

Reducing flood risk in Reading and Caversham

Newsletter – June 2020



Thames Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC)

Overview of our drop-ins

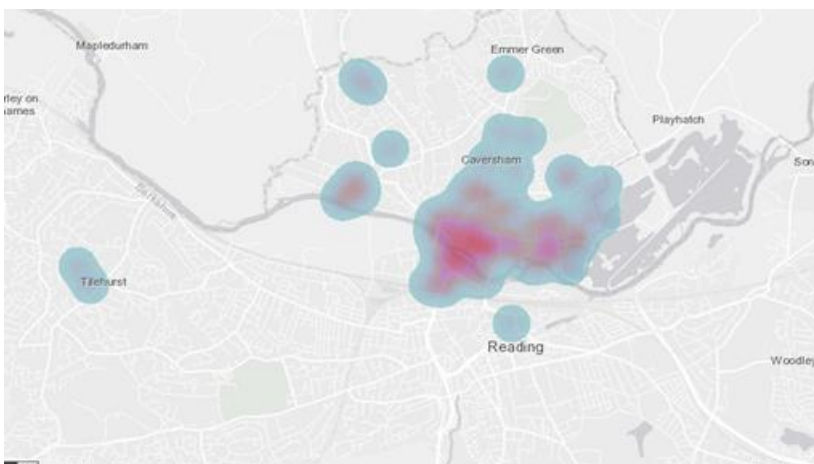


We held 6 public drop-ins in February and March. Our drop-ins were in different locations, at different times and on different days of the week to enable more people to attend. 238 people attended our drop-ins. We had planned to hold one more event at Church House but unfortunately this was cancelled because of the Coronavirus pandemic.

238 
Number of people that attended

6 
Number of public drop-ins

4 
Number of venues



The heat map shows where people attending the drop-ins came from. Most people who attended the events came from the area that would benefit from a reduction in flood risk if a flood scheme was built.

Our feedback supported this as it showed 67% of people who attended are at flood risk.

What did we share?



Flood maps



How to sign up to flood warnings and prepare for flooding



What a possible flood scheme could look like



The history of flooding in the area



Members of the project team talked people through design options and answered questions

All the information that we shared is available on our website:

<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/thames/reducing-flooding-in-reading-and-caversham-infroma/>

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What did people like?

At the drop-ins we asked people for feedback to help us both with future engagement and to improve our understanding of public views on our work. 140 people filled in feedback forms. Their responses showed that people found the most useful parts of the events to be:

- Speaking to our staff



- Viewing landscape plans and before and after photos e.g.

Christchurch Ditch

Present day



If the scheme were to go ahead



The scheme is still in the early stages of development and it does not have the necessary permissions or funding. Final details of wall heights, design and planting, including changes in trees and hedgerows, are still to be finalised.

Information on the proposals and the display materials can still be viewed at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/north-reading-and-lower-caversham-flood-alleviation-scheme/north-reading-and-lower-caversham-flood-alleviation-scheme>

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What's next?

Over the last few weeks we have been processing the feedback from the drop-ins as well as updating some of the modelling work. Our plan for the next few months is:

- To go into more detail in future newsletters about the questions you raised at the events and the responses we gave. We will also include more detail about the positive and negative feedback people gave us on what they saw at the drop-ins.
- Set up virtual meetings with Reading Council, landowners and community groups to talk about next steps.
- To look at how we could fund a scheme.

Where can I find out more?

- Visit our website for more information on the scheme:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/north-reading-and-lower-caversham-flood-alleviation-scheme/north-reading-and-lower-caversham-flood-alleviation-scheme>.
- Look out for updates about the scheme on the Environment Agency's Twitter and Facebook accounts:



@environmentagency



@EnvAgencySE

- If you have any questions or would like anything featured in future editions of this newsletter please contact: readingandcavershamscheme@environment-agency.gov.uk.

Our work on a scheme to reduce flooding in Reading and Caversham is continuing. We are adapting our ways of working to be able to continue with our work and engagement during the pandemic. We hope you find our updates useful. If you wish to be removed from our mailing list, please let us know.