

# ***LOWDHAM PARISH COUNCIL***



## **Lowdham to receive £5 million additional funding for flood relief scheme**

On 14 July 2020 the government announced that Lowdham has been included in a national initiative to receive additional funding that has been made available to deliver 'shovel ready' flood relief schemes. Lowdham is set to receive £5 million which is additional to funds that are available from other sources. The funding is conditional on the works starting before the end of the financial year 2021-22.

Following the announcement of the scheme Robert Jenrick published the following statement.

### **"LOWDHAM FLOODING UPDATE**

After years of lobbying the Government has included a Lowdham flood defence scheme in the shovel ready flood defence programme to be announced. It will receive £5m and the works can start this financial year. I have been involved in this campaign since 2014 - before I was first elected, but many residents of Lowdham, especially the Flood Action Group, Parish Council and local authorities, have campaigned for far, far longer than that.

In the latest effort earlier this year Cllr Roger Jackson and I went to see the Environment Secretary, George Eustice to convince him of the necessity of the scheme. Last week I spoke with the Floods Minister, Rebecca Pow to lobby that the scheme should be included in the Governments Shovel Ready Scheme, and she agreed to look into it. I'm delighted it has succeeded.

I hope it protects many households from the terrible flooding we saw earlier this year, which was devastating for residents and businesses"

In addition, the Parish Council has received the letter, shown below confirming the allocation of the funding.

As mentioned above this development is very much a result of significant lobbying by groups and individuals in the village over many years. The need for a flood relief scheme received revived focus when Parish Council, chairperson, Jacqueline Finn, and County Councillor Roger Jackson, met with Government Minister Rebecca Pow last autumn. Since then the continued efforts of the Parish Council and the efforts by Lowdham FLAG, (who are developing and delivering local shorter terms measures to address flood risks and mobilise to provide support during a flood event, as well as contributing and helping shape the longer-term solution), have led to this much needed additional support.

The Parish Council is very pleased to be working with Lowdham FLAG, which has also played a key role, and continues to do so, in supporting the community during the Coronavirus pandemic.

If there any villagers who are interested in volunteering to help with helping reduce flood risk or could provide support in the event of a flood, information on how you can help can be found by visiting the Lowdham Volunteers website.



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14<sup>th</sup> July 2020

**New Government funding for flood defence schemes as part of Green Recovery package**

Dear Robert

Last week the Prime Minister announced plans to create thousands of new jobs to kick-start the nation's green recovery from the coronavirus pandemic. Today Defra published its Floods Policy Statement that sets out five long-term commitments to better prepare and protect the nation from flooding.

I can now confirm that as part of the Prime Ministers announcement and alongside the Policy Statement Government will also spend up to £170m to bring forward work on flood defence schemes which will drive economic growth and better protect thousands of homes, businesses and jobs from the devastating effects of flooding.

With the additional recovery funding to protect jobs and businesses, work will start on 22 new flood defence projects in 2020 or 2021, in addition to those schemes which were already planned to commence in the final year of the current six-year programme to better protect 300,000 homes.

It is with great pleasure that I write to you to confirm that the Lowdham (Cocker Beck) Flood Alleviation Scheme and Ecosystems Services Project has been awarded £5 million to contribute to this ambitious plan, by better protecting 100 jobs and 20 businesses.

This additional Government funding is available contingent on scheme construction commencing before the end of the 21/22 financial year.

I very much look forward to seeing this scheme being delivered.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rebecca Pow', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

**REBECCA POW MP**

