

The Medway Flood Partnership

The partnership

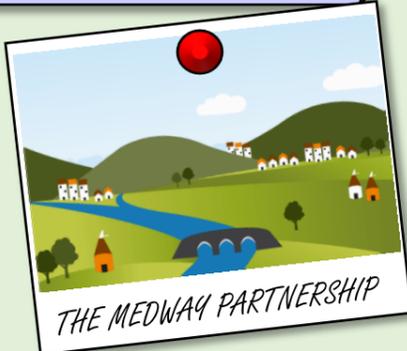
The Medway Flood Partnership was established in 2017 to bring organisations together to improve flood resilience in the Medway catchment. Partners include:

- Kent County Council
- South East Rivers Trust
- Joint Parish Flood Group
- Environment Agency
- Natural England
- Kent Association of Local Councils
- Forestry Commission
- National Farmers Union
- Southern Water

Our aims

The Medway Flood Partnership is working with communities in the Medway catchment to:

- Help people understand their flood risk
- Improve community resilience
- Protect homes
- Create and maintain the natural environment



There are three themes in the partnership:

1. Flood schemes and maintenance



There is a significant programme of works in place to improve existing flood defences in the Medway, as well as provide new defences and protection.

Schemes are being planned for Tonbridge, Hildenborough, East Peckham and the Middle Medway villages.

The Environment Agency maintains main river channels, assets and structures. This helps to manage or reduce flood risk to people and property.

The Environment Agency is committed to developing a 5 year maintenance plan for the Medway catchment and we have a rolling programme of maintenance work valued at about £1million per year.

Led by:  Environment Agency

2. Community resilience



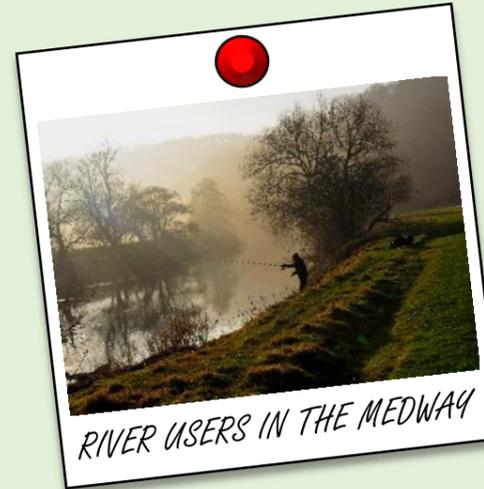
The partnership will help residents and businesses to understand their flood risk and know what they can do to reduce the impact flooding could have on them.



We are developing emergency plans to ensure communities are ready to respond, stay safe and have community measures in place to reduce the impact of flooding.

We are also offering advice and information to support communities following a flood, so that they recover from a flood sooner.

Led by:  Kent County Council 



3. Natural Flood Management



Traditionally we have built structures to hold water away from homes during floods. However, this is not always possible because of cost, space or increasing risk to others.

Natural Flood Management is the alteration, restoration or use of landscape features to reduce flood risk to properties. A wide variety of techniques can be used such as small 'leaky dams', new hedgerows and woodland planting to 'slow the flow', reduce and delay flooding and store more water away from homes.

Led by:  NATURAL ENGLAND

Natural Flood Management in the Medway offers an opportunity to achieve more for both ecology and flood risk management, whilst creating wider benefits for people and society. These include improving water quality, habitats and creating and improving spaces for people to enjoy.

The Mill Farm natural flood storage area was opened in May 2018. Its launch was a great success and a number of landowners who attended, expressed an interest in including Natural Flood Management measures on their land. The storage area can hold as much water as 5 Olympic swimming pools and will help reduce flood risk to the community of Marden.



Summary

Our long term vision for the Medway Flood Partnership is to continue to reduce flood risk. To achieve this we want to work with communities to:

- Reduce the number of homes and businesses affected by flood risk
- Ensure our activities support sustainable economic growth
- Explore and apply a wide range of flood management techniques which support sustainable land use and communities
- Build a collective response to flooding to speed up recovery for communities

More information

Please contact us at KSLE@environment-agency.gov.uk