

Little Mill Flood Alleviation Scheme

Feedback Form - tell us what you would like us to do

January 2012

On 19 January 2012, we met with some of the residents from the flood group and representatives from Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council to discuss the options available to manage flood risk in the community and how this might be funded. The community now needs to make some decisions.

Below are the key points that were discussed at the meeting. [Overleaf is a questionnaire so that you can tell us your views and preferences for how we proceed.](#)

- We have been using a hydraulic model of the River Bourne to test traditional ways to reduce flood risk, either to divert the flow:
 - around Little Mill and back into the River Bourne downstream of the community; or
 - upstream of the community across the fields and directly into the River Medway.
- After the 2003 flood we approached the local flood defence committee and asked them for funds to alleviate flooding in Little Mill. At that time money was allocated for 2011/12 to work out a design and for 2012/13 for construction.
- Since then the economy has changed, as have the funding rules. Under the new rules projects with a ratio of benefits to costs of at least 5 to 1 may be fully funded by government. For the cheapest diversion option the benefit cost ratio is around 1 to 1 and could cost over a million pounds.
- This means that Little Mill is still eligible for *some* government funding, but the rest would have to be made up from other sources. This could be from a range of sources such as the local authority, the county council or the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee. It would also be possible for residents to contribute or the parish council could raise a levy.
- An alternative to traditional defences would be property level protection. As it is cheaper it is possible that this may be fully funded. It involves the use of things like waterproof doors, air brick covers and non return valves, examples of which can be seen here: <http://www.floodprotectionassoc.co.uk/>. In some cases it may include the construction of low walls. However, it is not currently recognised by insurance companies in the same way that more traditional flood defences are.
- We agreed in the meeting that the Environment Agency would continue to develop the business case for funding for traditional defences and for property level protection with the aim to complete the business case by April 2012. This could then be used to seek financial contributions.

The choice for residents to consider is EITHER:

- seek funding for a traditional flood alleviation scheme, accepting that this could take several years

OR

- accept that a traditional scheme may not receive funding and chose to proceed with property level protection, although this still may take some time.

Please complete the questionnaire overleaf. The Environment Agency will take note of your choice and pursue the community's preferred option.

If you have any questions, please call Neil Gunn at Environment Agency on 01732 223245.

Name

Contact details

1. Would you prefer to wait for a traditional flood alleviation scheme (even if it took several years) or go for property level protection (which may happen sooner)? (Please tick)

Traditional flood alleviation scheme	
Property level protection	

2. Would you be prepared to make a financial contribution to a flood alleviation scheme? (Please tick)

Yes	
No	
If so, how much and when?	

3. Would you like to meet with representatives of the Environment Agency to find out more about flood risk to your home and the flood warning service? (Please tick)

Yes	
No	

4. Do you think there are other ways to manage flood risk in Little Mill that we haven't considered? What are they?

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5. Do you have any other comments?

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Thank you for your feedback.

Please return this form in the stamped addressed envelope provided by 29 February 2012. When we have collated the results we will arrange another meeting to discuss them.

How we use your personal information

The Environment Agency will use the information you supply on this form to provide you with updates about this project and to respond to any suggestions, or questions you may have regarding our work. We may also process or release the information to consult with other relevant bodies and government departments; carry out research and development work on environmental issues, and to assess whether customers are satisfied with our service.

The information you provide may also be used to respond to requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (if the Data Protection Act allows). We may pass the information on to our agents or representatives to do these things for us.

customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
0845 988 1188

www.environment-agency.gov.uk