

Further to our last post, we have had a further meeting over Teams to discuss the works that are to take place on the playing fields. The Parish Council was represented by Jacqueline Finn, Emma Wilson and Alison Glazebrook. The Trustees of the Village Hall and Playing Fields were represented by Geoff Burton. Alison is also the Parish Council representative on the Village Hall Committee. The Environment Agency was represented by Lucy Marsden and Eric Burgess.

For people who have not been following developments, can we remind you that information about flooding and the planned protection works are available on the EA website and can be viewed by following the link below.

<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/east-midlands/lowdham/>

The current on the playing fields is that it is not anticipated that the main body of work will commence until August but some preparatory work will take place in advance of that date. It is hoped that the work will be finished by October. The work undertaken will be on a large scale and will be disruptive. Steel sheets will be driven into the left bank of the beck from an excavator which will have to sit in the channel. Trees have had to be removed and some will need to be pruned so that the arm of the machine can be swung safely. This is the type of machine which will be used.



The EA will have to widen the access gate to the playing fields from the dual carriageway and will use the football pitch as a compound to store material and machinery. The football pitch will have to be stoned on a temporary basis. The cricket pitch will remain accessible throughout and a safe pedestrian right of way provided around the EA compound by the dual carriageway. For most of the time, the banks of the Cocker Beck will be inaccessible. Work will also be undertaken on the flood embankment between the playing fields and the dual carriageway.

As you can imagine, the effects of all this will, on a temporary basis, be devastating but the EA and Parish Council are already starting to plan for the reinstatement of the area. The football pitch will be levelled and replanted. The banks and footpaths will be reinstated and planted. The trees that have been lost will be replaced with semi mature trees on a 1:5 ratio. The Parish Council hopes to take this opportunity to improve the appearance of the area.