

Managing Flood Risk in Ash Vale, Surrey

Last July exceptional rainfall across the Thames Valley caused flooding to homes and businesses. A year on the Environment Agency is reporting on how it has been working to manage flood risk in Ash Vale, Surrey.

More than 20 properties were flooded by a combination of river and surface water in Ash Vale - which was made worse by debris getting caught in the road drains causing them to block. This meant surface water was not able to drain away quickly.

The Environment Agency has commissioned technical reports to investigate the problems and recommend actions to mitigate future flooding. We have supplied this information to Guildford Borough Council who will use this advice to develop a scheme to increase the level of protection to homes on Lakeside Close from both river and surface water flooding.

Environment Agency area manager Peter Quarmby said: "We've had a huge challenge in responding to the floods of 2007. We've been learning from the experience, identified areas for improvement, and worked hard to encourage greater public awareness of the risks of flooding.

"We all need to work together to tackle this threat but we've also been pressing ahead with the job we're here to do. We can't stop flooding completely, but in Ash Vale we've worked with Guildford Borough Council to help them understand the challenges risk so that they can take the appropriate steps to reduce the flood risk."

There are several steps that people can take to protect themselves or reduce the impact of flooding. This advice could apply to people who are flooded from any source. Phone the Environment Agency Floodline on 08549 881188 or visit our website www.environment-agency.gov.uk.

Residents may be able to register with the Environment Agency's Floodline Warnings Direct Service to receive flood warnings when flooding is likely.

The latest weather forecasts are available from www.metoffice.gov.uk