

Trent Rivers Trust

Leslie Sharpe and Alan Graham from the Trent Rivers Trust attended Lowdham Parish Council to give a short presentation about the natural flood management scheme on the Cocker Beck. The Trust is a charity and had received funding from DEFRA for the scheme and were supported by the Environment Agency. Prior to the commencement of the work they had surveyed the water course and contacted up to twenty landowners to secure agreement to undertake the work. This has now started and they will do as much as possible before the spring but will then wait until autumn to continue. The scheme should be completed this year. The trust will install some 17 “leaky barriers” across the beck and some field drains; the work will be in Lambley Dumbles and the beck and watercourses before it reaches Lowdham. The barriers will slow down the rate of flow of the water which will reduce erosion and the amount of sediment. This should reduce the number of blockages and improve water quality. In times of peak flow, water will back up behind the barriers or be stored in scrapes in the corners of fields for up to twenty four hours. The trust is also re-profiling the course of the beck in order to increase the capacity of the water course and are planting some 1600 trees in the area of Lambley Dumbles. It is believed that the scheme will improve water quality and biodiversity in the Beck as well as helping to reduce the risk of flooding in Lowdham. It was, however, emphasised that this scheme was intended to be complimentary to the main EA scheme and not to replace it.

The EA continues to work on the main flood relief scheme and has submitted plans to NSDC for consideration as to whether planning permission will be required. These plans are available to the public on the NSDC planning portal. A group of Councillors continue to have regular meetings and telephone conferences with the EA to discuss progress of the scheme. It now seems likely that the EA will work with Via (NCC Highways) so that culverts will be laid under the dual carriageway as Via carry out improvement works to the roundabout.

There was further discussion about the future of the multi use games area (capital letters MUGA). This was fully discussed at the Annual Parish Meeting. The existing surface is nearing the end of its useful life and has to be replaced. The existing surface was installed on the basis that it would support a large number of sports but this proved not to be the case and the MUGA is now only used by tennis players. After the Annual Parish Meeting, the Council decided to lay a surface that could be used for football due to interest expressed by Lowdham Colts who provide training and competitive football for many boys and girls in the village. Some funding may be available from the FA for such a project and other grant applications are pending. However some Councillors and members of the public have expressed concern at the loss of the tennis facility as the MUGA would effectively be exclusively used for youth football. As a result, the Council will make further enquiries and seek expert advice on modern surfaces such as 4G before a final decision is made.

[https://www.trentriverstrust.org/flood-relief-scheme-for-lowdham/
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