

Steeping River Community Update

February 2020



Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board
Water Management Consortium



Lincolnshire
COUNTY COUNCIL
Working for a better future



This newsletter provides an update on the work of the Steeping River Catchment Steering Group and other activities that help manage flood risk in the catchment.

S19 report published

Today (Friday 14 February), an independent report into the flooding in June 2019 has been published.

It was compiled by Norfolk County Council, on behalf of Lincolnshire County Council.

It talks about the causes of the flooding and makes a number of recommendations for the future.

It is available to download from:
www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/wainfleet

Alternatively, there are a number of copies in the library. The report will be scrutinised by councillors from the Flood and Water Management committee at Lincolnshire County Council at 10am on 24 February at the Storehouse in Skegness.



EA tree and shrub management

As part of the ongoing tree and shrub management programme EA staff and contractors are undertaking work at various locations in the Steeping catchment including the Steeping River, Wainfleet Relief Channel, Lady Wath's Beck and Cowcroft Drain. The work is to help maintain the defences and the flow of the river.

Residents returning home

Local Councillor, Wendy Bowkett, has updates from two families: “Kev and Jean Hart were one of the worst affected families in the flood, with water up to a metre high all through their house. They, along with many other families, lost everything and have been living in a caravan since June and will be for another few weeks.



“But there is a light at the end of the tunnel and finally in the last couple of weeks the plaster has been finished, paint and wallpaper has gone on, the kitchen has been started and at long last a front door.

“The last month has been hard with stress levels and illness taking its toll. The final stage you would think would be the easiest but with orders arriving wrong and little mistakes, which usually wouldn’t matter, Jean and Kev have found that not to be so.

“But the end is in sight, the caravan will soon become a distant memory and not soon enough, in Jean’s words, and life will start to become a little easier. Can’t wait to visit for a cup of tea and see the finished results.



“Shirley and Vic Woods moved back into their house before Xmas. They are my lovely friends and live across the road from me.

“It was lovely to go along on Christmas morning to say hello and share a Yule tide drink with them and my family. They were both so happy to be home for Christmas it has been a hard time for them and it will take time to settle in.”

Badgers move into new artificial sett

This photo, taken by a fixed wildlife camera outside a recently constructed artificial badger sett, shows it has new occupants.



The new sett was built away from the previous one that was found in flood defences, which has now been closed under Natural England licence. LMDB manage this work on behalf of the EA.

Being mindful that badgers are a protected species, the work also includes the installation of mesh barriers to prevent burrowing animals re-entering the river bank where they could weaken the flood defences.

Artificial setts are made using plastic tubes and wood to recreate a maze-like environment and cost around £6,000 each. They are not always required as conditions of the licence needed, depending on the availability of natural habitat nearby for example.

Catchment Action Plan community event

The Catchment Action Plan is being finalised by the partnership, and we're in the process of planning an event where we can share it with the community. This date will be promoted to residents as soon as it is confirmed.

The Plan will identify long term, sustainable actions that could reduce the risk of flooding from the river. It contains a range of options under four themes:

1. Improving flow through the system
2. A resilient community and infrastructure
3. Strengthening and maintaining defences
4. Flood water storage

Contact us

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