

Julian Sturdy MP
1 Ash Street
Poppleton Road
York
North Yorkshire
YO26 4UR

Our ref: 2018/MP/2097

Date: 13 November 2018

Dear Julian,

79 NOV 2018

Flood Protection in Naburn

Thank you for your letter dated 30 October 2018, received 6 November 2018, requesting an update on the Flood Protection Scheme for Naburn.

As you know, the York Flood Alleviation Scheme, funded by a government commitment of £45 million and delivered by the Environment Agency; is designed to better protect 2,000 homes within the city against flooding by 2021. A great deal of work has already been undertaken on this scheme including detailed site investigations, optioneering and cost benefit analysis.

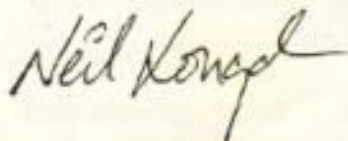
Naburn is one of nineteen flood cells within the York Flood Alleviation Scheme currently under consideration for development of flood defences. Site assessments, including ground investigations have been undertaken at Naburn, modelling of flood risk including climate change projections from present to 2100 has been completed for the area and engineering solutions to reduce flood risk (based on modelling outputs) have also been designed for the site. These have been shared and discussed with the Naburn Flood Group throughout development and have received engaged and supportive feedback from the group.

When developing and considering scheme deliverability we must assess multiple parameters including; affordability to the tax payer, deliverability of the design and acceptability with the community and determine a positive benefit cost ratio. Based on the engineered designs, initial costings suggest that the designed solution for Naburn will be close to, or below the benefit cost ratio of scheme delivery. If the cost benefit is below 1, we will be unable to proceed with the scheme. Final scheme costings are expected to be received in late November 2018. Based on this information, a decision on whether or not to progress with the current scheme will be made. My team will work with and inform the Naburn community on any scheme decisions.

The residents of Naburn have been very engaged with the Environment Agency and supportive of flood defence proposals for the area throughout the projects progression for which we are grateful. Both I and the team would like to see the implementation of a flood protection scheme for the Naburn community however, this requires significant capital finance and if the cost benefit ratio is acceptable, we will need to explore partnership funding opportunities to ensure scheme delivery. One source of partnership funding is that of a community contribution which has been highly successful when implemented on other schemes such as that in Runswick Bay (North Yorkshire). Here, a community contribution of £100,000 offered a significant financial boost and was fundamental in the delivery of the scheme. Homeowners and residents contributed financially to the scheme, helping protect 96 properties against coastal erosion for 100 years; their active investment helped shape scheme design. A similar contribution within Naburn could support the scheme delivery.

My team will be working with the Naburn community over the coming months to discuss different funding and scheme delivery options, including community contribution. I will of course, keep you updated on progress.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neil Longden', written in a cursive style.

Neil Longden
Yorkshire North & East Flood and Coastal Risk Manager