

newsletter

June 2009

Marlow Flood Alleviation Scheme

Pound Lane, Firview Close and Gossmore Lane areas

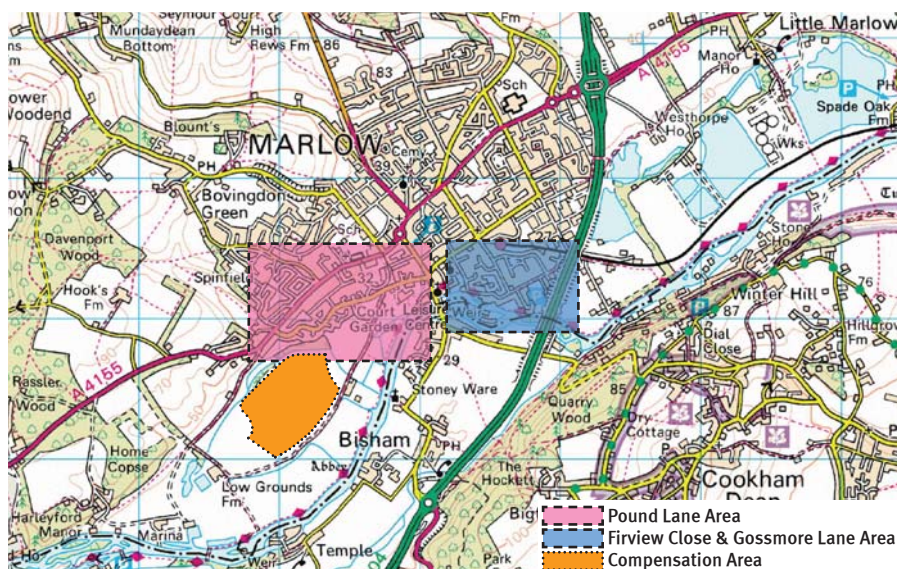
This newsletter gives an update about the proposed flood alleviation scheme for Marlow. It also gives information about a public exhibition you are invited to attend on Wednesday 8 July 2009 (see reverse).

The Environment Agency's role in flood risk management

We are the leading public body for protecting and improving the environment in England and Wales. We have an important role in reducing the risk of flooding from rivers and the sea. We aim to reduce the risk to more people by improving the quality of existing structures and creating more where appropriate.

Background

In November 2007 we held a public exhibition for residents in the Pound Lane area of Marlow with information about a proposed flood alleviation scheme. We held a similar exhibition for residents in the Gossmore Lane / Firview Close area in February 2008. The details of these schemes have been developed during 2008. We have decided that these schemes should be combined into a single Marlow Flood Alleviation Scheme. The combined scheme can be delivered more cost effectively and with less overall disruption to residents.



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Nature of the problem

The areas of Pound Lane, in the south west of Marlow, and Firview Close / Gossmore Lane to the east are low lying and experience river and groundwater flooding. The area has a history of flood related problems including:

- Poor highway drainage.
- Flooding of properties from the River Thames
- Flooding of gardens and property as result of the high water table.

Whilst the highway drainage problems have been tackled by Buckinghamshire County Council there is a need for new river flood defences and a means of reducing the potential for groundwater flooding.

Marlow Flood Alleviation Scheme Public Exhibition

8 July 2009

Court Garden Leisure Complex

Option development

We developed a range of flood risk management solutions by considering all consultation responses received from various organisations and the local community. The options were assessed against the following criteria:

- The impact on the environment and local community;
- How it could be built;
- Cost effectiveness; and
- How effective it would be in the future.

Marlow flood alleviation scheme

The preferred flood risk management solution is to reduce the risk of flooding in the Pound Lane, Firview Close and Gossmore Lane areas to a 1 in 100 chance of flooding in any one year by:

- Constructing flood walls and bunds to the south of properties in both the Pound Lane and Firview Close areas. Flood walls will be brick clad to improve visual appearance whilst bunds will be low grass banks with clay cores.
- Raising the playing field at Gossmore Lane over a low permeability layer to reduce the potential inflow of flood water to the ground;
- Raising the north end of Gossmore Lane, near the pedestrian rail crossing, to prevent flooding through the A404 viaduct;
- Installing a headwall with a flap-valve on the drainage ditch adjacent to the A404 embankment to prevent floodwater flowing back up the channel;
- Installing a series of boreholes at the rear of properties on Pound Lane, at Marlow Sports Club, and around the playing field at Gossmore Lane. This will lower abnormally high

groundwater levels by pumping groundwater to the River Thames.

In addition to these flood defence works, flood water storage areas will be provided on part of Marlow Sports Club and on agricultural land on Lower Pound Lane. These will consist of lowered areas to store flood water from the River Thames, to ensure that flooding is not made worse downstream as a result of the scheme.

Additional improvements

This scheme also provides significant opportunities for wider benefits, including:

- New habitat creation in conjunction with the flood storage areas;
- Landscape and footpath improvements;
- Improved playing fields at Gossmore Lane.

Changes made during 2008

- We have combined the Pound Lane and Firview Close Flood Alleviation Schemes;
- We have proposed an additional flood storage area at Lower Pound Lane;
- We have proposed improvements to the playing fields at Gossmore Lane;
- We have changed the position of some boreholes;
- We will be re-using the excavated soil from Pound Lane to construct bunds at the Firview Close site.

More information about these changes will be available at our exhibition on 8th July.

The next stage

The intention is to submit a planning application for the scheme in Summer 2009. An Environmental Report that describes all the impacts of the

scheme is being prepared to accompany this application.

Subject to gaining all relevant approvals, including the necessary land agreements we are aiming to construct the Marlow Flood Alleviation scheme in 2010.

Public exhibition

The Environment Agency is inviting you to attend a public exhibition.

It will provide you with an opportunity to find out more information about the flood alleviation scheme and how it affects you.

You will also be able to meet the project team.

Drop-In Session on the Marlow Flood Alleviation Scheme

General Higginson Room,

Court Garden Leisure Complex, Pound Lane, Marlow, SL7 2AE

On Wednesday 8 July 2009

From 2.30 until 7.30 pm

If you have any feedback or would like further information please contact:

David Swann
Project Manager
david.swann@environment-agency.gov.uk

01276 454468

Environment Agency
Swift House
Frimley Business Park
Camberley
Surrey GU16 7SQ