

Cumbria Flood Bulletin

Workington

Information for residents and businesses - Workington - Friday, 12 February. Issue 13
Brought to you by all public sector organisations in Cumbria

Infrastructure

Work begins on new Workington bridge

Construction work is beginning on a new temporary road bridge that will allow drivers to cross the River Derwent in Workington for the first time since the November floods destroyed or damaged the town's road and foot bridges. Cumbria County Council has named Rugby-based engineering firm Morgan Est as the contractor to build the new bridge. Work on site is beginning almost immediately, with the contractor's temporary offices arriving on site and ground excavations for the bridge's foundations starting within days.

The construction of the bridge will be paid for with up to £4.6 million of funding provided by the Department for Transport, which was also confirmed today. Emergency capital highway maintenance funding from the Department for Transport will also pay for one of the two permanent road bridges in the town to be built over the next two years (the other will be paid for through insurance). The Department for Transport is also working with the county council to identify and cost damage to the county's roads which would qualify for further funding under the Department's emergency capital highway maintenance funding. Cumbria County Council is already planning to set aside an extra £12.2m in next year's budget to help foot the bill for the damage to bridges, roads, footpaths and other county council-owned assets including the Port of Workington and Cockermouth library caused by the floods and recent freeze.

The signing of the contract for Morgan Est to build the new two-lane, 350-tonne bridge is a key milestone in a project identified as the main priority for Cumbria right from the outset of the flood recovery operation. The 67-metre long, 12-metre wide Janson bridge can now be shipped from Holland and parts of the UK to be assembled on the site. It is envisaged that the new bridge will be open to traffic, including HGVs, by May 28th. Pedestrians and cyclists will also be able to use the bridge, which is situated around 200 metres east of the former Northside Bridge.

Around 35 workers will be on the site building the bridge and approach roads seven days a week, with plans to work 24 hours a day at key points in the project so that it can be constructed in the shortest possible time. Local people will be kept fully informed about the work programme so that disruption can be kept to a minimum and people are aware of the various key stages of the project. A community meeting

held in Northside has already indicated strong local support for round-the-clock working where feasible to get the bridge built quickly.

Different elements to the project will be running concurrently to shorten the work programme, so the bridge and its foundations will be built at the same time as the approach roads. The duration of the project has already been shortened by the county council working with consultants Capita Symonds to design the bridge and commission vital borehole and investigative ground excavation work before the contract was signed.

Transport Minister Sadiq Khan MP said: "Today's announcement is great news for the people of Workington. The construction of this bridge will be a vital step in reuniting the town and will make life easier for local residents and businesses alike. I am also delighted to be able to announce that the Government will be giving Cumbria £4.6 million to cover the material and construction costs of this bridge."

Cllr Jim Buchanan, Leader of Cumbria County Council, said: "We have been working on this project since the floods first hit - planning the best place to put the bridge, drawing up potential designs, surveying the geography of the area, working up traffic management plans and going through the tendering and procurement process. In the meantime, we have also been working on plans for two permanent replacement road bridges in Workington, which we're aiming to deliver within the next two years, as well as our plans to repair or replace the other damaged bridges in Allerdale and South Lakeland."

Cllr Stewart Young, Deputy Leader of Cumbria County Council, said: "One of the main reasons we chose Morgan Est above the other contractors is that they have planned the project so a lot of the construction activity is happening simultaneously, meaning they were the fastest of all the bidders and the period of disruption for local people is kept to a minimum."



Jag Paddam, Morgan Est's Managing Director for Infrastructure Services, said: "Over the next few months a team of up to 35 operatives will be working to construct a bridge which will make a huge difference to the community and help to alleviate the lengthy delays currently experienced by motorists. We will work closely with Cumbria County Council to ensure the community is kept informed of the works and that the bridge is completed on time."

Allerdale Borough Council is also playing an important role in the project as it owns the land on the north side of the river where the bridge and approach roads are being built. Cllr Tim Heslop, Leader of Allerdale Borough Council, said: "We are delighted to offer any help we can to get the bridge up and reconnecting communities north and south of the river. We shall continue to support Cumbria County Council in its tremendous efforts to ensure the temporary road bridge is opened as quickly as is humanly possible."

Welfare

First Step in Allerdale

People affected by flooding are at a threefold risk of depression and a proportion who have experienced traumatic events may develop Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. First Step can help people with mild to moderate depression or anxiety disorders such as panic attacks, worry or problems following a traumatic incident. Our trained practitioners will listen to your experience to try and understand how you have been feeling. Together we will decide what sort of help might work best for you. We may simply guide you through appropriate self-help or we may decide to use a talking treatment which can often take place in your GP's surgery. Talking treatments (including cognitive behavioural therapy or counselling) are designed to influence your thoughts and behaviour and can help you cope with any feelings of depression or anxiety.

First Step have begun to accept self-referrals within Allerdale and will provide a range of treatment interventions depending on the problem and severity, these would include guided self help, CBT and counselling.

If you live in Allerdale, and are experiencing psychological problems, you can now refer yourself to First Step by ringing us on 0300 123 9122. We will then contact you for more information and then get in touch with your GP to check they are happy with us seeing you. We will then ring you to offer an appointment.

Flood-hit homes must be rebuilt to better cope with future floods

The Environment Agency is urging owners of damaged properties to insist that insurers repair their homes and businesses to be more flood-resilient.

In many cases, resilient repairs may not cost any more than repairs carried out on a 'like for like' basis. Even if

additional costs are incurred during the repairs, insurers and homeowners could both save money in the long term through reduced damage. Additionally, those in flood-resilient properties will be able to return to their homes faster.

There are a variety of simple measures that can be taken whilst repairing a property that make it easier and cheaper to clean up after flooding. These include:

- Laying ceramic tiles on the ground floor and using rugs instead of fitted carpets
- Raising the height of electrical sockets to at least 1.5 metres above ground floor level
- Using lime plaster instead of gypsum on walls
- Fitting stainless steel or plastic kitchens instead of chipboard ones or have movable free-standing kitchen units
- Fit non-return valves to all drains and water inlet pipes. Replace wooden window frames and doors with synthetic ones. They are easier to clean.
- Position any main parts of a heating or ventilation system, like a boiler, upstairs

There is a growing range of tested products for keeping flood water out of homes and businesses. The National Flood Forum's recently launched "Blue Pages" at www.bluepages.org.uk has more information about these products. Or call the National Flood Forum on 01299 403055

Essential information on what to do before, during and after a flood can be found at www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/floods

Every property is different and it is important to get advice specific to individual circumstances. The Environment Agency can provide general resistance and resilience advice but in order to understand fully what measures are appropriate for your property an Independent Flood Risk Assessment is recommended by a flood risk assessor.

Discounts available for flood affected households

B&Q and Tesco are offering discounts for those affected by the floods.

Tesco is offering discount coupons, whilst B&Q is issuing a 20% discount privilege card to flood affected residents.

Residents who have registered with the county council will be sent information over the coming weeks about how they can take advantage of the offer.

All affected households are being strongly encouraged to register with the county council. See below for more information on how to do so.

Don't forget to register!

Cumbria's public services and charities are committed to providing ongoing support for flood affected people and families through a new register maintained by the Cumbria

County Council contact centre on 01228 606060.

Callers will be asked a number of questions about their current living arrangements, how their properties and lives have been affected by the floods, and what support they've had or still need. The questionnaire can also be completed online at: www.cumbriaobservatory.org.uk/floods2009questionnaire.asp.

Those registering will be eligible for support from a range of community groups and public services, including support offered from the Cumbria Community Foundation and goods and supplies which have been donated by companies and individuals.

If you have registered locally with the Red Cross or through your Flood Support Centre, this information will be included on the new register. However, you should still register through the contact centre on 01228 606060 to make sure we have up to date information about you.

If you need support or have a change of circumstances like a new address, please get in touch with the contact centre on 01228 606060 to let them know.

Text messaging and information Service

You can now get updates about flood recovery work and services in your local area via a new text messaging service.

To receive updates text your full name, mobile number and the address and postcode of your flood affected property to 07818 250 573.

Public meeting: Temporary bridge

A meeting is being arranged to inform residents of Seaton and Northside about the temporary bridge construction programme. It will be held during the week of 22 February. Look out for more details.

Free SelectaDNA Kits

'SelectaDNA' property marking kits are available to all flood affected households free of charge.

Property marking kits are for householders to mark valuables to deter criminals from stealing them and ensure items can be traced back to their rightful owners if they are recovered.

Kits can be obtained by contacting Lynn Singleton on 07976 978 124 or Heather Snodden on 07795 127 910.

Vulnerable people

If you have concerns about individuals who may have become increasingly isolated or vulnerable as a result of the flood and the bridge collapse please let us know. The County Council's Community Unit Allerdale Area Support Team is working with Adult Social Care and other agencies to help these people. Details can be registered with Lynn Singleton on 07976 978 124 or

Heather Snodden 07795 127 910 or via our office base on 01900 706010.

Drop in

A drop in session has been arranged for Tuesday 23 Feb 2010 6.30 -8.00pm and Tuesday 9th March 2.00- 3.30 pm at the Bridge Church, Workington. Everyone is welcome.

Support for residents in Workington

Anyone looking for help and support in Workington should contact Lynn Singleton on 07976 978 124 or Heather Snodden on 07795 127 910. Alternatively leave a message at their office by calling 01900 706 010.

GP SURGERIES

The following temporary GP arrangements have been in place for Workington residents north of the River Derwent who have not been able to access their usually GP surgery since the floods.

Seaton Rugby Club, Station Yard, Seaton (temporary surgery located in car park)
Monday to Friday, 9.00am- 11am and 3:30pm – 5.30pm.

Northside Community Centre, Trinity Drive, Northside
Monday to Friday, 2pm – 3pm.

These clinics are for urgent GP appointments only.

Patients who need to see a GP should contact their own GP surgery first.

Over the weekend and out of surgery hours, Cumbria Health on Call will be providing the usual out of hours GP cover. Tel 01228 401999 (North Cumbria) or 0845 0524999 (South Cumbria).

Environment

Farmer flood bulletins

On Friday 22 January, the first farming specific flood bulletin was produced and distributed to around 190 farmers affected by the flooding. The aim of the bulletin is to provide the farming community with a single source of information on the recovery effort for rural and farming communities.

In addition, three farming factsheets were produced and distributed to provide more detailed information on a number of issues relating to flood recovery. These include available support, post flood clean-up guidance and frequently asked questions.

Both the first edition of the bulletin as well as the three fact sheets can be downloaded from the farming and rural recovery section of www.cumbria.gov.uk/floods

Farm flood debris recovery grant

Cumbrian Farmers still have until the 26 February to apply for a flood debris recovery grant. Farmers that were severely affected by the floods can apply for up to £6,800

to hire equipment or specialist contractors to move debris such as fridges, vehicles and trees from their land and also to remove gravel to the edges of fields.

Solway, Border and Eden Local Action Group (LAG) and Fells and Dales Local Action Groups (LAG) are responsible for allocating funding in their community. Both LAGs are managed by the North West Development Agency through Cumbria County Council. The fund is being administered by the Cumbria Rural Enterprise Agency (CREA).

The Fells and Dales LAG have so far received 32 applications with a total value of £150,301. Farmers have received confirmation that their application has been successful valuing a total of £54,745. In a small number of cases the offer letter is subject to a site verification visit. Once applicants have received their offer letter and had any necessary site verification visit, they can go about getting the work done and invoicing CREA. Thus far, CREA have carried out 16 site verification visits in the Fells and Dales area.

Solway, Border and Eden LAG have received 16 applications with a total value of £87,052. Six visits have been undertaken and seven applications have been confirmed valuing £38,952.

The application form and guidance are available to download from the farming and rural recovery section of www.cumbria.gov.uk/floods. Farmers can also contact CREA or their appropriate Local Action Group to discuss how best to apply for funding.

Solway, Border and Eden Local Action group
T: 01697 349212 E: info@sbeleader.org.uk

Fells and Dales Local Action Group
T: 01768 869533 E: info@fellsanddales.org.uk

Cumbria Rural Enterprise Agency (CREA)
T: 01768 891555 E: enquiries@crea.co.uk

Farmers get free help to clean agricultural land of flood debris

Farmers in Allerdale are able to get free help with clearing away household waste that was washed up on their land in the floods.

For the next three weeks, from Monday 8 February, farmers can contact Allerdale Borough Council on 01900 702800 to arrange for the removal of domestic waste from the entrance to their land just off the public highway.

The borough council can collect items including furniture, carpets, televisions, microwaves, fridges, cookers, washing machines, bagged clothing, bagged litter, garden furniture and even washed up wheelie bins.

The council is unable to remove the gravel, trees, tidal debris and other rubble which has been spread over various areas. However, members of rural communities are urged to apply for funding which has been made available to support this element of their flood recovery process.

Contact the local action groups Cumbria Fells and Dales on 01768 869533 or Solway Border and Eden on 01697 349212 for more information. Applications must be received by 26 February.

Helpful telephone numbers

Age Concern Northwest 01946 66669

Allerdale Borough Council - 01900 702702

Environmental Health 01900 70259

Housing department 01900 702660

Pollution (blocked drains etc),
01900 702580

Refuse Collection (flood damaged/
freezers etc), 01900 702800

Benefit Enquiry Line 0800 88 22 00

Business Link 0845 00 66 888

Cumbria Primary Care Trust 01228 602000

Cumbria Partnership Trust 01228 602000

North Cumbria University Hospitals NHS Trust

01228 523444 – Cumberland Infirmary

01946 693181 – West Cumberland Hospital

Children and Families Information Service

08457 125 737

Churches Together in Cumbria 01768 550045

Citizens Advice Bureau Workington 01900 604735

Consumer direct including any calls about bogus tradesman
08454 040506

Cumbria Chamber of Commerce 01228 534120

Cumbria Community Foundation 01900 820822

Cumbria County Council 01228 606060

Cumbria County Councillors:

Trevor Fee, Seaton Ward -01900 61635

Alan Barry, St Michaels Ward - 01900 604289

Joe Holliday, St Johns Ward - 01900 66319

Cumbria Law Centre 01228 515129

Department of Work and Pensions 01228 605101

Derwent and Solway Housing 01900 607500

Environment Agency Advice, floodline 0845 9881188

Floodline 0845 988 1188

Gas Safe Register (gas safety advice and registered local
engineers) 0800 408 5500

Highways 0845 6096609

Home Housing 0845 606 3033

National Flood Forum 01299 403101

NHS Direct 0845 4647

Police 0845 3300247

Prescription help and advice NHS Direct 0845 4647

Red Cross flood recovery team - 0759 044 5367 for flood
related queries across Cumbria

24/7 Red Cross Duty Officer pager - 0762 391 2340

RSPCA 0300 1234 999

Rural Wheels 01228 226721

Samaritans UK Wide 08457 90 90 90

Transco (gas leaks) 0800 111999

Traveline – 0871 200 2233

United Utilities (electricity) – 0800195 4141

Victim Support 0845 241 1832

Volunteering help 01900 826505