

Rising Brook Rugeley Flood Alleviation Scheme

October 2017

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. This leads to water flowing over the top and through the playing fields. Water may also back up and flow through the town. Surface water can't drain into the culvert and backs up on highways.

Historical records show flooding occurred in 1845, 1950s 1960s and 1980s. Flooding in 2012 was thought to be solely due to intensity of rainfall.

Reducing flood risk

The Environment Agency has been constructing a flood storage area on Hagley playing fields which will store flood water from Rising Brook and then slowly release it back into the brook. The main feature of this flood defence is an embankment, 380 metres long and 4 metres high.

During the construction period Hagley playing fields will remain closed.

How will this work help?

- The scheme will alleviate flooding to 114 residential properties and 159 commercial properties.
- The reduced risk of flooding will enable sites in the town centre to be redeveloped. For example we have received enquiries for a site on Power Station Road to be redeveloped which we can now approve.
- The project does not address surface water flooding directly, but reducing the flow through the culvert will help surface water drain off.

Future redevelopment of the town centre may provide opportunities for additional works on the culvert in the town centre to improve drainage further and allow for better surface run off.

Progress

The bridge construction is largely complete, with just the surfacing remaining. These works have been carried out with close collaboration and co-operation with the district Council to ensure it is in keeping with the Heritage. The bridge was previously supported by

some very large rocks which we have reused within the design. The bridge will allow the public to access the heritage trail adjacent to the Mill Leat.



Restored bridge

The rising brook is now flowing through its natural path, which is a key milestone for the project.

The sheet piling is now complete. We appreciate it was noisy and disruptive so we would like to thank you for your patience while we were doing this.



Construction of the embankment

Works Programme

- January 2017 - Construction Commenced
- October / November 2017 – Grass Seeding
- December 2017 - Completion
- Late 2018 - Playing field reopened to the public.

Please note the football fields will not be available for use as they need time to 'bed in', this takes approximately two years.

What's happening next?

Once the construction of the embankment is complete it will be ready for top soiling and grass seeding.



Embankment construction

Construction will be complete by the end of December although the Hagley playing field will be closed for a further 12 months to allow the grass time to establish, as the grass plays an important role in the stability of the embankment.

Fantastic community support

Our contractor Team Van Oord has received a 'massive thank you' from the coordinator of the town's community centre.

The project team has site offices at the Community Centre, which is located adjacent to the site, since the project got underway in January 2017.



Ready for planting

The Centre had two flowerbeds that were badly overgrown and in desperate need of rejuvenation. The TVO site team stepped in to help they dug out the old foliage and soil, they also then replaced it with fresh topsoil to enable the Day Care service users to plant straight away plant new flowers and shrubs.

Kevin Dougherty coordinator for the community centre, "The guys have supported every charity event in the centre by making personal donations, and with their help the money raised has always increased dramatically. We can't thank you enough, absolutely brilliant job".

Thank you

We would like to thank the Rugeley community for your support and patience during the construction of the scheme.

We appreciate that some of the construction activities have been disruptive, particularly the sheet piling which was a noisy activity.

These works are essential to support the future regeneration of Rugeley. At present redevelopment in the town centre is constrained by flood risk. Once the scheme is complete this constraint will be removed, which will support future growth and prosperity of the town.

Our Public Liaison Officer

Our public liaison officer, Monica Stonham, is still available up until the end of the year. After that please contact the Environment Agency's customer contact centre on 03708506506 and you will be directed to the correct person.

If you wish to contact Monica, please call 07577 470803.

Email: rugeleyfasprojectea@gmail.com