

# ***SOUTH FERRIBY PARISH COUNCIL***

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## **Update from Cllr Roy Holloway Chairman, South Ferriby Parish Council**

### Sea Defence Improvements for South Ferriby

We have now reached the second anniversary of the floods and I am pleased to be in a position to provide an update concerning the flood defence of the village. The proposed sea defence improvements for South Ferriby are part of a scheme known as 'The Winteringham Ings and South Ferriby sea defence improvements' (The Scheme).

Three Parish Councillors from South Ferriby attended a meeting with the Environment Agency on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2015. All other interested stakeholders were present – North Lincolnshire Council, CEMEX (UK) Ltd and Parish Councillors from Winteringham. This note is based on the points discussed at the meeting.

The Scheme was allocated some central government funding in the six year capital programme announced this time last year as part of an £86m budget for upgrading the defences around the Humber. Being awarded central government funding is the first stage of the process and these funds will not be released unless a case is made for a fully funded viable improvement to the flood defences. (It is important not to confuse this with the £1.28bn business case for the Humber which was recently rejected by Central Government).

Progress over the last twelve months has been slow but there are two significant steps forward:

1. North Lincolnshire Council has agreed to make available significant funds to help bridge the funding gap.
2. The Environment Agency has now appointed a Project Manager to develop The Scheme. It will be one of his top priorities.

The timeframe for projects of this type seems extraordinarily long and some of the work we were led to believe would be completed by now is only just starting. However on the positive side you may recall that we were expecting a multi-phase project with the flood defences for the village coming last. The current proposals envisage all the works being carried out concurrently so that the end date for the

completion of the improvements to South Ferriby's flood defences remains unchanged and is still Spring 2019.

The Project Manager is currently in the process of preparing tender documents and the anticipated timetable is as follows (changes to programmes are possible):

- Mar 2016     Consultant appointed to undertake the 'business case'. This includes scope and design of the defences.
- Sept 2016   Preferred scheme identified – detailed work on scheme commences and any residual funding gaps are filled.
- July 2017    Out to tender with contractors.
- Dec 2017    Appoint contractor.
- April 2018   Work commences.

It is important to emphasise that all the funding has to be in place before a 'spade goes in the ground'. I have recently been in touch with Andrew Percy MP who has been very supportive of the proposals from the outset. He has assured me that he will do everything he can to help the relevant parties make up any shortfall of funding so that the Scheme goes ahead. The Environment Agency would not be pressing ahead with the work on the business case if they did not believe the project could be viable and had a good chance of going ahead as they are now incurring significant costs on it.

Villagers may notice some work being undertaken in the coming months: Samples will be taken from the bank to determine if it is strong enough to be built up without reinforcement. Work will also commence on the East Drain and South Ferriby sluice gates in the next few months. These maintenance works will be delivered ahead of the flood defence improvement scheme.

Finally quite a few people have been in touch with me to comment on the heavy equipment contactors have used on the top of the bank which is continuing to cause damage to the existing defences. We have made representations to the Environment Agency on a number of occasions about this and it was raised again at the meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> December. I am very much hoping to hear that lighter equipment will be used in the future.

Residents could contact for queries the following Environment Agency person:

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