

REPORT OF MEETING (HELD ON TEAMS) WITH THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY
27TH AUGUST 2021

LPC Councillor Jacqueline Finn attended the monthly meeting with the EA on 27th August.

Recovery Works on the Playing Fields

The preparatory work has been completed and the material ordered. There has been a delay in starting work due to supply issues, but it is anticipated that the main work will start in late September and be completed by Christmas. In the New Year, the EA will work on reinstating gardens and the playing fields. The first task will be to widen the entrance from the dual carriageway so that machines will be able to enter. The EA has given the VH a choice as to whether to retain the wider gateway or revert to the original. In either case the entrance will be as secure as it is now.

Whilst the works are underway, there will be two members of staff on site. This is for security and to work pumps in the event of high rainfall and flood risk. The football pitch will be stoned so that it can take the weight of the machinery and the beck will be piped through 900ml pipes which will be part of a bed to allow the machinery to move along the beck and drive in the piles. This could create an increased risk of flooding and to counter this the EA will deploy more than six pumps on site to remove water from the channel and put it into the Southwell Road culvert and cricket pitch.

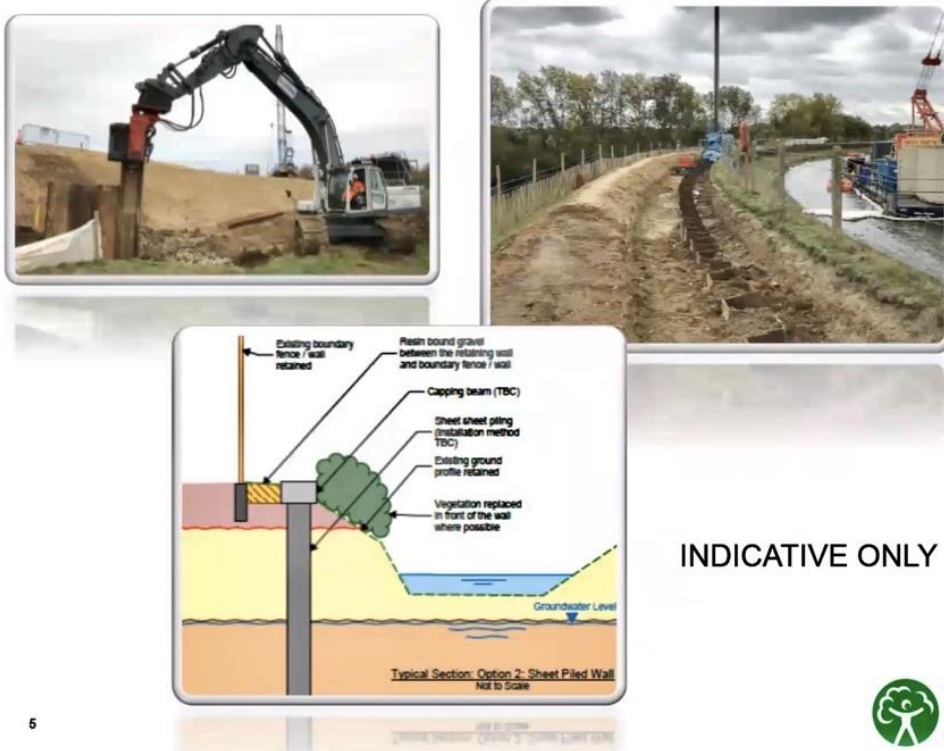
There is no intention to remove any more trees (other than the smaller ones on the bank by the dual carriageway) but it may be necessary to trim some of those that remain if they impede the machinery. This will have to be assessed on site.

Whilst Eric Burgess is still supervising the scheme, Will Davey will be in charge on site.

Actions Required

1. There is a problem with the footpath. The EA has rules about construction which almost amount to over engineering, and this would mean that part of the originally proposed footpath would be too high. We should ask Bill to write and ask what their proposals are.
2. Lowdham Colts have asked if it is possible to incorporate some drainage into the pitch. Could Bill write to ask about this? Could the PC consider paying for pipes etc if this is possible?

Final Design - Steel Piling



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MAIN FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME

The Outline Business Case has been completed and Alex has answered a number of questions put. He is hoping that it will be recommended for approval next week.

The EA are consulting all relevant statutory undertakers and engaging with affected landowners. Two pieces of land are to be purchased and contracts may be exchanged on one next week.

The EA are dealing directly with Lowdham Grange. It may be necessary to use the access road at times and the bridge must be checked for weight bearing.

Clarkes will have to have a new farm access.

They are now at the point where more detailed design can be undertaken. They are trying to design a natural looking channel for the beck which may incorporate a boardwalk for the footpath.

The Citizens' Space Page will be updated

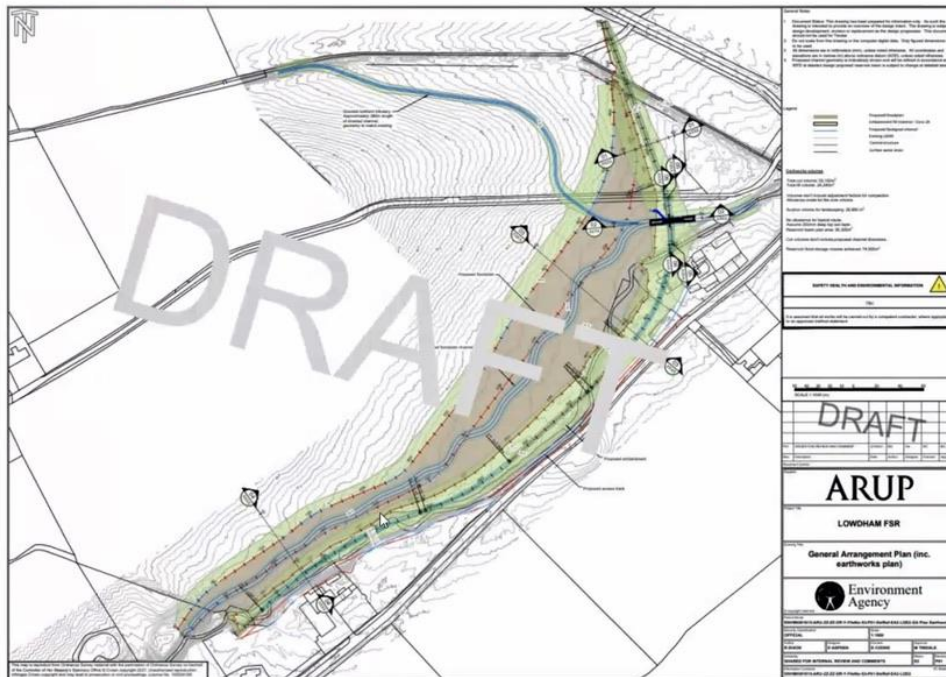
A planning application will have to be submitted to NSDC

There is a new climate change policy that may affect the design but it is possible to increase the capacity on site if this is deemed necessary.

The cost of the scheme has increased and there was a funding gap which concerned both myself and Roger Jackson. Magically, this has been resolved and additional funds have been found and allocated after we complained to Robert Jenrick last week!



Lead option



Jacqueline Finn
29 August 2021