

news release

Aston Chase flood scheme launch

Staffordshire's environment chief will be planting a tree at the official opening of the Aston Chase Flood Alleviation Scheme on Thursday, December 2 at 11.00am.

County councillor Mike Maryon will be launching the scheme which has been built to protect the Aston Lodge area of Stone from flooding.

It is similar to an earlier project completed in 2008 which was constructed to protect properties in Yarnfield from flooding.

Both schemes have been designed and built by Environment Agency staff after severe flooding affected more than 70 properties following heavy rainfall in summer 2004.

They incorporate balancing areas which limit the flow going down the watercourse through residential areas thereby reducing the risk of flooding.

Yarnfield Flood Alleviation scheme cost £410,000 and protects 35 homes which were suffered flood damage due to a surcharged culvert through the village.

It was built in two phases with a small balancing area of 2,000 m³ on the Yarnfield Brook West, then a larger 11,000 m³ storage area on the main Yarnfield Brook.

This consisted of a 400m long x 2.5m high earth embankment dam and spillway, which incorporates one hectare of new wetland habitat.

A100m section of the brook was also diverted and a trash screen was replaced. The scheme is built on land owned by Lord Stafford.

Aston Chase Flood Alleviation scheme cost £400,000 and is a very similar flood storage scheme.

It protects 35 houses and a school in the Aston Lodge area of Stone and stores 9,500 m³ of flood water.

It consists of a 110m long x 4.5m high earth embankment dam with emergency spillway. It includes the creation of wetland habitats, hedgerow and tree planting as well as the diversion of field ditches.

The scheme has been built on land owned by Mr Barnett of Stone Park Farm.

Both schemes reduce flood risk to the one per cent chance of happening in any one year (1:100 yr event) with a built in allowance to take account of climate change.

Both schemes were undertaken following full consultation with local flood action groups and the local community who were very supportive.

John Buckingham, Area Flood Risk Manager, said: "I am delighted that these works have been completed for the benefit of these two communities. Having seen the misery and stress that flooding causes these schemes, whilst not guaranteeing that flooding will be eliminated will significantly reduce the risk of it happening in the future."

Staffordshire County Councillor Mike Maryon, Cabinet member for Highways and Environment and the County Council's representative on the Regional Flood Defence Committee, said "This is a major investment that will have an extremely positive effect on the local community. It is incredibly stressful for people whose homes are damaged by flooding and this alleviation scheme will significantly reduce the risk of it happening in the future."

"The work carried out in Yarnfield made a big difference to residents and the scheme in Aston Lodge will have the same effect. The county council and the Environment Agency have listened to and acted upon the needs of local people. The project will give residents peace of mind when severe weather hits."

The scheme at Aston Chase was paid from the Local Levy Fund which is administered by the Committee.

All Local Authorities in the Midlands area contribute to this fund and Staffordshire County Council made a contribution of £280,000 this year.