

How can we reduce flooding in north Reading and Lower Caversham?

Newsletter

November 2018



The Environment Agency is investigating options to reduce flood risk in north Reading and Lower Caversham.

Flooding in this area affects homes, businesses, utilities and a number of busy roads for long periods of time. We have been investigating a number of options, most of which include building flood walls and embankments.

Public consultation report

During the summer we held public drop-ins to understand your views on reducing flood risk in north Reading and Lower Caversham. Many people came to find out about our ideas, speak to the project team and share their knowledge on the local area.

We also gave the opportunity for you to take part in our online consultation so that we could fully understand your views.

Our report on the consultation responses is now ready for you to view at:

<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/thames/reading-and-caversham-flood-reduction-options/>

What did we consult on?

In our consultation, we shared 3 potential new ways to reduce flooding in the area. Each option included building a combination of flood walls and embankments. The difference in each option was the extent of the area these would cover. We also gave a fourth option; not to do any new work but continue as we are now.

The locations for each option are described briefly here, but if you would like to review them in more detail please visit our consultation page following the link in the box to the left.

Options we consulted on in June 2018

- Option 1, from Nire road to Christchurch Meadows
- Option 2, from Nire Road to Promenade Road
- Option 3, would include works on the south side of the river in addition to running from Nire to Promenade roads.
- Option 4, to continue as we are now, in that the Environment Agency would continue river maintenance and control high flows.

This is what you told us

Just over half the people who responded to our consultation said that, given the options we provided, they would prefer us to continue with existing work and not to build any of the options. However, many people felt they did not have enough information to make an informed decision, and did not comment on this section.

Of those who preferred we develop a scheme we found similar levels of support for options 1 and 2, whilst option 3 was least preferred. The consultation also highlighted that lower walls would be favoured over higher ones, even if this would mean a lower standard of flood protection.

The next steps

To enable those people who wanted more detail to have the opportunity to comment on our proposals we have decided to develop a more detailed design.

This does not mean that we are definitely going to go ahead with a scheme. At this stage we are carrying out further work, re-evaluating the options. We are looking at ways of adapting our ideas based on the feedback and information you have shared with us. We hope to put forward a preferred option that will reduce flood risk and address some of the information you shared.

The consultation also showed us that we have not yet managed to engage with all the communities who could benefit from reduced flood risk. This was another consideration for us in deciding to continue to investigate options. We would also like to ensure we gain the views of all affected communities through further engagement.

We will be holding another public drop-in on 6 December to share our latest design, listen to your thoughts and answer any questions you may have. Here you will be able to see how we have adapted our plans in response to both your feedback and new technical information we have.

Public drop-in

We are inviting you to come to our drop-in on

**Thursday 6 December
from 2.30pm to 7.30pm**

**Caversham Baptist Church
South Street,
Caversham
Reading,
RG4 8HY**

You will be able to see our latest plans to reduce flooding in north Reading and Lower Caversham. Speak to our project team and share your views on our latest proposals.

Drop in at any time. No need to book.

Ground investigation work

You may see us out and about from November into early 2019 carrying out environmental surveys, structural assessments and ground investigation work. This is to help us gather all the information we need to develop the design further, to inform a decision. It does not mean that we are starting work to build a scheme.