

15th January 2020

Ms. Rachael Balmer
Ryedale District Council,
Ryedale House
Old Malton Road,
Malton
North Yorkshire
YO17 7HH

Dear Rachael,

**REF:- Planning application 19/02463/FULM
York Flood Alleviation Scheme for the River Foss**

On Monday 13th January 2020, The Environment Agency gave a presentation in Sheriff Hutton Village Hall of the plans for the construction and work involved for the flood storage scheme of the River Foss in the Parish of Lillings Ambo.

About thirty parishioners, including all members of the Parish Council, were present to listen and then ask questions about the plans for the proposed development.

The Parish Council convened to discuss the plans and comments made during the presentation.

These points were raised:-

1) The route Construction Traffic will take to the site.

The plans show that all construction traffic will come from the A64 through Flaxton and West Lilling. In West Lilling it will take the left fork passing over a **single track bridge** at Howl Beck, before meeting the Sheriff Hutton/ Strensall Road. After a left turn onto the Strensall road and at approximately 1km, the plan is to turn left onto a track and a newly constructed road through Mr Wadsworth's farm.

The road through West Lilling is already busy with heavy goods vehicles cutting through from the A64 to the A19. The Parish Council has, in the past, made several objections about the amount of heavy goods vehicles passing through the village. The road is narrow, at one point on a bend, it is impossible for two lorries to pass side by side. The foot path is also narrow. Two people cannot walk along together, making it extremely dangerous when walking with small children and dogs. Many vehicles exceed the 30 mile an hour zone, again making it hazardous for pedestrians.

The single track bridge has been damaged and its edges remain taped with warning signs after more than six months. Can this already weakened bridge withstand an increased load of 2,300 tonnes, approximately 100 extra lorries, and construction traffic?

Could vehicles take a different route to the construction site? Gennell Lane, for example, a short single track road, could be upgraded with passing places instead of constructing a new track through farm land. This would divert traffic from West Lilling. It is also a shorter route than the existing plan. Other alternatives were suggested by the parishioners.

2) Flood water draining from the fields.

The Environment Agency states that flood water will take a little longer to drain from the fields, approximately 30 hours after the level of the River Foss has subsided. However, experience from the land owners and people who frequently walk along the foot paths are convinced that water will drain at a much slower rate due to the soil consistency. Farmers will lose crops and their livelihoods for which they will have no compensation. Their farms will lose their valuable agricultural land.

Due to the rising level of the river as it floods, water in the land drains between the Foss and Lilling Low Lane will back up and the land will experience a higher water table, causing flooding to the land and properties north of the Foss.

3) Flooding to land around Lilling Green Farm

You have had objections from Mr & Mrs Hodges of Lilling Green Farm, concerning the loss of access to their property and businesses of a cattery, livery stables and small holding in the event of flooding. The Environment Agency have agreed to raise the level of part of their access road by one metre to prevent flooding. They have refused to upgrade the whole of the access road, which because of excess water held back by the increase of road height will cause even more erosion. The Hodgson's do not own the road but have to maintain it, at their expense, to continue to living and working in their home.

4) Silting upstream of the River Foss

Silting is a problem in the river. How frequently will the entrance of the aperture of the pipe, through which the Foss flows, be dredged? Who will take responsibility for this?

5) The Centenary Way

The Centenary Way footpath runs very close to the construction of the scheme. Will this long distance footpath remain open during construction work? Will part of it disappear during flooding?

6) The Ecologist Report

The District Council's Ecologist, Mike Hammond, wrote a lengthy report which included a recommendation that other plant species be used other than those stated by the Environment Agency. Will those recommendations be adhered to?

Due to the above points, Lillings Ambo Parish Council cannot support the planning application.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Loynes

(Chairman of Lillings Ambo Parish Council)