

South Chingford Flood Mitigation and Wildlife Habitat Improvement Project

Rolls Sports Ground



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.

Rolls Sports Ground

In the west corner of the park two planted Detention Basins (a lowered area of land designed to retain water in flood events) and a Bund (a mound of earth planted with wildflowers) approximately 0.6 to 1.0 metres in height is proposed to be developed.

The opportunities which have been identified at this site include:

- Reduction of flood risk to houses in the surrounding area
- The area will be enhanced with new landscaping and planting to improve the amenity and ecological value in the Sports Ground
- In normal conditions the detention basins will help to reduce water logging but are not designed to specifically improve drainage
- The cricket field boundary will not be affected
- The cricket practice nets will be moved near to the new Multi-Use Games Area
- The 11 v 11 football pitch will be slightly moved to the east to allow space for the new drainage basin
- In extreme flood events, flood water will temporarily back up onto the cricket and football pitches
- Water may still sheet over the playing field during extreme rainfall events, which are rare events

Larkswood Playing Field and Memorial Park

The proposed design for Larkswood playing field is a Bund approximately 0.8 metres in height and a Detention Basin (the area being predominately dry or damp for the majority of the time) located in the north west corner.

In Memorial Park the proposed design is for a Bund approximately 0.8m to 1m in height and a small wetland in the western corner of the park. The wetland is designed to improve wildlife and water quality in the Ching Brook

(where the water ends up). A range of wildlife and amenity features are also being considered including enhanced biodiversity, informal footpaths and play spaces/features. It is known that the park has 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.

In combination, the features at Rolls Sports Ground, Larkswood Playing Field and Memorial Park will store 10,500 cubic metres of water in a major storm event. These proposed works will reduce flood risk to properties downstream.

Engagement

We are keen to hear views about the project and include suggestions from the local community where feasible.

Waltham Forest Council and Thames21 will be holding a drop-in session to provide details of the scheme and questionnaires to get your feedback.

The drop-in session will be from **10am to midday on 12 March 2022**, at West Essex Cricket & Tennis Club, Hickman Avenue, E4 9LG.

For further information please contact:

Waltham Forest Council:
highways.admin@walthamforest.gov.uk

Thames21:
info@thames21.org.uk