

# Wrington flood relief scheme update

August 2017



Welcome to the latest update on phase 2 of the Wrington flood relief scheme - the creation of an earth embankment, just under two metres high, which will be placed across the valley in the fields upstream of Rickyard Road.

In our last update we informed you we had submitted an application for planning permission for the works and that dormice had been identified on the site following field surveys. Identifying dormice means that we need to apply for a European Protected Species licence before we can carry out any work at the site.

We have now received full planning permission for the scheme, subject to a number of conditions, which in turn means we are now able to submit our licence application to Natural England.

## **Why do we need a dormice licence?**

Dormice are a protected species. As a result we have to get a mitigation license from Natural England before undertaking any work at the site, including any clearance works. The licence is to make sure that the works we are planning - and how we will do them - will not harm the conservation status of the protected species, and that there are no satisfactory alternatives to the works that would cause less harm to them.

We have reviewed the scheme proposals and have proposed a range of mitigation measures to fully mitigate any potential impacts from the works. This includes transplanting 120m of existing hedge to the south of Rye Brook and planting 325m of new native species hedgerows, including some trees, to the north and south of the brook.

It will take approximately six weeks to receive a response from Natural England following our application. We anticipate this will be decided in September.

## **What happens next?**

While the protected species licence is being assessed we are continuing our preparations for the scheme. Given the environmental constraints to the works in relation to nesting birds and dormice, and the susceptibility of the works to bad weather, the main construction works will take place next spring. We are looking at options to undertake vegetation clearance and the required archaeological investigations during the autumn.

## **Updated guidance available**

We've recently put together a new publication explaining the rights and responsibilities of Riparian Ownership. Drawing on the Environment Agency's '[Living on the Edge](#)', our new '[Watercourse Management](#)' factsheet explains the duties of us as a local authority and provides clarification on the designation and responsibilities of those living on, over or next to a water course – known as 'riparian owners'.

## **Community Resilience Wington**

Proactive local residents have established a community resilience group in Wington to identify and reduce risks where possible and build a community emergency plan. The Community Resilience North Somerset (CRNS) programme is all about linking people, skills and resources together.

Volunteers in Wington have already undergone basic training and are working in partnership with us and Avon Fire and Rescue, focusing initially on flood risk. To find out how you can lend a hand and for more information locally please see the [CRNS Wington Facebook page](#).

Wington's Community Resilience Team currently has around 20 volunteers in the Flood Team and the beginnings of a Safety Team. If anyone is interested in getting involved in these teams or the Evacuation & Transport Team or Welfare & Shelter Team please get in touch. No prior experience is necessary as full training will be given. All we need is your enthusiasm for your community and a small amount of your time.

If you would like to find out more about Community Resilience North Somerset please visit our website [www.communityresilience-ns.org.uk](http://www.communityresilience-ns.org.uk), email us at [info@communityresilience-ns.org.uk](mailto:info@communityresilience-ns.org.uk) or telephone 01934 426322.

## **Keeping you informed**

We will continue to send you updates as the scheme progresses. If you no longer wish to receive these email updates please let us know.