

Summary of Lower Otter Restoration Project public consultation events

Three public consultation events were held in July and August 2014. Over 100 people visited the events, with 29 written representations received. 78% of those responses were broadly supportive of the Project. Almost all visitors were local. Consultees expressed a wide range of views; the feedback we received is summarised below.

Consultees generally accept that

- Flooding is a current issue, albeit occasional and fairly short duration.
- Flooding is likely to get worse.
- Unmanaged breaching of the embankment is a risk at some point in the future.

Concerns expressed and issues raised by those who live and dwell around South Farm were:

- Tidal flooding of South Farm Road, even short duration periodic flooding, is unacceptable.
- Any tidal flooding of South Farm Road is likely to result in adverse impacts on businesses.
- Postal service and other deliveries could be delayed by flooding.
- Current fluvial flooding is a minor inconvenience but tolerable.
- Simpler flooding solutions to reduce inundation of South Farm Road should be investigated, especially improved drainage of the marshes.
- Re-opening Park Lane would be expensive and not very useful.
- More use of Park Lane could be unpopular with Otterton residents.
- Alternative routes would have significant cost / time implications for road users.
- Traffic survey of South Farm Road should be carried out.
- Policy / politics / funding opportunities may be preventing sensible solutions.
- The access route across South Farm is only really suitable for temporary use.
- Any access must be suitable for large vehicles.
- The project is very expensive.
- Possible impact on homes backing on to the western footpath queried.

Comments from other consultees not based at South farm were

- Maintenance and improvement of footpaths welcomed.
- Support for increased inter-tidal habitat.
- Increase maintenance / dredging of river would be beneficial.
- Create cycle route from Budleigh to White Bridge.

The majority of the concerns relate to tidal flooding of South Farm Road. We are taking all the comments into account as we consider what to do next. We are investigating the technical and financial implications of raising the road.

The Project remains at an early stage of development and we are grateful to everyone who made time to contribute to the consultation events. We have further work to do and will send out further updates as and when we have new information to tell you.

LOWER OTTER RESTORATION PROJECT

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