

Boston Barrier Newsletter

June 2015

This newsletter is to update you about progress with the Boston Barrier tidal flood defence project. The barrier is part of a phased approach to reduce the risk of tidal flooding to 20,000 properties in Boston over the next 100 years.

Barrier will not increase flood risk downstream

Our modelling has confirmed that river levels downstream will not change once the barrier is built, meaning there will be no increase in flood risk as a result of building or operating the barrier. Putting a barrier in the channel will just stop the tide at that place - it will not make water levels in the Haven any higher or lower than they would have been anyway (in the same way that Grand Sluice currently works today).

Tidal and river flooding happen differently. River flooding happens when a watercourse cannot cope with the amount of water draining into it from the surrounding land. Tidal flooding happens when the sea level rises and causes a tidal river to overwhelm flood defences. It is the level of the North Sea that determines what level the Haven will rise to – which is decided by high tides in combination with tidal surges (caused by low pressure stormy conditions).

We have spent a large amount of time building evidence to prove, beyond doubt, that the Boston Barrier will work – whether to reduce the risk of tidal flooding for the Borough of Boston or manage water levels through the town in the future.

Boston Barrier application

A Transport and Works Act Order (TWAO) is a form of legislation to approve large infrastructure projects that impact on transport systems. We need to apply for a TWAO because we are building a barrier in the Haven - which is a navigation used by the Port of Boston, the Boston & District Fishing Association and recreational river users.

TWAO applications are submitted to the Secretary of State for Transport. A successful application would give all the permissions, including planning permission, needed to build the barrier in one go. The application will include the preliminary design for the barrier and how we will manage environmental impacts associated with the scheme.

Key dates for the Boston Barrier...



Now - Early 2016:

Finish design work and prepare application

2016 - 2017:

Consultation & decision by Secretary of State

2017 - End 2019:

Construction

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It will also include flood and navigational risk assessments and how stakeholders have been consulted.

When we submit the Boston Barrier application in early 2016 there will be a formal public consultation managed by the Secretary of State. We will also be organising more public consultation events later this year to show the latest barrier designs and information.

Boston Barrier Community Hub – opening Wednesdays from 5 August

We are planning to open the Boston Barrier Community Hub on Wednesdays from 5 August 2015 from 10-4pm.

The community hub will be on Marsh Lane in Boston (where Carter Homes used to be - pictured on the right). It will be a place where anyone can come to find out more about the barrier and ask questions.



New Boston Barrier video

We've made another short video about why the barrier is needed and how the community have been involved so far. [Watch the video now](#)

Follow us on social media

For more updates on the project please follow [@BostonBarrierEA](#) on twitter or visit our facebook page www.facebook.com/BostonBarrier

Any questions?

Contact Boston.Barrier@environment-agency.gov.uk or 07747 640663.

