



**Isle of Man  
Government**

*Reillys Ellan Vannin*

## **October 2022 Laxey flood alleviation scheme newsletter**

Dear Resident

This newsletter is a brief update to the progress we have achieved so far this year, and early notification of some of the planned work to happen later in 2022 and 2023. If you have not subscribed to our newsletter or know of a neighbour who may benefit, please email or contact [karl.millar@gov.im](mailto:karl.millar@gov.im)

### **Laxey River**

Work to enhance the level of flood defences in the Laxey region is advancing effectively. Reconstruction of the riverbank adjacent to the tennis courts is nearly complete, with the final foundations installed last week, the last section of wall is now being constructed at the Gretch Veg outfall. This work is included in the third phase of the project, along with the upstream de-vegetation of properties leading up to and including Victoria Terrace. With the river bank now being more visible and accessible, our engineers will be in a better position to determine what work will be required when we continue to work in the river behind these properties next year.



*The above pictures show the concrete blocks in position after being installed on concrete foundations. There remains a smaller section to be placed on top, in order to bring the new river wall up to the final height.*



*The last section of wall to be built at the Gretch Veg outfall*

## **Shore Hotel**

The flood defence wall in front of the Shore Hotel is now complete. A large bund has been constructed at the back of the Shore Hotel parking area to contain any water that might flood the right bank should the river level rise. The public access to the right-of-way leading to Lower Rencell Road has been restored. This area has been restricted for some time now due to the operation of heavy equipment and the construction of the bund and river wall.



Above shows the newly created bund and ramp. Also shown is part of the new river defence wall.

## **Minorca Hill & Minorca Vale**

This year also saw the completion of work on the lower portion of Minorca Hill and a temporary repair to the culvert beneath Minorca Vale. Our engineers intend to replace the failing culvert with a large diameter pipe, similar to the one installed at the base of the hill. As part of the pre-design phase, slit trenches have been dug to better understand the work required to implement a long-term solution.

The excavation required to install a surface water drain and additional ducting for electric and telecoms will cause disruption and necessitate a road closure; vehicle access to Minorca Vale will be unavailable for a portion of the construction period, and Minorca Hill will require a road closure. Access to properties will be maintained where possible. Pedestrian access will always be available during construction. We do not currently have a start date for this work, but plenty of notice will be given to all residents via email, letter drop and via the commissioners.



The 60cm diameter surface water drain outlet is shown above, this water pipe takes the surface water from road side gullies and links in to the pipe collecting water from Lower Cronk Orry

### **Ballaragh Road**

Work started on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September to undertake site investigation works ahead of a drainage scheme being designed for the lower section of Ballaragh Road. The working area is from the Ballaragh Road junction with the Ramsey Road to the Gretch Voor Junction. This work is planned to take no more than three weeks and residents will be given access where possible. Pedestrian access will be maintained at all times. During this time a diversion route will be in operation for vehicles requiring access.

### **Mines Road and Snaefell track drainage**

This works is to improve the drainage on the lower section Snaefell Mountain railway and around the Snaefell mountain railway sheds and the take the drainage system across Mines Road to Laxey River. This will relieve flooding to Ham and Egg Terrace. The detailed design is close to completion and permission for the energy dissipater has been submitted for planning.

### **Baldhoon area**

Improving drainage from Baldhoon Road to Glen Roy River. Currently waiting for tender returns.

Improvements to drainage above Baldhoon Road. The modelling has been undertaken. Design to commence shortly.

### **Rencell Hill**

Feasibility Study to review the issues in the Rencell area and look at potential solutions will start in the autumn 2022.

### **Ballaragh road, Ramsey road**

Ramsey Road and MER track. This is a feasibility study looking at the water that comes off the land above the Ballaragh Road and effects the Ramsey Road, MER track and in turn properties on and off the Ramsey Road and on Minorca Hill. We will be looking at the flooding coming from the area of Abbey Lane and Skinscoe Farm. This study will commence in the autumn 2022 .

### **Old Police Station**

This is looking at improving the stream that runs between the Old Police Station and Chapel Terrace to prevent blockage of the pipe system it flows into by installing a gravel trap. The design is nearly complete.

## Winter preparedness

Whilst flood incidents can occur at any time of the year, low pressure in the winter often signals stormy or wintery conditions. The jet stream is usually positioned further south than its summer track meaning that the impacts of unsettled conditions can be widespread. Large-scale frontal rainfall is typically seen during the winter months and the frequency of river flooding is much greater with around 80% of major events occurring within the October to March timeframe.

### Protect your property

Installing property flood resilience (PFR) measures can help reduce the impact and damage caused in the event of a flood. There are a number of different PFR measures available which may be used in a 'resistant' or 'resilient' approach. Further information on what these can include can be found at: <https://iomfloodhub.im/flooding/be-flood-prepared/> or alternatively contact the Flood Team and they can guide you.

### My home is in imminent danger of flooding, what should I do?

**If you require assistance due to flooding please contact the Department of Infrastructure: (01624) 672000.**

**If your life is in danger due to flooding dial 999.**

Gather essential items together either upstairs or in a high place. Fill jugs and saucepans with clean water. Move your family and pets upstairs, or to a high place with a means of escape. Turn off gas, electricity and water supplies when floodwater is about to enter your home if safe to do so.

- contact DoI on 672000 if you require assistance due to flooding
- flood waters can rise quickly. If you are in danger, or you see someone else in danger, dial 999
- help elderly or vulnerable friends and neighbours
- do not walk, drive or swim through flood water for health and safety reasons
- if possible do not touch flood water as it may contain chemicals or sewage
- do not touch sources of electricity if standing in water

### Who do I contact if I identify an obstruction in a river catchment?

If the obstruction is already causing flooding or is an emergency then call the Department of Infrastructure's Emergency Line on **672000**.

Otherwise, please email [iomfloodhub@gov.im](mailto:iomfloodhub@gov.im) or call the flood team on **01624 850000**, providing information on the location, photographs and any further details on the obstruction itself (e.g. large tree fallen near bridge or culvert).

### Where can I get sandbags?

Sandbags are available free from all civic amenity sites. If flood waters are imminent and you don't have sandbags, you can fill any plastic bags (bin liners etc) with any bulky material from the garden i.e. soil, sand or turf. This may cause damage to your garden but may give sufficient protection to your property until the flood waters subside. Place and mould the bags to form a barrier across door thresholds, ventilation bricks and across any other point that water may enter the property. Laxey commissioners have set aside an area at the football club for additional sandbags.

## How can I be alerted to the possibility of flooding occurring?

- Weather Warning information is provided by the Meteorological team:  
Floodwatch website: <https://iomfloodhub.im/flooding/floodwatch/>  
OR telephone the Floodline: (01624) 686100
- Ronaldsway Met Office provides a daily weather forecast:  
<https://iomfloodhub.im/flooding/5-day-forecast/>

### Local radio:

Manx Radio (97.2FM or 1368AM)  
Three FM (104 - 106FM)  
Energy FM (91.2 - 105.2FM)

### Social media sites:

Department of Infrastructure  
Facebook: @iominfrastructure  
Twitter: @iominfra

Isle of Man Constabulary:  
Facebook: @IOMPolicemedia

- Road closures: Find out if roads are closed due to flooding:  
Please visit <https://www.gov.im/residents/roadnotifications/>
- Join the Everbridge Mass Notification System:  
Please visit: <https://member.everbridge.net/index/454514914099273/#/signup>

The system enables the emergency services to issue critical information during emergency situations which are aimed at saving lives and properties. The system will send you a message from the emergency services advising you on an action to take in the event of a developing situation, during an incident and following an incident.

For further information please use one of the contact number below or email address.

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If you would like to subscribe to our newsletter please email: [iomfloodhub@gov.im](mailto:iomfloodhub@gov.im)

For further information please visit [www.floodhub.im](http://www.floodhub.im)

IOM Flood Hub Team Tel: 01624 850000

24hr Emergency Tel: 01624 672000

