

Public Meeting Upton Library: Wednesday April 19th 2017

Re: Flood Scheme - Elevation of the A4104 (alongside Upton Marina)

Matt Maginnis – Worcestershire County Council - Programme manager (overview of project)

Chris Beatty – design manager/project manager CH2M (global engineering company that provides consulting, design, construction, and operations services for corporations)

Christian Bird – Worcestershire County Council – project officer

Main Points:

- The length of the raised carriage way will be 530m by 0.8m (2 ½ feet) starting at the junction with East Waterside. There will also be a slight widening of the road as well as reducing the bend past the Marina heading out of town.
- The project will hopefully start October 2017 for an estimated 6 months
- Night work is possible

A4104 meets the WCC's criteria for expensive/extensive flood alleviation work because of the flooding frequency and the significant effect it has on amount of traffic (i.e. nearest available routes across the Severn are Worcester or Tewkesbury)

The representatives from WCC could NOT say how many times the A4104 past the Marina had flooded in the last 20 years (The consensus of people at the meeting was only 2 or 3 occasions - 2014, 2007 and 2000 (1) and only for periods of short duration i.e. no more than a week)

There were suggestions from the audience that there were ulterior motives for raising the road i.e. new housing development /quarrying for aggregates (2)

Concerns from the audience:

The regular flooding of the B4211 Hanley Road would mean that, although the A4104 would remain open, there would be the usual bottle neck through Upton town centre.

The regular closure of the B4211 Hanley Road was a significant problem for local people – much more so than the occasional closure of the A4104 – WCC's representatives explained that it is NOT feasible to protect the Hanley Road at present.

Where will the displaced volume of water (from raising the road) go? – Computer modelling ensures that the extra culverts being incorporated into the raised carriage way will minimise potential

problems elsewhere (computer models suggest a marginal increase in flood water at Quay Lane, Hanley Castle – WCC are in consultation with these properties)

If the computer models prove to be wrong, and properties other than those in Quay Lane are affected, will WCC be liable? WCC will 'do their utmost to support' in the event of increased risk of flooding. Their intention is for 'negative impact' and to 'help mitigate a rise' in flood levels.

Many were concerned about the disruption for the town caused by lengthy queues during the construction. The recent painting and resurfacing of the Upton Bridge had resulted in considerable waiting times at peak periods with poor management of traffic lights exacerbating problem. The WCC will 'monitor closely' the effect on traffic whilst the construction takes place. They will let everyone know what will be happening including waiting times for traffic queues. They will endeavour to have better traffic flow and not to use convoy systems.

It was suggested that WCC met with businesses in Upton to work with them to minimise disruption e.g. ensure deliveries were made outside peak periods

Communication:

WCC asked for the best way to communicate with local residents and businesses (*one wonders why this communication wasn't established already considering the project is supposedly going ahead in October this year?*)

Suggestions:

- Upton website – a hyperlink to WCC's Flood Alleviation Scheme
- E-mails to the WCC at the meeting – for specific questions
- The meeting tonight was, according to WCC, the first of an on-going partnership

- (1) <http://www.environmentdata.org/archive/ealit:444/OBJ/20000371.pdf> Environment Agency Midlands Region: Autumn 2000 Floods Review - pg 54 flooding of A4105 Upton
- (2) <http://worcestershire.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s9877/pl2016-05-17%20Ryall.pdf> WCC PLANNING AND REGULATORY COMMITTEE 17 MAY 2016 - point 80
- (3) <http://worcestershire.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s11692/Item%205%20Appendix%201.pdf> Flood Risk Management in Worcestershire Annual Report 2016