

Parish meeting- Hoe and Worthing

Date : 30th May 2024

Subject: Flood Defences in Worthing- Update

Several areas have been addressed since the last Parish being:

1) Floodline

- The winter of 2023/2024 experienced several flood warnings. The flood line alert system appears to be working.
- Those who are interested in registering to receive alerts should do so via 0345-9881-188 or updating their details at <https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings>

2) Environmental Agency (EA) Update

- The two Gressenhall sluices are under the control of EA.
- On the 14th May 2024 EA have proposed the following “ *The Wendling Beck flood risk model is currently being updated by our Partnership and Strategic Oversight team, and as part of this we have asked them to review whether removing the gates would increase flood risk. If there is no additional flood risk identified, then the EA would like to explore the removal of the gates which will have ecological benefits for the river.* ”
- At present this is at a Consultation stage and the Parish together with other landowners and stakeholders have been approached for comments.

3) Property Flood Resilience (PFR)

- The process of engagement with the Authorities has been slow. Affected flooded homes have been surveyed by Lakeside Flood Solutions, an external Company, and schedules of works have been sent to Homeowners, which they have to agree to and sign. This is still in progress and at the time of writing this report we have no timetable for when the work will be done.
- EA are on record as saying “ *the community of Worthing will not be left unprotected this coming winter, “ when the upgraded PFR is fitted. A reply was sent stating that there were several properties in Worthing that whilst not affected by the flood in 2020, are still vulnerable however, their current PFR measures will remain unchanged.* ”

4) Track Raising

- Four years on from the flood at Worthing, the progress on providing a front-line defence to Worthing moves on slowly.
- EA are ‘in principle’ in agreement to undertake the track raising works. However, this is subject to completing a “Flood Risk Activity Permit “ as well as providing a legal ‘Partnership Agreement’ between EA and Michael Goff who has kindly agreed to undertake the work.
- EA will be providing the materials to raise the track and are in process of assessing the suitability of clay from a site in Soham Toney which may be available late August/ early September.
- The parish has expressed concern that the work is conducted at the latest in September as delay may adversely affected the use of heavy machinery on the ground in wet conditions.

Graham Lewis 20th May 2024