

Roath Flood Scheme Statement, 8 December 2017

- The Roath Flood Scheme has been developed over the last five years, with extensive consultation undertaken throughout. Please refer to the [‘Key public consultation events’](#) document, which summarises our consultations, such as drop in sessions, fete stalls, newsletters and press coverage, alongside an online and social media presence. We advertised the drop-in sessions through a variety of methods, including placing adverts at the entrances to the parks to inform city-wide users.

Newsletters were delivered to over 700 properties in the area surrounding the parks. Over 300 residents are signed up to the Roath email distribution list and receive regular updates. We also submitted a planning application to Cardiff Council in October 2015, which was formally advertised and consulted on by the Council.

- We have been thorough and robust in the investigation, assessment and planning of our scheme and are confident in what we are implementing. We have worked with three industry leading consultants with vast experience in flood risk management to develop the project, which we have overseen and managed. The proposal has been reviewed by Natural Resources Wales as a regulator and Cardiff Council through the planning process. We are confident that we have reviewed all viable options.
- Delaying the scheme will also incur additional cost, which we do not believe can be justified when we have already followed due process. For example, a 4-month delay to undertake an independent review would incur an estimated additional cost of £200,000 of public money and prolong our presence and the disruption in Roath. Additional cost incurred on this scheme means less funding for other flood risk projects required across Wales.
- We have considered the value of the trees in developing our scheme and believe the important contribution played by trees in the wellbeing of people has been factored in to our option selection and its design. We have undertaken an arboricultural impact assessment and used the professional judgement of an arboriculturist as part of our design team. Throughout the option selection and design development we have sought to reduce the impact upon the environment, including the loss of trees. Options were rejected due to their impact and we have designed the scheme around the trees to minimise the impact as much as possible. We also have an arboricultural designed replanting scheme (122 trees ranging from 2m to 5m within the Park; and 200 other smaller trees in the vicinity) that will provide mitigation for the tree loss in to the future.

Please see page 2 of our July 2015 drop in session boards for details of options considered throughout the scheme’s development:

https://naturalresources.wales/media/679202/july-2015_public-consultation-posters_english-and-welsh.pdf

Detailed planting plans are available on pages 6 to 10 of the April 2017 drop in session boards: https://naturalresources.wales/media/681683/roath-frms_drop-in-april-2017_display-boards.pdf (please note these planting plans are currently being updated to include additional trees. Details will be available on our webpage in the coming weeks).

- For information on how the scheme has complied with environmental legislation, in addition to how the local wildlife (including bats and other protected species) has been considered, please refer to the Roath Flood Scheme Environmental Report. A copy of which can be found on Cardiff planning website: [https://planning.cardiff.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal= CARDIFF DCAPR 114012](https://planning.cardiff.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=_CARDIFF_DCAPR_114012)
- We appreciate that the current flood risk from the Roath Brook through Roath Mill Gardens and Roath Brook Gardens is lower than at Waterloo Gardens, and this is evidenced by the lack of flood history in this park (the onset of flood risk is between a 1 in 30 and 1 in 50 chance of occurring in any year). However, this level of risk is still intolerable and we are required to reduce it to a manageable level, in this instance to 1 in 75 chance of occurring in any year.

Our modelling predicts that flooding will occur via the south bank of Roath Brook Gardens across Sandringham Road, during flood events of between a 1 in 30 chance and 1 in 50 chance of occurring in any year. This flooding is discrete to properties on Alma Road and Cressy Road with a direct flood route from Roath Brook Gardens, that is not connected to any other flood route. Hence modelling the proposed flood works in the upstream parks separate to those in the downstream parks is not required to justify these works, as there are already clear, independent benefits of avoiding properties being flooded by undertaking these works.

- Whilst some may consider the current flood risk is a very small probability to justify the scheme expenditure, the cost to the community in terms of repairs to properties and the general recovery should they flood will far outweigh the cost of providing sustainable protection to reduce the risk. Also, there are factors which do not have a monetary value but are as equally important such as the impact on the health and wellbeing, both mentally and physically, of the people affected by flooding. These effects of flooding remain long after the water has receded.
- We acknowledged an error regarding the number of properties at risk during a 1 in 5 annual probability flood on some consultation material between October 2016 and March 2017. We would like to stress that information included in the detailed planning application and in consultation material leading up to this was correct. Therefore, we do not believe that this error impacted the consultation process significantly, as much of project planning was complete by this time, and planning permission had already been granted in April 2016.
- The scheme was granted planning permission in April 2016, and in which compliance with TAN 16 was considered. We would like to emphasise that new gateways,

footpaths and footbridges are being introduced as part of the scheme, which will improve public access and use of the gardens.

- We attended Cardiff Council's Environmental Scrutiny Committee on 5 December and have reviewed the [Committee Chair's letter, dated 7 December](#). The letter says the Committee does not have the ability to force changes to the proposed scheme, and does not raise any concerns regarding the project, how it has been developed or consulted, and there are no recommendations for us to action. We therefore conclude the Committee is content the scheme is appropriate and necessary, so we shall continue with our planned work from 11 December.
- If you have any questions, please email roath@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk