

## Upton Flood Alleviation Scheme

### Update May 2010

This update is to keep you informed on the progress of the Upton Flood Alleviation Scheme.

### Public Exhibition - 17 June 2010

Our proposals are now in the final stages of development and we will present these at a public exhibition in Upton, at the Memorial Hall on 17 June between 3 and 9pm. We also plan to provide information at key locations along the Waterside. The project team will be available to answer questions and we would like as many people as possible to see the plans and talk to us about them.

Until we have planning permission we will not have a definite start date, but we want to start construction as soon as possible. Construction dates will be considerate of the many festivals that take place in Upton.

As with all publicly-funded schemes, we have to ensure the benefits (the value of the damages avoided to people and property) outweigh the costs. We will only start work once we have planning permission for both New Street and Waterside. This ensures best use of resources and budget because construction will take place either at the same time or consecutively.

#### New Street

We are making changes to the planning application that was submitted because we have adjusted our proposed defence line to reduce the cost of moving a gas main.

The application can be viewed at [www.malvernhillsgov.uk](http://www.malvernhillsgov.uk).

Since Worcestershire County Council are best placed to carry out the road raising on the A4104 Tunnel Hill Road, they have agreed to do that work, provided this scheme goes ahead.

#### Next steps:

- 1) Finalising the layout of the flood wall and gate at New Street.
- 2) Modify our planning submission to allow the planning determination to be made. (Amendments to the planning application do not affect the start date.)
- 3) Continue discussions with land owners.

## Waterfront

Following discussions with consultees such as the Malvern Hills District Council Conservation officer, English Heritage and the Town Council, we have modified our proposals. It is important that the flood wall becomes an integral part of the town, in keeping with its surroundings, so we are working hard to achieve this. We intend to include a heritage brick which is in keeping with the character of Upton.

We have been talking to land owners about whether the scheme could affect their interests and incorporating their views where we can.

Throughout the appraisal process we have looked at many options to provide a more resilient, permanent defence for the town. Flood defences that rely on lots of moving parts or human operation have a higher risk of failing. For this reason we must now design defences that do not rely on a lot of moving parts or human operation. We do not want to stop access to the water, so we have included some gates that could be operated locally to provide access and we are in discussions with users of the Waterside (residents and businesses) to make sure they are located in the best position.

We are aware that there is concern regarding the height of the wall. We are considering the use of some short lengths of glass panel to retain a river view. In sections where there is no glass, we will slightly modify ground levels so that the visual impact of the wall will be reduced. There is only 11cm difference in wall height to protect from a 1 in 150 year flood event (0.67% AEP) in any given year, than from a 1 in 75 year flood event (1.33% AEP). Protecting Upton from a 1 in 150 year flood event provides more security for local people and the best value for public money.

### Next steps:

- 1) Prepare for the planning application and public exhibition.
- 2) Public exhibition on 17 June.
- 3) Continue to contact and discuss issues with landowners regarding our works.
- 4) Carry out various surveys to establish exactly where building foundations are and the ground conditions along the proposed line of the wall, to locate services and refine landscaping details.

## Contacts

The Town Council and Flood Forum have agreed to gather questions and comments on our behalf. Please contact Upton Town Council on 01684 592273, email [uptontowncouncil@btconnect.com](mailto:uptontowncouncil@btconnect.com) or alternatively Upton Flood Forum by emailing [OLStocker@aol.com](mailto:OLStocker@aol.com). We will answer questions in the next update where appropriate or directly.

Our next update will be available in July.

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