

# South Chingford Flood Mitigation and Wildlife Habitat Improvement Project

## Larkswood Playing Field



**The South Chingford Flood Mitigation and Wildlife Habitat Improvement Project is split over three open spaces in the South Chingford area – Rolls Sports Ground, Memorial Park and Larkswood Playing Field. These projects have been developed to reduce the risk of flooding to people and property. The project will completely remove 64 properties from flood risk due to a storm event which has a 5% chance of occurring each year; and will remove 72 properties from a storm event, which has a 1% chance of occurring each year. Another 821 properties will also receive a reduction in flood risk. Over the design life (100 years), the works are predicted to reduce flood risk damage by £5.1 million. To implement the works, the project has been awarded significant funding by the government Flood Defence Grant in Aid programme with supplementary funding from the London Borough of Waltham Forest.**

## **Larkswood Playing Field**

In the north west corner of the park a Bund (a mound of earth planted with wild flowers) approximately 0.8metres in height and a Detention Basin (a lowered area of land designed to retain water in flood events) is proposed to be developed, which combined with the Wetland Basin to be provided at Memorial Park would store over 5000 cubic metres of water in a major storm event. The Bund will store water which flows off the hill, storing and slowly releasing it thereby protecting properties in Larkswood Road (and properties downstream of Memorial Park). Water will only be present in wet periods with the area being predominately dry or damp for the majority of the time. A wildflower meadow, trees and shrub planting are proposed to be developed in this area to improve the amenity and ecological value.

The opportunities which have been identified at this site include:

- Reduction of flood risk to houses in the surrounding area
- A new amenity area, replacing grassland with a new wildflower meadow increasing biodiversity and creating a new community facility

## **Rolls Sports Ground**

The Rolls Sports Ground design is currently subject to further feasibility and site investigations due to complex nature of the project at this location. We have also identified that the most convenient time to commence construction for this site is in the Spring, therefore due to this and the ongoing design development, construction is anticipated to commence in the Spring of 2022.

## **How we want to work with you?**

There are a number of aspects that can be influenced and developed with the local community to help enhance the benefits that these features will provide including planting, new trees and future maintenance. The project team is keen to work with those who are interested, and we are arranging a number of events to discuss the proposals, any concerns or aspirations; and how all the positive aspects of the scheme can be maximised.

To ensure we protect people and property from flooding, there are elements of the designs that cannot change in order to achieve the reduction in flood risk to properties

Please contact Thames21 at: [info@thames21.org.uk](mailto:info@thames21.org.uk) for further details.