

# Hebden Bridge Flood Alleviation Scheme

The Environment Agency is working with Calderdale Council to design and build a Flood Alleviation Scheme for Hebden Bridge.

## Addressing Misunderstandings

### **We are issuing this update as we understand several inaccurate statements are being shared on social media about the Hebden Bridge Flood Alleviation Scheme (FAS)**

#### ***Misunderstanding: There has been no economic or social impact assessment as part of the development of the scheme.***

Planning permission has been granted for the scheme, which means it has passed environmental and design checks set out in planning policy. However, an economic assessment was not a requirement of the planning process. The Environment Agency is now preparing a Full Business Case (FBC) for DEFRA which will include a full economic assessment showing how flooding affects people, homes, businesses, transport, emergency services, tourism, recreation and heritage, as well as the benefits of reducing future flood damage. It also includes cost benefit analysis, risk analysis and information on wider benefits such as biodiversity and health.

This detailed assessment will be reviewed later this year by the Environment Agency's Large Projects Review Group (LPRG).

The planning application already includes a full Environmental Impact Assessment, which looks at possible effects during construction and explains how impacts will be managed. You can view the application via Calderdale Council's Planning Portal (Ref: 25/00947FUL).

#### ***Misunderstanding: Calder Holmes Park will be lost***

Calder Holmes Park has been identified in the planning application as a **temporary** construction compound. This does *not* mean the park will be permanently lost. The project team is actively searching for alternative sites, but suitable areas in Hebden Bridge are very limited due to the town's layout and surrounding landscape.

To avoid delaying the planning process, the application had to include the park as the working assumption. If another suitable location is found, a separate planning application will be submitted. The importance of Calder Holmes Park to the community is fully understood, and the team is committed to minimising disruption as much as possible. If an alternative location cannot be sourced, only part of the park would be used during the construction work. The playground, tennis courts and skateboard park will still all be accessible.

#### ***Comment: Hebden Bridge has already seen financial losses***

The scheme has not yet commenced. Flooding however in Hebden Bridge and the wider Calderdale area has caused significant direct economic losses over many years.

#### ***Comment: The Community has been misinformed by the Environment Agency***

From the start of the project, the Environment Agency has provided information through public consultations, multiple drop-in events, meetings with councillors, partner organisations, business groups, disability access groups and the established stakeholder group. The Flood Information Centre has been open since August 2023 for anyone to visit and ask questions directly.

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All project documents remain publicly accessible at [www.eyeoncalderdale.com](http://www.eyeoncalderdale.com) and full scheme proposals are available on the Calderdale Council's Planning Portal. While some details can only be shared once certain technical work is complete, the intention is always to be open and transparent at every stage of the scheme development.

***Comment: Extensive car parking spaces will be lost as a result of the scheme***

Some parking will be **temporarily** unavailable during construction at St Pols (around 30 spaces), Calder Terrace (around 30 spaces) and Old Gate (around 15 spaces). There will also be temporary impacts on some private parking areas. Not all these spaces will be lost at any one time - only the sections needed at each stage of construction will be fenced off, and they will be reopened as soon as possible.

After the scheme is completed, approximately 7 spaces will be removed from St Pols due to the alignment of the new flood wall.

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Please also note there are answers to many other questions available on [www.eyeoncalderdale.com](http://www.eyeoncalderdale.com) under the Projects Section / Hebden Bridge FAS. You will find an FAQ document, as well as Myth Busting updates. **Please do visit the website for the most accurate information about the scheme. You can also visit us at the Flood Information Centre on Valley Road and speak to the Project Team or email us [HebdenBridgeFAS@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:HebdenBridgeFAS@environment-agency.gov.uk)**

The Environment Agency remains committed to working closely with the community as the scheme to reduce flooding for Hebden Bridge progresses.

