

# Pickering - Slowing the flow

## Flood Storage Option

July 2011

### Update

As you know, our proposal to build upstream flood storage to reduce the risk of flooding to residents in Pickering has been put on hold due to the physical constraints of the site itself and the increased requirements of the Reservoirs Act. We briefed you on the situation in June and wanted to let you know what has been happening since then.

We remain a committed partner to the Slowing the Flow project and, at the Programme Board and the wider delivery group meetings on 15 June, we discussed and agreed that we would look at 4 workstreams in relation to the flood storage option. These are as follows:-

- We will reassess the current design proposal in an attempt to drive down costs;
- We will examine all other options presented to reassess their viability;
- We will work with partners to examine what could be achieved with the £1.35 million funding currently available;
- We will continue to liaise with Defra regarding the Reservoir Act 1975 and its associated guidance.

### Timetable for carrying out this work

#### Workstreams 1 & 2

We will present the initial results of the first two workstreams to the programme board by the end of July. Following a board meeting in early August, we will present the findings to the wider delivery group and the community. This will include the reassessment of the current design proposals and the review of all of the other options previously considered. We know that concerns were raised about the apparently high level of engineering and the associated increase in cost which that entails. Residents have asked us to ensure that the principles proposed by the Ryedale Flood Research Group (RFRG) of simple small storage is reconsidered. We will therefore re-examine whether ten storage areas under 10,000m<sup>3</sup> might be possible.

#### Workstream 3

Once we have completed workstreams 1 and 2, we will work with partners and community representatives to review the outcomes of this work and to also explore what could be done with the existing £1.35 million funding available.

#### **Workstream 4**

As detailed in our earlier briefing in June, the timescale for any amendments to the Act or Guidance are matters for Defra. We will continue to liaise with Defra regarding this and feedback any updates we receive to you.

**Craig McGarvey - Yorkshire Area Manager**

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