

## Rising Brook Rugeley Flood Risk Management Scheme

### Progress Update

This is an update on progress of the Rising Brook Rugeley Flood Risk Management Scheme.

#### Background

The Rising Brook rises in Hednesford before flowing through Cannock Chase and into Rugeley. The Brook is culverted in Rugeley before entering the River Trent to the east of the town centre. Flooding from the brook occurs when the culvert is full and from overtopping upstream of Hagley playing fields. This causes water to back up and then flow over land through the town. In addition, surface water can't drain into the culvert and backs up on highways. Historical records show flooding in 1845, 1950s 1960s, and 1980s. Flooding in 2012 was thought to be solely due to intensity of rainfall. This is a constraint to the planned redevelopment of Rugeley Town Centre. A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2012) produced by Cannock Chase District Council for the local plan recommends a flood storage area upstream of the town centre to enable development. There are 114 residential properties and 159 commercial properties currently at risk from flooding from Rising Brook.

#### Most recent activity

The scheme is progressing well. Last month saw the end to sheet piling and getting the pedestrian foot bridge in place. The bridge has a brick skin which closely matches to the original bridge. Note that the rails in the photo are temporary and not the finished product. The brook is now flowing through the bridge. Until recently, it was piped underground and prevented the embankment from being finished.



#### Forthcoming activity

Now the brook is on its normal course, we will start to finish the embankment. This will include laying the pipes that will drain down the reservoir and importing clay on site. Importing Clay will start week commencing 25th September. We will aim to minimise the risk that importing clay has on muddying the road. Please inform us if you are not happy with the situation. Once the embankment is closed the scheme will start to operate as a formal flood defence. We still plan to finish the scheme by the end of the year.

#### Communications

We will send a newsletter out to residents in the next few weeks to advise them of the forthcoming programme.

We will do some more communications about the benefits towards the end of the scheme. We will inform partners when this will be. It will likely be a photo opportunity similarly to the opening ceremony.

#### Information for the public



We have had very few enquiries from the general public during May. Monica Stonham can still be contacted at [rugeleyfasprojectea@gmail.com](mailto:rugeleyfasprojectea@gmail.com) or telephoned on 07577 470803 throughout the project. If at any point members of the public raise concern about activities relating to the project please contact Monica.

We have a web page at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rugeley-flood-defence-scheme> and a Flickr page at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/environment-agency/albums/72157665136209309> and we will put up photos of the scheme as the scheme progresses.

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