

Northway and Marston Flood Alleviation Scheme

An Oxford City Council project,
supported by:



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Design Consultation – The Results

April 2016

Project Background

This £2.2 million project seeks to reduce the flood risk of 110 properties in the Northway and Marston wards, East Oxford.

The work will see natural embankments installed, as well as the brook re-aligned and a wetland reserve created to use as temporary flood storage.

The project is being funded from Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership Local Growth Fund 1 (£600,000) and from grants administered by the Environmental Agency (£1,596,000), with £400,000 of Oxford City Council capital held as contingency.

The high level milestones for this project are: completion of detailed design by May 2016; planning approval by August 2016; and completion of construction by June 2017.

The project has arisen out of public concerns raised over a number of years about the regular flooding of streets in Northway and New Marston. Executing our community leadership role, this project represents Oxford City Council commitment to address the risk of flash flooding for residents and the financial and emotional damage flooding can cause.

Design Consultation Introduction

This consultation was undertaken to gather community views on 6 aspects of the final design for the Northway and Marston Flood Alleviation Project. These final designs will then be taken forward to Planning at the East Area Planning Committee in July and August 2016.

The methodology for collecting input from the public was to use two separate approaches, the first being in person at bespoke consultation events held in local community centres in Northway and Marston as well as an online consultation to which anyone was able to respond.

The responses given by residents has been collated into a spreadsheet and analysed to help guide decision making around aspects of the project's final design.

Response Rate and Groups that Responded

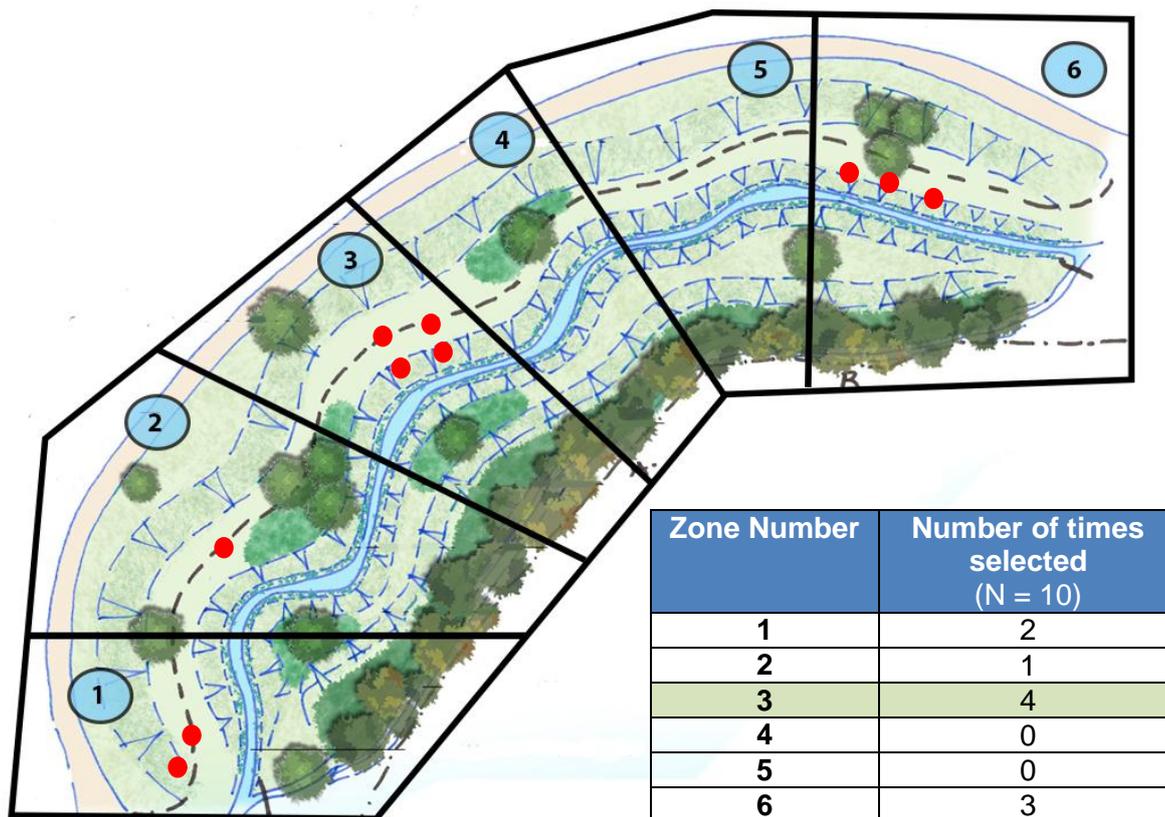
There are 110 households who will be directly affected by the scheme, approximately 330 people. 18 people responded to the consultation. Out of the 18 responses 14 of those were from local residents identified in the area of interest which is a response rate of approximately 4%.

Not every consultation respondent answered all 6 questions. The response rate for each individual question available was varied and the number of unique responses per question is denoted by "N=" within the results section below.

The consultation was comprised of two different approaches to allow for the maximum number of people to respond. The first part of the consultation was done in person at bespoke consultation events held in Northway Community Centre and Mortimer Hall in Marston to allow local residents and community groups to have their say. The bulk of the responses received during the consultation period we given during the drop in session at Northway Community Centre by local residents living in both Council and Social Housing. A small number of responses were also collected from the same event held at Mortimer Hall in Marston. The remaining responses were received via online submission and some of those who responded indicated that they belonged to specific interest groups such as local wildlife organisations.

Results

Question 1 – Where do you think we should put the bench at Peasmoor Brook storage area?



As part of this project we are proposing to put a bench within the new area we are creating along Peasmoor Brook. Respondents were given the opportunity to select their preference for a bench to be placed at the site shown in the image above.

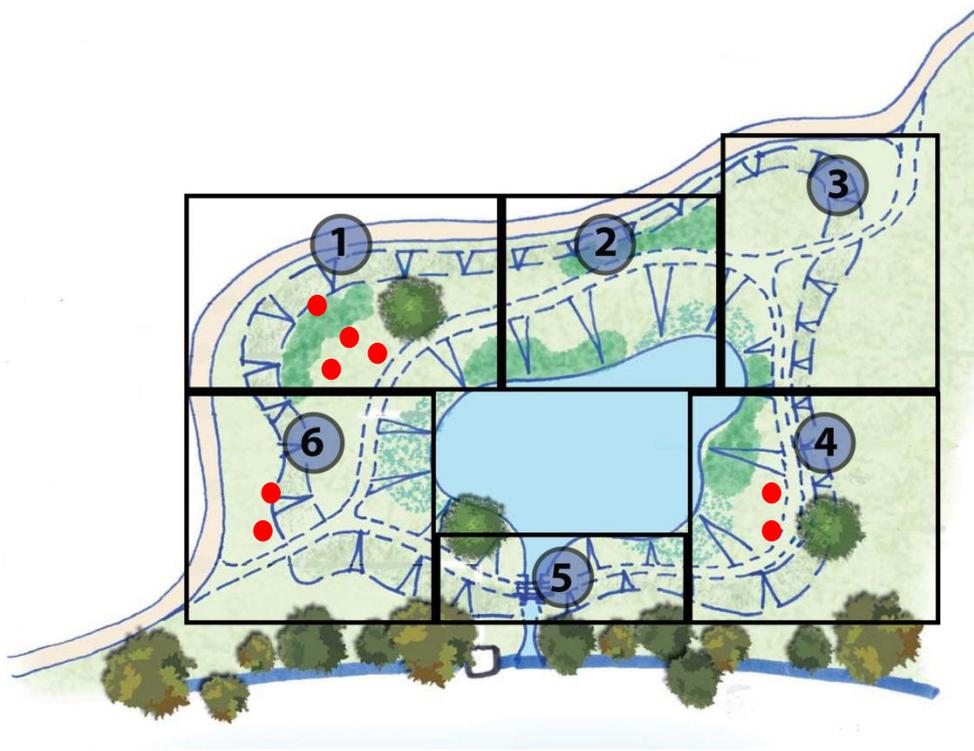
Those selecting in person at one of the drop in sessions (through pinning their choice on the image) have had their selections matched to a corresponding zone on the online consultation question.

Results for people's preference at Peasmoor Brook Storage Area indicated a desire for the proposed bench to be situated within 'Zone 3', very closely followed by 'Zone 6'.

Additional commentary from respondents on this question was a request for the new bench to face the sun.

Question 2 – Where do you think we should put the bench at Court Place Farm storage area?

As part of this project we are proposing to put a bench within the new area we are creating adjacent to the existing Nature Reserve at Court Place Farm Recreation Ground. Using the same methodology as Question 1, respondents were given the opportunity to select their preference for a bench to be placed at the site shown in the image below.



Zone Number	Number of times selected (N = 8)
1	4
2	0
3	0
4	2
5	0
6	2

Results for people’s preference at Court Place Farm Storage Area indicated a desire for the proposed bench to be located within ‘Zone 1’.

Additional commentary from respondents on this question was a request for the new bench to face the sun.

Question 3 – What types of trees would you like to see planted at Northway Community Field?

Tree	Average Preference Strength (N=15)	Order of Preference
Purple Plum 	1.7	1
Wild Cherry 	1.8	2
Birch 	2.7	3
Lime 	3.1	4

As part of this project we will be planting trees at one side of Northway Community Field. Respondents were asked to indicate their order of preference on what trees they would like to see planted from an option list of 4 different trees, with number 1 being their most preferred tree and number 4 being their least preferred tree.

The table above shows the results of the tree planting preferences for the Northway Community Field. Preference scores were added up and then divided by total number of responses to give an average. The lower the score the more preferred the tree.

Out of the 15 responses to this question the Purple Plum and Wild Cherry were a very close most preferred at order 1 and 2 respectively.

Additional commentary from respondents included rationale for their order of preference being the wildlife value of the more favoured trees and its suitability for warming climate.

Question 4 - What types of trees would you like to see included amongst the trees we plant at Peasmoor Brook and Court Place Farm Storage Areas?

Tree		Average Preference Strength (N=16)	Order of Preference
Wild Cherry		2.5	1
Hazel		3.1	2
Field Maple		3.3	3
Hawthorn		3.9	4
Birch		4.1	5=
Willow		4.1	5=
Crab Apple		4.8	7

As part of this project we will be planting trees within the new areas we are creating along Peasmoor Brook and adjacent to the existing Natural Reserve at Court Place Farm Recreation Ground. Respondents were asked to indicate their order of preference on what trees they would like to see planted from an option list of 7 different trees, with number 1 being their most preferred tree and number 7 being their least preferred tree.

The table above shows the results of the tree planting preferences for the Peasmoor Brook and Court Place Farm Storage Areas Storage area. Preference scores were added up and then divided by total number of responses to give an average. The lower the score the more preferred the tree.

The Wild Cherry was the clear favourite amongst those that responded to this question followed by the Hazel tree and Field Maple.

Additional commentary from respondents included rationale for their order of preference being the wildlife value of the more favoured trees. It was noted by a respondent that having diversity in the final assemblage of trees planted was perhaps more important than their particular personal preferences.

Question 5 – What planting scheme do you think we should use on the embankments at Northway Community Field?

Planting Method		Average Preference Strength (N=17)	Order of Preference
Wildflower and Meadow Seed Mix		1.6	1
Grass on the Sides with Bulbs on the top		1.8	2
Grass Only		2.3	3

As part of this project we will be putting embankments along 2 sides of Northway Community Field. Respondents were asked to indicate their order of preference on how they would like the embankments to be planted from an option list of 3 planting schemes, with number 1 being their most preferred planting scheme and number 3 being their least preferred planting scheme.

The responses to this question were closely split between the options of either wildflowers or bulbs, with wildflowers being the slightly more preferred option. A comment provided along with one of the E responses underlined the potential value to pollinating insects that the wildflower option may provide.

Additional commentary from respondents included a request to include bluebells within the planting scheme on the embankments. One respondent explained their rationale for high preference for wild flowers being the value to pollinating insects, but that an on-going management regime will be vital for the wildflower embankments to properly establish.

Question 6 - What topics do you want the information boards to include?

As part of this project we will be putting information boards in the new areas we are creating along Peasmoor Brook and adjacent to the existing Natural Reserve at Court Place Farm Recreation Ground. We will have information on flood risk reduction but we asked respondents for their ideas on what else they would like to see featured (e.g. about habitats, newts, red kites, biodiversity, include geocaching).

Respondents came back with the following ideas:

- Geocaching;
- Local Saxon history;
- Frogs – types of frogs and their lifestyle;
- Types of trees;
- Wildlife and habitats;
- General importance of green spaces as 'stepping stones' for urban wildlife and for the health and wellbeing of city-dwelling people;
- Biodiversity (plant and animal species and why important);
- Pollinators;
- Water management (quality and biodiversity).

Geocaching, wildlife and biodiversity as ideas were repeated more than once by different respondents.

How these results will be used

The results will be used to inform this projects final design which is being produced by Atkins Ltd. (technical designer/engineer) on behalf of the Council.

This will form the basis of our Planning application to the Local Planning Authority. Respondents will be able to see the impact of their views within 2 documents in particular within the Planning Application:

- 1) The projects Landscaping Strategy
 - Tree species planted at Court Place Farm, Peasmoor Brook & Northway Community Field;
 - Wildflower seed mixes/bulbs/planting schemes at Peasmoor Brook & Court Place Farm;
 - Content of information boards at Court Place Farm & Peasmoor Brook;
 - Landscaping of bunds on Northway Community Field.
- 2) The Plans for the Scheme:
 - Location of information boards at Peasmoor Brook & Court Place Farm;
 - Location of seating/benches at Peasmoor Brook and Court Place Farm Storage areas.

By including the community in the design process, it is hoped that the Council delivers a design for the Flood Alleviation Scheme which reflects community needs and preferences resulting in the delivery of a successful and sustainable project with greater added value for Northway and Marston.

Additional information

If you would like to know more about this scheme, please contact Helen Vaughan-Evans (Northway and Marston Flood Scheme Project Manager):

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