

Steeping River Community Update

October 2019



Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board
Water Management Consortium



Lincolnshire
COUNTY COUNCIL
Working for a better future

NFU
EAST MIDLANDS

This newsletter provides an update on the work of the Steeping River Catchment Steering Group and other activities that help manage flood risk in the catchment.

Come along to November's community events

The community are invited to come along to see the results of the recent EA survey, learn what this information tells us and share their views. Find out more about how organisations are working together on producing a catchment action plan and reducing flood risk in the Steeping catchment. Please drop in to see the displays and talk to us between the times below. Batemans Brewery has kindly agreed to host two community events on: **Thursday 7 November, 2pm to 8pm** and **Saturday 9 November, 11am to 5pm**.



Maintenance continuing ahead of winter

The EA and Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board (LMDB) are continuing to carry out maintenance on the Steeping river and drainage system ahead of winter.



The EA-planned weed cut of the river is well underway. Weed boats and long arm reach machinery is cutting weed between Haven House to Mill Bridge.

LMDB continue to manage a number of badger sett works on the EA's behalf. Being mindful of the law as they are a protected species, work involves the relocation of the setts and installation of a mesh

barrier which should stop burrowing animals re-entering the river bank.

On 21 October work starts by contractors (ADC) on behalf of LMDb on 3.5 kilometres of culverted (piped) watercourse in and around Wainfleet. This will involve a CCTV inspection to check for any defects in the pipes and to ascertain whether any damage was caused by the recent flooding. If necessary, desilting of the pipe will be undertaken at the same time and any necessary repairs will be scheduled into the Board's winter works programme.

Work will require access to manholes; formal notice will be served on any landowners where these are located on private property. There should be very little disturbance but may be some minor holdups on the roads due to tankers working in the area. We would appreciate your patience and support whilst the work is being carried out as it is essential to ensure that the systems work effectively. Further details can be found on www.lmdb.co.uk.

Recent heavy rainfall

October has seen extensive rainfall across the county. A dedicated team of duty officers at the EA monitor river levels and weather conditions 24/7. The EA's incident room was opened to help manage main river flows and a forecast tidal surge.

River levels triggered the Flood Alert (flooding possible on low-lying land and roads) to be issued on 15 October in the River Steeping catchment. The trigger levels have been lowered since June. A coastal Flood Alert was also issued on 29 September, for which some properties in the area may be registered.

The Flood Warning Service helps to warn people of overtopping from the rivers or sea. Real-time flood warnings can be seen anytime at www.flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/warnings. Call the EA's Floodline service on **0345 988 1188** to check you are registered or do it online at www.gov.uk/flood.

Flood warnings - know what to do?



**FLOOD
ALERT**

PREPARE

- Prepare a bag that includes medicines and insurance documents
- Visit flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk



**FLOOD
WARNING**

ACT

- Turn off gas, water and electricity
- Move things upstairs or to safety
- Move family, pets and car to safety



**SEVERE
FLOOD
WARNING**

SURVIVE

- Call 999 if in immediate danger
- Follow advice from emergency services
- Keep yourself and your family safe

Flood Re is here to help

Wainfleet residents can be reassured that they can access affordable home insurance with the Flood Re Scheme. This is a not-for-profit, joint initiative between government and the insurance industry that aims to improve the affordability and availability of home insurance in flood risk areas. Four out of five households with previous flood claims have been able to find quotes that are more than 50% cheaper since the introduction of Flood Re. If you have been affected by the recent flooding in Wainfleet, or are concerned that the price of your insurance policy might go up, shop around to ensure that you are getting the best price for the right cover for your home. For support, call Flood Re on 0330 024 3131.



Insurance complaints

It is stressful to experience flood damage to your home and then have trouble claiming on your home insurance. If you have a complaint about how an insurer is handling your claim, the role of the Financial Services Ombudsman is to look at the facts impartially and make sure there is a fair outcome. You can contact them online www.financial-ombudsman.org.uk or call 0800 023 4567.

Firsby Group public meeting

Around 20 local residents and councillors came to a public meeting. The meeting was arranged by the Firsby Group of five parishes, attended by Steering Group members and hosted by Matt Warman MP.

Issues raised included previous flooding and action taken, funding, flood warnings, climate change, different ways to manage risk in the future and property protection.

Steering Group members met with residents after the meeting to understand more about how the flooding affected them.



Quinceys pumping station open day

Around 20 residents and Wainfleet Town Council members visited an open day at Quinceys pumping station at Thorpe Culvert as part of Heritage Lincolnshire weekend. This was alongside a 'catchment walk' to understand more about how water is managed. People were interested to know there is almost 55 kilometres of raised river flood defences going out to the sea, and also that grass is cut on the river banks not to look good, but to strengthen the embankments.

Flooding investigation

Over the past few months, Norfolk County Council, on behalf of Lincolnshire County Council, has been running an investigation under section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 into the flooding at Wainfleet in June. Norfolk County Council has been talking to local residents and groups, and we would like to thank you for telling them your experiences, your opinions and sharing your local knowledge. Your valuable comments will feed into the investigation and will help to verify and expand on the technical data provided by public authorities. The investigation will cover which risk management authorities have relevant functions and whether those authorities exercised, or are proposing to exercise, those functions. As it is a thorough and complex investigation it is expected the full report will be ready and published early next year. In the meantime, progress of the investigations arising from the June floods across Lincolnshire will be reported at the Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee on 25 November in Lincoln. More information is available on www.lincolnshire.gov.uk.

What is 'Bellwin' and how does it work?

Bellwin is a scheme managed by the government via the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. The scheme is only activated by Ministers in certain circumstances linked to emergency situations and enables agencies involved to reclaim a proportion of expenditure incurred. It can pay for things like staff time and equipment needed to respond to emergencies. The scheme was activated for both East Lindsey District Council and Lincolnshire Fire & Rescue.

Contact us

East Lindsey District Council: www.e-lindsey.gov.uk/flood2019 provides information for people affected by the flooding. Our Flood Recovery Link Worker can offer support: flood.recovery@e-lindsey.gov.uk or 07776 462414.

Environment Agency: 03708 506 506. LNenquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk. To report an incident please call (24-hour service) 0800 80 70 60.

Lincolnshire County Council: 01522 552222.
customer_services@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board: 01507 328095. enquiries@lmdb.co.uk.

Witham Fourth IDB: 01205 310088. drainage@w4idb.co.uk.

National Farmers' Union: Philip Odling and Christian Ford (Spilsby) 01790 752843, Alistair Green (Boston and Wainfleet) 01205 363051, Regional Environment Adviser Simon Fisher 01572 824250.