

Environment Agency continuing its flood defence work

Work is continuing on the £40M Radcliffe and Redvales Flood Alleviation Scheme which, once completed, will better protect over 870 properties from the effects of flooding, the Environment Agency has said.

The organisation has, however, confirmed due to COVID-19 and Government advice it is postponing public meetings, including the regular drop-in sessions held in Radcliffe, until it is safe to hold them again.

Currently, work on Phase 1 of the flood defences, focused on Close Park and Morris Street will continue in line with Public Health England advice. The temporary defences that were constructed during the February 2020 floods have been reconstructed to provide the same level of protection to properties.

Once completed, this phase of the scheme, will see a permanent 2.5m flood wall built at the rear of properties in Parkside Close, and a 3m-high earth embankment on the far side of the park with football pitches acting as a natural floodplain. Work in Close Park will also include the creation of new wildlife habitat and increased amenity areas for the public including a £150,000 extension to the junior football club building which is coming out of the £2m contribution to the scheme from Bury Council.

Peter Costello, Area Flood and Coastal Risk Manager said: "We are doing all we can to ensure work continues as much as is safe to do so and that delays caused by the knock-on effects of this pandemic are kept to an absolute minimum. Our contractors on site, BMM JV have continued to construct Phase 1 of the Radcliffe and Redvales scheme. The team is working in line with Public Health England advice, and have had to reassess the work they can do safely without putting their workforce at any increased risk of Covid-19.

"As government advice changes daily, the construction process must alter to allow for safe practice, the pace may slow and the number of workforce on the site may be reduced and as such, the effects on the programme are continuously changing. Our priority in these difficult times is the health, safety and wellbeing of residents, staff and construction workers. Unfortunately, due to the number of unknown factors we are unable to provide a revised end date to Phase 1 at this time and we hope residents will understand and appreciate that we are continuing to do what we can in these unusual circumstances.

"The effect which the Coronavirus situation will have on the scheme is still unclear and will depend on developments over the next days and weeks. If our plans change significantly due to the situation we will keep the community informed. As an organisation we are doing everything we can to support our community, our government and the NHS by abiding by these measures."

In light of the Coronavirus situation, the project team are reviewing the

planned start of construction works for Phase 2 of the scheme. Work was due to start on site this month. The Environment Agency is working together with the scheme contractors to understand what operations can safely be progressed in light of the current Government restrictions. If it is deemed a safety risk to be starting new construction works, then affected works will be postponed.

Mr Costello said the project team are moving ahead with other tasks that will ensure a swift site setup when the time comes to restart construction. Including working to discharge planning application conditions, agreeing entry arrangements with landowners, tree removal and reviewing and approving detailed designs. The dates for when construction will begin are being reviewed as the situation with regards COVID-19 changes.

He also confirmed that while the project team are currently going through a period of readjustment to widespread home working, systems are being put in place to support this. Residents can still contact FloodResilienceGMMC@environment-agency.gov.uk with any questions they may have around the scheme's progress.

Bury Council's Cabinet Member for the Environment, Cllr Alan Quinn said "We were hoping to see the start of Phase 2 of the scheme start especially in light of the floods that affected Redvales in February, however I'm sure local residents will understand that construction cannot continue as normal due to the Covid 19 pandemic. Residents can be assured though that we will be doing all we can, working in conjunction with the Environment Agency and residents to get the flood defences finished."

The Environment Agency encourage people to ensure they are prepared prior to flooding taking place. People can sign up sign up the Agency's free flood warning service www.flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk or call Floodline on 0345 988 1188.

Regular updates can also be found by following the Environment Agency's local Twitter page @EnvAgencyNW

[Support towards funeral expenses to rise from tomorrow](#)



The change, announced in November 2019, means that the maximum amount families can claim for these type of costs will rise by 43 per cent. This payment is on top of existing allowances that pay for other funeral costs, such as burial or cremation fees.

Funeral Expenses Payments which are paid to eligible benefit claimants will increase for the first time since 2003, providing vital financial support to families grieving the loss of a loved one.

Information around eligibility and how to apply can be found [here](#).

Around 800 claims are received each week by the Department for Work and Pensions Bereavement Support team.

Media enquiries for this press release – 020 3267 5144

Follow DWP on:

Published 7 April 2020

Last updated 7 April 2020 [+ show all updates](#)

1. 7 April 2020

First published.

[SQP retailer premises: temporary change of premises](#)



In light of the enhanced precautions on social distancing we must take as a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) has relaxed the enforcement of specific provisions of the Veterinary Medicines Regulations (VMR) to allow a suitably qualified person (SQP) to supply veterinary medicines from temporary premises.

Wholesale dealers will be allowed to supply veterinary medicines to SQPs at such temporary premises.

This decision has immediate effect and will last until 31 July when we will review it.

The VMD will not issue an improvement notice if there are breaches of the relevant provisions of Schedule 3 of the VMR during this period. For further information read the [statement from the VMD](#) (PDF, 895KB, 2 pages).

This is a temporary VMD enforcement policy in relation to specific obligations under the VMR only. The VMR continue to apply. The VMD may continue to take action to enforce those obligations in cases where the procedures described in the statement are not followed.

Published 7 April 2020

Last updated 26 June 2020 [+ show all updates](#)

1. 26 June 2020

Date of temporary facilitation changed to 31 July

2. 28 May 2020

Temporary facilitation will last until 30 June when we will review it.

3. 29 April 2020

SQP retailer premises temporary change of premises – Review date now 31 May

4. 7 April 2020

First published.

[Correspondence between PSPRB Chair and Prisons Minister: 2020 England and Wales written evidence and submission](#)

- Only go outside for food, health reasons or work (but only if you cannot work from home)
- If you go out, stay 2 metres (6ft) away from other people at all times
- Wash your hands as soon as you get home

Do not meet others, even friends or family.

You can spread the virus even if you don't have symptoms.

[Getting help if your business is in distress](#)

- Only go outside for food, health reasons or work (but only if you cannot work from home)
- If you go out, stay 2 metres (6ft) away from other people at all times
- Wash your hands as soon as you get home

Do not meet others, even friends or family.

You can spread the virus even if you don't have symptoms.