

Partnership working in Poole

National FCERM strategy showcase case study

The *National flood and coastal erosion risk management strategy for England* sets out how communities, the public sector and other organisations can work together to manage the risk of flooding and coastal erosion better.

When a number of organisations joined together to tackle flooding problems in Alderney, Poole, they were able to achieve a range of benefits for the environment and local communities. Successful partnership working has seen the risk of flooding reduced and abandoned playing fields in the Bourne Stream Valley transformed.

The Challenge

In 2006, the Bourne Valley Park Project was looking to reinstate a culverted watercourse and create habitat in former playing fields.

An inadequate surface water sewer in Alderney, Poole was causing a number of local properties and roads to flood regularly.

The Bourne Stream Partnership, set up to improve the quality of the stream and the surrounding valley, was aware of these flooding problems and saw an opportunity to come up with a solution that could tackle both issues.

Approach

Combining expertise and funding from the Partnership itself, Borough of Poole Council, Wessex Water, Environment Agency and Natural England, and consulting widely with the local community, a green alternative to the flooding problem was identified alongside the re-development of the local playing fields.

When the Bourne Stream flowed through a pipe beneath the park, a 450m long open and terraced stream channel was reinstated. During heavy rain, the stream now acts as a detention basin and is designed to provide 3,500m³ of storage.

This sustainable urban drainage system offers an alternative approach to traditional drainage using natural processes to reduce flash flooding and improve local water quality.

At the same time, extensive earthworks and landscaping have transformed the park into a green oasis for wildlife, providing a range of habitats, including reedbeds, heathland and a wildflower meadow.

A bridge and weir across the new stream, as well as seats and litter bins have been installed. New footpaths meander through the site linking local communities with each other, and with schools and facilities. A small fishing lake has also been created to encourage young people to learn and develop angling skills.

'Working in partnership and consulting with the local community has resulted in a number of benefits for people and the environment'



Source: Borough of Poole

Benefits and outcomes

Working in partnership and consulting with the local community has resulted in a number of benefits for people and the environment:

- risk of flooding has been reduced to a one in twenty chance in any year;
- a new 3,500m³ stormwater storage facility has been created;
- a culverted watercourse has been reinstated;
- better water quality and improved wildlife and habitats;
- a more attractive, varied and useful open space created that the local community can be proud of and enjoy;
- a more cohesive and connected community that worked together in 2011 to win £100,000 funding for a new play area for children (<http://archive.leisureprojects.net/bournevalley.htm>);
- the community has also formed the Bourne Valley Action Group to bring about other local improvements.

More information

For more information see www.bournestreampartnership.org.uk or contact:

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