

Bath & North East Somerset Council

BATH QUAYS WATERSIDE PROJECT - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

January 2016

What exactly is happening?

Bath & North East Somerset Council and the Environment Agency are undertaking a phased £6.22 million project to transform the riverside in Bath and improve flood defences.

Once completed, it will reduce flood risk for over 100 residential and commercial properties; reconnect the city centre to its riverside with a new riverside park, and enable the development of Bath Quays, a new office and creative quarter.

The flood risk mitigation works involve creating a flood defence boundary along the south bank of the river Avon, between Churchill Bridge and Midland Bridge, and improving flood conveyance by widening the north river bank opposite Green Park Road. The reprofiled river bank will become a new public open space and by reducing the steepness will help create a safer river environment. For more information about river safety visit www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/environment/river-safety

The 18 month flood works programme will be the first step in a complete re-imagining of the quayside in Bath. On South Quays, there will be new offices designed to suit our burgeoning creative and digital industries in Bath and crucially allowing new companies to locate in Bath. On North Quays there will be new homes, new offices and new restaurants and shops alongside the beautiful urban parkland we are creating. For more information about Bath Quays visit www.investinbath.co.uk

Why is this work necessary?

Managing flood risk is a priority for the Council and the Environment Agency.

Delivery of all phases of the project will reduce flood risk for over 100 properties, and is a proactive response to the potential impact of climate change on parts of the city susceptible to flooding.

This investment will significantly enhance the riverside environment, creating a more beautiful, accessible and enjoyable environment for local people and visitors to the city. The new landscaping scheme will provide a greater diversity of plant species and so an enriched environment for wildlife.

It will allow the Council to deliver the Bath City Riverside Enterprise Area Masterplan, which will create up to 30,000 square metres of much-needed modern, office accommodation for the city, alongside improved pedestrian and open spaces.

How is this being funded?

The Council and Environment Agency are funding these essential works with a combination of Flood Defence Grant and Revolving Infrastructure funding made available by the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership.

When will the works be taking place?

The first site activity took place in early 2015 with the removal of trees and other vegetation. The first phase of construction work will commence in early 2016, starting with the diversion of Green Park Road, and followed by the work to widen and landscape the north river bank late in the year. Work to provide the majority of the flood defence boundary along the south river bank is envisaged to start in Spring 2016. The final phase of work, to complete the flood defence boundary is currently programmed for delivery in 2017/18.

How will the diversion of Green Park Road change the Highway network? What are the plans?

Green Park Road will be diverted through Riverside coach park, linking to the Avon Street/Corn Street junction. The new road and Corn Street will carry two-way traffic enabling the length of Green Park Road running alongside the river bank opposite Avon St car park to be closed to motor vehicles.

The diversion requires a new highway to be constructed through the existing Riverside Coach Park, and so from the start of 2016 the coach park will operate as a smaller facility with stay times limited to a maximum of 30 minutes (free of charge).

For further coach parking information visit: www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/parking-and-travel/coach-parking

Will the works affect access and use of the river and towpath during construction?

Use of the Broad Quays moorings and adjacent towpath will be affected during the construction works to widen the river embankment later in 2016. Timescales for this, the extent of moorings affected and details of alternative mooring arrangements will be communicated later in 2016.

What will be the impact on the roads and pedestrian/cycle routes during the works?

Works will require a number of lane closures, affecting Green Park Road, Avon Street, Corn Street, Ambury and Broad Quay. Existing pedestrian and cycle routes, including the riverside path, will need to be diverted from time to time. Access to existing properties adjoining the development area will be maintained throughout the works period.

Will Avon Street car park remain in use during the construction works?

The car park will remain in use but the car park layout needs to be reconfigured to suit the required repositioning of the car park exit, (the exits will move from Green Park Road to the Ambury).

What consultation has been undertaken?

The Council and the Environment Agency have consulted with a wide range of stakeholders and this has been carried out in parallel with development of the project's design proposals from August 2013 through to submission of the planning application in September 2014.

Are any other related Council works likely to be happening in the same area at the same time?

Riverside path improvements

Early 2016, improvements to the riverside path between Norfolk Crescent and Green Park comprising resurfacing, widening and new riverside railings to improve public safety. A new pedestrian/cycle will also be provided along the west periphery of Green Park, to improve the link between the riverside path and wider transport network. This work is funded by the Local Sustainable Transport Fund.

River Wall Greening Trial

A trial will be undertaken along a 50m stretch of the north river wall, in the area of Victoria Bridge, aimed at improving river safety and biodiversity and improving the appearance of the river wall. The trial is collaboration between the Council and the Environment Agency and comprises the installation of a river wall-mounted grillage with river egress points and retained planting.

St James's Parade

From 1 February 2016 carriageway reconstruction works are to be undertaken from Corn St into St James's Parade for a period of 6 weeks. The work will involve the removal of the existing concrete slab construction which is in a very poor state of repair and will necessitate a closure of the right turn lane from Corn St into St James's Parade with a short diversion using Avon St and back into St James's Parade. At the completion of the works there will be an overnight closure to complete the carriageway resurfacing and road markings.

Who do I contact for more information about this project?

Please contact Council Connect on 01225 39 4041 or email regeneration@bathnes.gov.uk