

Manor Park and Hempstead Fields Residents' Association News Release

The TRUCK Project

Sandra Manning-Jones delivered a short presentation to a recent meeting of the Association's Committee on the work of the TRUCK (Trees on the River Uck) project. This is a new and innovative project with the Environment Agency, The Woodland Trust and the Sussex Wildlife Trust working in partnership on a project that aims to decrease the impacts of flooding in Uckfield town, by restoring natural river features such as floodplain woodlands.

After heavy rain, the water levels in the River Uck catchment naturally rise and fall very quickly. Years of changes to the river have increased the speed that water from the land and urban areas enters the river. These river changes have also hugely reduced the area available to naturally store floodwater upstream of Uckfield. This makes the natural 'flashiness' of the Uck's river flooding even more extreme.

Flooding is a natural phenomenon, and it is not possible to prevent flooding altogether. However, they hope that by working together with local people they can help to significantly reduce the likelihood of people's houses and businesses flooding in the future.

Surface water from Manor Park and Hempstead Fields drains partly via Views Wood and partly direct to the river.

Solutions might include hedge (and tree) planting, encouraging the use of water butts, building debris dams and a balancing pond in Views Wood. Many small changes could together combine to make a big difference.

Sandra was asked what the Association could do to help. Committee members have provided some feedback on a questionnaire she intends to start using as part of a door to door survey and the Association's Facebook and Twitter accounts will be used to inform residents and point them at the Project's website - <http://www.treesontheriveruck.org.uk/>

An application form to join the Association will soon be available – please keep an eye on the Association's Facebook page or Twitter account or email peter.griggs48@gmail.com to join the email group. The joining fee will be £5 per annum per household to cover administration costs, paper, ink, and towards future events. A Newsletter will also be produced from time to time.

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