

South Chingford Flood Mitigation and Wildlife Habitat Improvement Project

Memorial Park



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.

Memorial Park

In the western corner of the park, a bund of approximately 0.8 to 1 metre in height is proposed to be developed. To increase the flood storage in this location a small wetland will be developed by shallow excavation into the ground to the north east of the bund. In combination, these two features will store, together with the detention basin feature at Larkswood 5000 cubic metres of water in a major storm event. These proposed works will reduce flood risk to properties in Hampton, Burnham, Sinclair and Westward Roads. A wetland is proposed to be created at the lowest point of the excavated area. This wetland will be designed to improve wildlife and water quality in the Ching Brook (where this water ends up). A range of wildlife and amenity features are also being considered including enhanced biodiversity, informal footpaths and play spaces/features. It's known that the park suffers from waterlogging, however these works are not designed to resolve this. The program does offer the potential for the impacts of the waterlogging to be reduced should sufficient funding be found in future. It is important to note that flooding to the park cannot be prevented (this would displace the flood water into people's homes), however the proposals being developed will help to manage the flooding.

The opportunities that have been identified at this site include -

- Reduction in flood risk to nearby properties
- Removal of amenity grassland to create new wildlife habitats including a new wetland created including potential educational and amenity features
- Incidental play features created to enable interaction with the new habitats

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 for further details.