

Beales Corner, Bewdley

December 2018



With winter fast approaching we wanted to provide you with some important reminders on preparing for flooding and an update on what we are doing to help. You need to be prepared for flooding and can find information in the attached flood action guide on what you can do now to prepare, and who to contact if you experience flooding. You can also visit our website for more information at <https://www.gov.uk/prepare-for-flooding>

We are continuing with deployment of the temporary barriers on Beales Corner until at least March 2020, using a partnership approach. This approach will be periodically reviewed. It is important to remember the risks associated with the barriers, which are outlined in this newsletter.

Managing flood risk at Beales Corner

History of flooding

Bewdley has a long history of flooding with major events occurring in 1947, 1965, 1998, 2000, 2002, 2004, 2008 and more recently in February 2014.

In 1947 the highest known river level of 5.82m was recorded at the Bewdley gauge.

However, February 2014 saw river levels of 5.05m, being the highest since the temporary barrier trial began at Beales Corner in 2007. On this occasion the barriers were close to being overwhelmed.

Temporary barrier review and risks

In September 2014 our review of the temporary barriers at Beales Corner identified that there were risks associated with their continued deployment. They offer a limited standard of protection and when river levels are higher, there is always a risk that water will overwhelm the barriers and flood properties. Use of the temporary barriers here also carries the risk of failing and/or leaking.

The temporary flood defence barriers provide low level flood protection to 19 homes. However, in a larger flood event water will find its way around the end of the barriers. In the seven year trial period since 2007, the barriers have been deployed ten times due to potential flooding. However, the barriers only got wet and were, therefore, only necessary to protect homes on three of those occasions.



Measures to manage flood risk in Bewdley	Standard of protection
Severnside Demountable barriers	1% annual probability flood event. (Greater than a 1 in 100 chance of flooding in any one year).
Beales Corner Temporary barriers (less homes protected to a lower standard than PFR)	10% annual probability flood event. (1 in 10 chance of flooding in any one year)
Property Flood Resilience	Standard of protection varies dependant on individual door thresholds.

The review highlighted that the preferred and most viable publicly-funded long term solution to manage flood risk for the community is the installation of property flood resilience (PFR) measures. This solution is able to provide reduced flood risk for 44 homes, as opposed to only 19 homes being provided with limited benefit from the temporary barriers.

Property flood resilience (PFR)

As our September 2014 barrier review found that PFR was the most viable publicly-funded long term solution to manage flood risk for the community we have progressed with installation of measures alongside the community plan for continued deployment of the barriers.

PFR measures have been carried out on approximately half of the homes at risk. We apologise for the delay to those home owners awaiting measures. A number of suppliers have gone out of business and the listed building flood door solution has had a few design and manufacturing challenges. We have made good progress over the last few months and plan to install the outstanding measures in spring and summer next year.

Our contractors, Watertight, are working directly with residents. For information on the progress of this work please contact Gareth Boyd at Watertight on 07764 224594 or via gareth@watertightinternational.com

The Community Plan

The Environment Agency and partners held an exercise on Beales Corner last November 2017 to test deployment of the temporary flood barriers and the local community flood plan.

This provided an opportunity to test our barrier deployment plan and procedures, train staff and test working arrangements with partners and the local Community Flood Group, so the barriers can be quickly and safely erected when needed during a flood with minimum disruption to residents and businesses.

Bewdley Town Council is leading on the plan and other partners include Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service, the Local Community Flood Group, Worcestershire County Council and Severn Trent Water.

Feedback from the day was positive and ongoing work with the Town Council and community volunteers has strengthened this approach moving forwards.

What you need to do

As the temporary barriers only provide protection to a 10% annual probability there is no guarantee that they will be able to protect Beales Corner in a major flood event. We would therefore encourage you to take steps to prepare for when the barriers are overwhelmed.

Get Insurance

You can:

- Find lower-cost home insurance through [Flood Re](#) if you're in a flood-risk area.
- Get insurance advice from the [National Flood Forum](#)
- [Find a broker](#) that specialises in properties that are difficult to insure.

Contact

If you have any questions regarding this newsletter or would like to support the community plan and become a community volunteer during a flood please contact Bewdley Town Council at townclerk@bewdleytowncouncil.org or on 01299 400157.