

Gloucestershire County Council (LLFA)

Brief updates for South and North Cotswolds public meetings as convened by Geoffrey Clifton Brown MP

26th April 2023

- Schemes

- *Bledington*: Following publication of the design book and options appraisal, successful communications with two key landowners have continued, with regards to the ‘hybrid’ scheme of Westcote Brook fortification and ‘field bund’ augmentation. Additional modelling work to support these negotiations as well as the bid for national funding is underway. Ground investigation scope finalised and resourced by GCC. Upstream NFM ongoing in partnership with Wild Oxfordshire, EA and FWAG.
- *Siddington*: Building on completion of existing drainage network survey, optimum solution identified as recommissioning of historic flow routes / ‘paleo-channels’ through the field below the South Cerney Road in combination with improved conveyance under the road itself.
- *Moreton-in-Marsh / Batsford Estate*: Delivery of extensive NFM scheme on Batsford Estate on hold whilst landowner negotiations continue. Investigations underway into potential interventions in the town centre, concentrating on flow improvements and attenuation on Town Council owned open space to East of railway.
- *Daglingworth*: A small scale NFM scheme to help slow the flow through Daglingworth Stream, including watercourse renaturalisation and leaky dams. Ordinary watercourse consent received, landowner aiming to carry out works towards the end of the summer with a GCC watching brief.

- NFM project

- The scoping phase of the FWAG SW/GCC/EA ‘WILD2’ project is now complete.
 - We have scoped NFM solutions to combat flood risk and sediment pollution across 9 different farms in the Churn (Cirencester) and Colne (Fairford) catchments.
 - 5 landowners have shown interest in implementing measures on their farms including drain removal, floodplain reconnection, earth bunds, wetland creation and leaky dams.
 - We will spend the summer building out our proposals, carrying out further feasibility with a view to delivering the work over the next couple of years.
- A series of leaky dams have been installed above Stanton village, in conjunction with grips to take water off farm tracks on the escarpment above.
- GCC has contributed to the development of the Cirencester Waterways Conference, to be held on 12th June in Cirencester, and will speak at the event.

- **Moreton Flood Action Group**

- Following the National Flood Forum being commissioned by GCC to work with the Moreton-in-Marsh community to develop a Flood Action Group, NFF have been working closely with flood-affected residents and a formal group has been set up.
- Working with NFF, the group has compiled their 'flood action plan' which lists a range of issues and questions the group seeks to pursue.
- The first multi-agency meeting took place on 10th April, and was attended by GCC, EA, CDC and Thames Water. A range of updates / responses to the flood action plan were provided and a date for the next meeting agreed.

- **Planning / development control**

- A key function of the LLFA is to act as a statutory consultee to major development. Any development proposal greater than one hectare or more than 10 dwellings is checked by our SuDS Engineers to ensure that it is not at risk of flooding and will not increase flood risk elsewhere.
- A key development in the Cotswolds is the realignment of the A417 and 'missing link'. We continue to monitor the proposals closely to ensure there is no increase in localised flood risk.
- With all other major developments, we work to ensure the maximum benefit can be derived from SuDS (Sustainable Drainage Systems) to ensure surface water is kept away from foul and combined sewers and that SuDS infrastructure accompanying new development maximises the combined benefits it can bring of flood protection, amenity and biodiversity.