognised technical difficulties that significantly increased the expected cost for which there are insufficient funds. The Environment Agency did however indicate that they were working on an alternative proposal that involved slowing the flow of water upstream of Lowdham and developing water storage lagoons.

Although the Environment Agency had initially indicated that they would communicate the new plan in early August at the roundabout upgrade consultation events this did not happen.

Since August County Councillor Roger Jackson has been in communication with the Environment Agency to seek clarification regarding the new proposals. In addition, the Parish Council wrote to our local MP, Robert Jenrick, expressing concern at the further delay in delivering flood protection measures and the wasted expenditure relating to the abandoned scheme.

As a result of these combined efforts Mr Jenrick arranged for Councillor Jackson and our Parish Council Chair, Jacqueline Finn, to meet with Rebecca Pow, MP Under Secretary of State at DEFRA, at Westminster on 16 October 2019.

At this meeting Roger and Jacqueline were able to express the concerns of residents about the risk from flooding and the lack of progress in the provision of a relief scheme. The outcome of the meeting was that the Environment Agency will now be required to produce a draft proposal document for the new scheme by March 2020. Mr Jenrick has also written to Mrs Pow to specifically request that the Environment Agency produces a timeline of action between now and delivery of the proposal document next year, that they begin engaging with landowners who may be impacted by the proposal and that they produce the necessary details regarding costing.

At this stage the Parish Council has no detailed information regarding the new proposal and is unable therefore to provide any further details than already stated here. As further information becomes available it will be posted on the Parish website, loaded on Facebook and published in the Parish Magazine.