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Kirkbymoorside Town Council

Information for the meeting on Monday 15 September 2025

**Management of bullrushes at the Weir - Information received from the Environment Agency**

Environment Agency Ecology Team:

*As bullrushes have extensive root systems and produce large numbers of seeds they can spread rapidly and choke out other less competitive species. To control and limit regrowth it's important to physically remove the entire plant including the root system (rhizomes). Where hand pulling is no longer viable mechanical removal is the next best step, as cutting them down will only lead to extensive regrowth. Once the plants and roots have been dug up, they should be removed from the watercourse to prevent them from rotting in-situ and deoxygenating the water. I believe there are specific machines designed to remove bullrushes which an appropriate contractor may have available. This type of work may require a flood risk activity permit.*

Environment Agency Fisheries:

*Regarding timings, no instream work should be carried out during the salmonid fish spawning window – ie between 1<sup>st</sup> October to May 31<sup>st</sup>.*

The EA don't have a list of recommended contractors, for channel maintenance work, they usually either do work themselves or partner with the IDB. Possible signposts through <https://www.ada.org.uk/>.

If the Town Council want to go ahead with management of the vegetation at the weir, the Environment Agency area asset team have said they are supportive in principle. You need to be aware though, that as main river, you may need to apply for a 'flood risk activity permit' for carrying out in channel works. There is guidance on this here [Flood risk activities: environmental permits - GOV.UK](#). There are exemptions which will be worth looking at around FRA21-24 here [Exempt flood risk activities: environmental permits - GOV.UK](#) – there are conditions/criteria to be met but may offer the simplest way through regulation. Once you have a better idea of who, what, when, how etc... you can get further advice about any requirements from our area permitting team on [dfrcconsents-yorkshir@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:dfrcconsents-yorkshir@environment-agency.gov.uk).

It may be obvious but worth stating that an important consideration will be making sure any arisings are completely removed from the floodplain and not deposited locally which might reduce floodplain capacity.

**Joe Allan**

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