

## Marlow Flood Alleviation Scheme Drop in Session

The Environment Agency is holding a public drop in session on Thursday 8 September for the local community to find out more about the Marlow Flood Alleviation Scheme and the advanced works that will be starting in September 2016.

The drop-in session will be held at the Liston Hall, Chapel St, Marlow SL7 1DD between 4pm and 7:30pm. There will be information on display and experts on hand to talk to about the scheme. We would like to hear how people want to be kept up to date with progress, and there will be the chance to sign up to a distribution list.

David Bedlington, Area Flood & Coastal Risk Manager for the Environment Agency said:

“I am delighted that the advanced works for the flood defences in Marlow are able to start this year. One flood wall will replace timber fences with a permanent and impermeable wall, along the boundaries of two residential properties. The second flood wall will prevent the River Thames from backing up along the highway ditch near the A404. These walls are part of the preparation for the main scheme which is expected to start construction in spring 2017. I look forward to meeting members from the local community on 8 September.”

The advanced works will consist of building two flood walls between 1.5 metres and 2 metres in height, and made from concrete with a brick finish. One will be adjacent to the towpath between Gossmore recreation ground and Pergola field. The other will be on the highway ditch at the rear of Firview Close.

The advanced works will be complete by the end of December 2016. The towpath between Gossmore recreation ground and Pergola field will be closed for the duration of the works.

The advanced works will allow the Environment Agency to effectively use temporary defence barriers to reduce the risk of flooding to Marlow, until the main scheme is completed. Due to reduced space and access constraints, temporary barriers could not be placed in the two locations of the advanced works. The Environment Agency is able to deploy temporary defence barriers across England, when and where there is an identified risk of property flooding. Eventually, the advanced works will form part of the main Marlow Flood Alleviation Scheme.

The Environment Agency is continuing to progress plans to build the main Marlow Flood Alleviation Scheme. Work is continuing on:

- ecological surveys at Pound Lane and Lower Pound Lane - these will continue into the autumn of 2016.
- finalising the existing design.
- discussing land use with landowners.

The Environment Agency expects the main construction of the scheme to begin in spring 2017, subject to all legal and land requirements being finalised.

The Marlow Flood Alleviation Scheme will reduce flood risk to 287 properties in Marlow from a combination of fluvial (river) and groundwater flooding.

**Ends**

**Notes to Editor**

**All media enquiries: 0800 917 9259.**

**Please ask for the duty press officer**

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