

# Sanway-Byfleet Flood Alleviation Scheme

Issue 1: September 2020

## Welcome

Welcome to our first newsletter for the Sanway-Byfleet Flood Alleviation Scheme (FAS). We're writing to you because you are living in the area of the proposed scheme and are one of the properties that will be protected by its construction. We expect the scheme to cost around £12.5m and be completed by 2024.

## Flooding history

Many Sanway and Byfleet residents will remember the flooding in winter 2013/14, when we experienced some of the heaviest rainfall and highest flows on the River Wey in recent history. Many properties were flooded, with the Sanway area particularly badly affected. Around 80 homes in the Byfleet area suffered flood damage

Byfleet has a long history of flooding, with the large September 1968 flood causing significant damage to properties along the River Wey. You can see the extent of the flood in the photograph below.



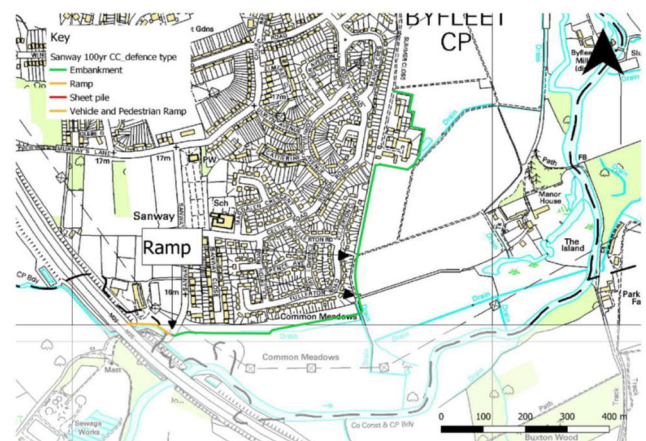
Aerial photo of the 1968 floods

## Proposed scheme

The Sanway-Byfleet Flood Alleviation Scheme is being developed jointly with the Environment Agency, Woking Borough Council, Surrey Wildlife Trust, Surrey County Council, Byfleet Flood Forum and the local community.

The scheme will reduce flooding for up to 153 properties in the future, taking climate change into account.

The flood defence proposed is a combination of flood walls and flood embankments (permanent defences). The flood defence ranges from 0.15m to 2m in height depending on whether the land is low lying. The western end of the defence will be tied into the M25 embankment next to Broad Ditch and runs east in Common Meadow along the rear boundary of properties in Fullerton Road and Sanway Road area. The defence then runs northwards to protect properties in Summer Close before petering out on higher ground.



## How will it protect the area?

Embankments and flood walls protect homes by acting as barriers to flood water. This will not increase flood risk to other areas because the scheme will also involve the creation of new areas of “compensatory flood storage”, which will hold the excess flood water. The locations of these have yet to be confirmed.

## Working together

Since the 2013/2014 floods the Environment Agency has been working closely with the Byfleet Flood Forum, a group formed in response to the 2013/14 floods by Councillor Amanda Boote and Councillor John Bond.

The aim of the Forum was to find a long-term solution to Byfleet’s flooding problems. Forum participants included residents, the Environment Agency, Thames Water, Woking Borough Council, Surrey County Council and a number of other groups, such as the local residents’ association and Surrey Wildlife Trust. The Forum meets twice per year and is delighted to have now got to the point where they have developed a solution called the Sanway Flood Alleviation Scheme.

## Environmental benefits

In January this year a workshop focused on potential environmental benefits the new flood scheme could create. 50 people attended, including Councillor Boote, local residents, landowners, environmental experts, the Environment Agency and local council officers.

Discussions centred on the River Wey floodplain from Broad Ditch to the west of the M25, downstream to Byfleet Road Bridge. Attendees came up with great ideas that included; a new footpath from Byfleet Road to RHS Wisley; a mosaic of wetland habitats on Common Meadows with opportunities for

landscaping; and the suggestion to try and bring the water vole back to Surrey (where it is currently extinct). We now need to discuss these and other ideas with landowners and the community.

## Next steps

In the next few months we will be in touch with you again to provide more detailed information on our proposals and give you the opportunity to have your say on them. We’ll also be pleased to hear any of your ideas on opportunities to find environmental benefits in the area.

We are currently reviewing how best to speak with you. As we are unable to meet face to face we are investigating virtual options alongside more traditional letters and newsletters. We’ll contact you with more details in the autumn.

## Prepare for flooding

Although we work to reduce flood risk, we cannot remove it entirely. We work to help individuals and communities prepare themselves for flooding, by providing information to those who need it.

You can find out more about what to do before, during and after a flood by visiting [www.gov.uk/prepare-for-flooding/future-flooding](http://www.gov.uk/prepare-for-flooding/future-flooding)

If you see blockages in the river channel which pose an immediate flood risk then this should be reported directly to our incident line on:

**0800 80 70 60**

## How to get in touch

You can call us on **03708 506 506**

Or email us at: [THM.schemes@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:THM.schemes@environment-agency.gov.uk)