

Making Space for Water – Churchtown and Crossens, Southport

Briefing note – Public

Why do we need to make space for water?

The project, 'Making Space for Water - Churchtown and Crossens, Southport', aims to improve areas that might flood along 'The Pool' watercourse, Southport. The area is sometimes flooded by water from the 'The Pool' watercourse and rainfall that collects on hard surfaces or runs quickly over it during heavy rain and storms. Over the past 11 years there have been three notable times when flooding has affected the area:

- **2012:** Significant surface water flooding at St. Johns Primary School playground and highway flooding along Rufford Road.
- **2015:** Storm Eva caused severe flooding in Balmoral Drive, Verulam Road and Melrose Avenue.
- **2017:** significant flooding at Preston New Road, Merlewood Avenue, Balmoral Drive, Glamis Drive, Norbury Close, Melrose Avenue and Verulam Road.



There are 98 properties at risk of flooding which will be made worse in the future by more storms and heavier rainfall.

How will we make space for water?

The project will improve some of the underground drainpipes by replacing parts to allow more water to flow through.

As the project title implies, space will be created for water to flow into during heavy or prolonged rain fall, which will decrease the chance of surface level flooding.

Greenspaces have been identified close by the watercourse where some ground will be removed to create space for waterflow. This will resemble a pond but will not contain water except for when excess water has flowed into these areas.

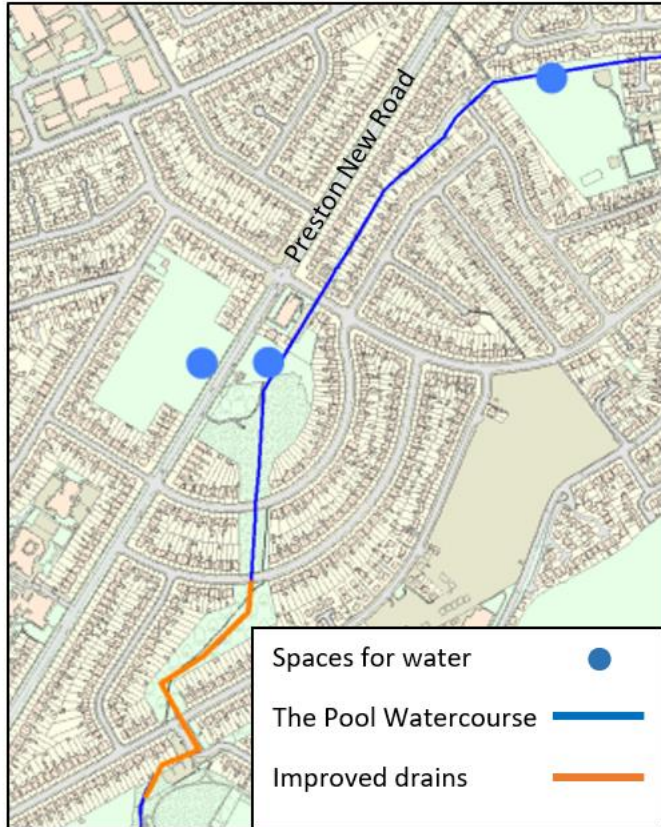


Image showing the location of the making space for water project

The new spaces where water will flow into will not only lower the flood risk but will also encourage all life to thrive in the area. It will allow plants and wildlife to grow and provide spaces for people to also enjoy nature. People may also like to help with taking care of the nature areas and helping people to value the importance of making space for water and nature and all the good things that can come from it.



Image showing how the area at Crossens recreation ground could look following the work.



Image showing how the area at Preston New Road could look following the work.

A more detailed concept design report is accompanying this briefing note for further information.

Who do we need to help us make space for water?

Moels Ward is home to 12,200 residents who generally live longer than other areas of Sefton due to people having better opportunities to get a good education, higher paid jobs and able to live healthier lifestyles. The area is also popular to live as it has a low level of crime. There are lots of different people who we need to help us make sure we are doing the right thing for the area and there will be some people who are more interested in what is going on, as they may live or use the areas. There will also be some people not as interested in what is going on, but we need to make sure we have tried to reach everyone and give everyone the chance to have their say.

It is important for you to be aware of some of the limitations of the usage of the area and its surroundings whilst the works are undertaken. There will be some road and footpath closures, limited use of recreation areas and some noise associated with the work. We will ensure any disruption is kept to a minimum and those most affected will be made aware of the timings and duration of any disruption.

How can you get involved?

We welcome your views on the plans for the area through answering some short questions. Public drop in events will also be held on the 16th September 2023 at 10.30am to 3.30pm, 4th October 2023 at 5.30pm to 7.30pm and the 10th October 2023 at 10.30am to 3.30pm at Crossens Community Association, The Old Library, Southport PR9 8HT for anyone wishing to talk to us person about the plans. You can also provide your details to register as a volunteer to help care for the wetlands by emailing: flooding@sefton.gov.uk.