

NCC-038893-19 Flood Risk Scheme - Lowdham grange

Dear Requester,

£15m is the overall figure we quoted for the delivery of the FRM across the county over a number of financial years. We believe this went out in a press release following an update report that went to committee earlier this year.

The NCC provisional allocation that went to Committee in April 2014 was for 500k as a contribution to the main funding on the understanding that the project was secured and delivered by the EA.

We trust this now answers your request

Kind Regards

Flood Risk Management Team, Nottinghamshire County Council,
County Hall, Loughborough Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QP

Thanks for your response it still fails to directly address the basic questions and much of the answer simply regurgitates to me the information i have given you.
I'll allow you 48 hours to review your answer but if you've nothing to add will take the issue up with Anthony, Cllr Cutts and cllr Rostance.

Regards

Dear Requester,

Further to your request for further clarity on the previously supplied information, please see a response from The Flood Risk Management Advisor for Partnership and Strategic Overview Team: East Midlands

We can only provide an update on the scheme from our angle;

The Environment Agency are still in the process of developing the business case for the Lowdham Flood Alleviation Scheme, a number of options are being considered and the EA are not at the detailed design stage yet. The EA have been working closely with NCC to help close the funding gap and the County Council have pledged significant funds and support towards a scheme. As the scheme develops, the costs and funding gap may change.

The events on August 1st and 3rd will be held by Via East Midlands. The EA will provide a briefing note on the progress of the Flood Alleviation Scheme at these events, however the main focus will be the highway improvements in Lowdham.

I have liaised with all other relevant departments and they hold no further details or have nothing further to add to this request.

We trust this now resolves your enquiry, however should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me directly on the details below.

Nottinghamshire County Council regularly publishes previous FOIR,s and answers on its website, under Disclosure logs. (see link)

<http://site.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/thecouncil/democracy/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log/>

You can use the search facility using keywords. If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to the Team Manager, Complaints and Information Team, County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QP or email complaints@nottscc.gov.uk .

Kind Regard

Hello again.

Thank you for your response unfortunately it does not answer the core enquiries.

1. Following the publicity released by NCC of the £15 million investment which includes Lowdham I asked:

A) for details of the scheme

B) for confirmation of how much NCC is contributing

C) as NCC is clearly stating it's an investment what the timescale is.

Your response simply says it's a £6.5m project with £ 3m of central funds and a funding gap. If you can't respond to the three questions above I'd suggest that the council's publicity is misleading.

2. Early in July NCC met with the EA who appear to have cast doubt that the £6.5m scheme can be delivered. This is at the same time as NCC is claiming to be investing in flood protection for Lowdham . It brings us back to the question.... investing in what?

3. Following communication from our county councillor we are expecting the EA to present proposals for upstream flood prevention measures at a village consultation on 1st and 3rd August. The simple question is whether the new proposal is in addition to the current scheme or a replacement of it.

It's not clear whether the FOI should address all of the above or if some of the facts need to come from Ross Badshaw... either way I am still looking for this information.

Finally your assumption that I have been heavily involved in discussions is somewhat wide of the mark. I have not had any direct contact with any NCC officers and have raised the issues on the basis of your own publicity and on briefings at the parish council by our county councillor.

I hope you can respond to the above

Yours faithfully

Dear Requester,

Further to your recent request for information under the freedom of information act. I have spoken to various departments and we now have a response for you that I feel addresses your queries. I apologise sincerely on behalf of the council for the response previously sent to

your initial request, which you felt did not adequately answer your request, but trust this now does.

I also understand that you have been involved with numerous meetings and discussions with various colleagues, who are also happy to continue discussions with you directly in connection with this. I have copied in the clerk to the parish council, as requested.

The Environment Agency is leading on the development of a flood risk scheme for the Cocker Beck. A number of options are being considered with a cost in the region of £6.5million. Flood risk schemes do not attract 100% funding from Grant in Aid and are dependent upon external contributions to ensure delivery. The EA have been developing a business case that needs to follow HM Treasury rules to attract the Grant in Aid for a scheme in Lowdham. The business case suggests that the scheme will attract £3.0million from Central Government, which means the remaining funding gap needs to be found to deliver a scheme. The EA have been working closely with NCC to help close this gap and the County Council have pledged significant funds and support towards a scheme. A funding gap still exists and in partnership we are continuing to work to identify how the scheme costs can either be reduced or the funding gap closed.

The Natural Flood Management work in the upper Cocker Beck catchment was an opportunity the EA identified, working alongside others, including NCC, to deliver simple flood risk and environmental improvements. As the cost is relatively low and the design straightforward, it does not attract the same level of scrutiny that a major flood risk scheme does and was therefore implemented ahead of a flood risk scheme in Lowdham. Initial results from the rainfall in June suggest that the work was effective in reducing the peak flow of water reaching Lowdham.

The EA and NCC will continue to develop a flood risk scheme. The EA keep the Parish Council regularly updated and plan to send more information about the scheme progress to the Parish Council in the next few weeks.

We trust this now resolves your enquiry, however should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me directly on the details below.

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Kind Regard

Complaints, Information & Mediation Team

Chief Executive's Department

Nottinghamshire County Council

County Hall

Hello NCC,

As it happens things have moved on somewhat since my last e- mail. The article NCC displayed on the website proudly stated that Lowdham was included in the £15 million or so it was spending on flood relief. However I am told that about a week ago the Environment Agency advised NCC councillors that the 'brakes farm scheme' had several technical issues, that the cost had increased significantly so the scheme was underfunded and that it was unlikely to be delivered.(the EA appear to have an alternative proposal that they hope to reveal to Lowdham parishioners on 1 August.) Given this development I request NCC to provide me with details of the scheme that was included for Lowdham within the overall £15 million project, the work that was to be done and the timescale. Given the EA's latest position I also request NSS to provide confirmation of the way it proposes to proceed. I make these requests under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act.

I have just read your flooding update dated 7 June within which NCC proudly communicates the millions it is spending on various flood management schemes. One of the schemes mentioned is Lowdham.

While I recognise that a relatively small amount of £77k has been spent on natural upstream work carried out by the rivers trust (not even sure NCC funded this) a flood scheme for Lowdham has been discussed for many years and a number of feasibility schemes designed. The problem is you never get further than that and then insufficient funding gets stated as a reason not to proceed. I understand the latest reincarnation of the Lowdham flood scheme which it was rumoured was due to start this year will suffer the same fate, and thereafter although the works are separate that the proposed roundabout 'improvement' could if it goes ahead compromise the flood scheme.

While all the above is happening areas of the village remain at risk of serious flooding which has probably happened now four or five times in the last 15 years.

Rather than continuing to peddle an illusion of progress, as despite all the talk nothing of any substance as actually happened, and rather than give an illusion through you PR headline that something is happening the simple question is when do you intend to actually do something that addresses the risks?

Please provide a detailed response as to the exact current state of play, the timetable for delivery and the issues if any that prevent NCC from carrying out its duty