

Potential Temporary Flood Barrier for Thames Ditton

The Environment Agency are finalising the design of a Temporary Flood Barrier for Thames Ditton that could be deployed to protect the majority of properties in the 'High Risk' area in the event of future flooding.

Here is some information about temporary flood barriers that the Environment Agency have provided:

- Temporary flood barriers are portable metal frames, with a water proof barrier that can be quickly deployed to help reduce the impact of flooding.
- When deployed, our barriers create a temporary wall to help reduce the impact of flooding to people properties and businesses.
- Temporary flood barriers are stored at strategic locations around the country. Our logistics contractor supports us in mobilising the temporary flood barriers to communities across the country.
- When flooding is forecast the temporary barriers can be delivered to communities, and put up to reduce the impact of flooding.
- When there is no longer a risk of flooding the temporary barriers are completely removed. The barrier is checked and put back into storage ready to be used again.
- Although temporary barriers do reduce the impact of flooding when in place, we cannot guarantee that they will always be deployed and effective in all situations.



Photo from exercise to practice deployment of temporary flood barriers in Weybridge 2018.

We need to find the best alignment for the barrier in order to achieve a reduction for the current risk of flooding to properties. We are currently investigating a route from the Ditton Field, through the footpath from Aragon Avenue to Queens Road and along River Bank. A separate section could be put along Riversdale Road.

We know that residents will have many questions about what the use of temporary flood barrier means for them, such as when it might be put up and what it means for access to homes.

We also need to agree temporary barrier proposals with the emergency planners within the Elmbridge Borough Council and Surrey County Council.



Barrier deployed in Guildford before expected flooding in 2020

We are in regular contact with the lead for the Residents' Association Flood Group and will coordinate sharing our plans and asking for feedback with everyone as soon as we are able to.

Note: In Autumn 2022 the Environment Agency advise that they are now finalising their design which should be completed by the end of the year. This has been delayed because of the need to ensure that when in place, it cannot move as happened during the last deployment. When the design is finalised, it will be discussed in detail with residents to gain agreement. The Environment Agency have also advised that they have secured funding for an initial design study for a possible permanent barrier following the detailed river bank height surveys conducted by the Residents' Association that made an initial proposal for a routing for a permanent barrier.