



Please note that this newsletter is no longer current.

Samina's Say

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Welcome to the scheme which will provide progress we are making an amazing opportunity for this part of the country

multiple benefits for people and wildlife is entirely achievable. As well as reducing flood risk to up to 15,000 properties, it will also offer a unique opportunity to enhance the landscape along the Thames corridor; unlock recreation, tourism, leisure and environmental value along this iconic river. It will provide security for businesses allowing them to thrive whilst improving/contributing to economic & social sustainability. This is more than a flood defence scheme!

Samina Khan, Programme Director of River Thames Scheme



RTS community mini drop-ins Nov and Dec

Justine Glynn

During November and December 2016, we will be holding several mini drop in events throughout the scheme area. These are to update local communities about the scheme progress, share the findings from the recent channel and downstream workshops, as well as to gain your feedback. These drop-ins will be open to all and run by your local community resilience advisors. Please come and see us, we are looking forward to hearing from you. Click [HERE](#) for dates and venues.

Discussion groups

Vicky Lutyens

We held workshops with the River Thames Scheme Berkshire and Surrey Discussion Groups on the 13th and 19th September. The Discussion Groups were comprised of participants from a broad range of interests. Over 80 people gave their views on channel design options and potential enhancement opportunities that could be included in the scheme. These suggestions will be used to help with developing the design of the scheme. The information from the workshop will become available shortly, please contact us for a copy.



Above: Facilitators and participants at the discussion workshop for Surrey.

Improving community resilience

Ruth Eales

We are adopting a new approach to increase the resilience of communities to flooding within the RTS area. We are exploring options for providing permanent or temporary community level defences, to protect groups of homes, or the whole community. Where these are not feasible, we will look at options for individual property level measures, such as property level products. We are currently measuring the height of the lowest door threshold for all homes so that we can identify which homes will remain at high risk. We will use this information along with the latest modelling data to identify any potential defences which could be put in place for each high risk community. We will start sharing our initial findings with communities early next year and work with communities to discuss the options and agree a way forward.

River Thames Scheme Fish Surveys

One of the priorities for the River Thames Scheme team this year is to improve the understanding of fish populations within the lakes likely to be affected by the construction of the new flood relief channel. Fish surveys can involve high costs and disturbance to both lake users and fish. It's also difficult to capture different fish. We have worked with geneticists at Hull University, studying environmental DNA to identify the species present in the Thames. Lake water contains animal and plant DNA so fish DNA is separated out and used to identify the present species. This is a cheaper and much more accurate method than other techniques like netting and could be the way forward for this type of work in the future. We also carried out hydro-acoustic surveys to find out how many fish there are in the lakes. They do this using sonar scanning at night by boat, when fish are less clumped together.



Above: Fish surveying in action.

How to find out more and keep in touch

Please let us know what you think of the newsletter, what you would like to see included or any updates from your communities you would like to share.

Contact us at: rts@environment-agency.gov.uk or telephone: 03708506506 quoting "River Thames Scheme Newsletter".



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