**Cannington Flood Alleviation Scheme**

**Environment Agency Press Release**

**Single lane road closure announced to build temporary A39 bridge**

An important phase in works to better protect around 200 homes from the risk of flood in Cannington is drawing nearer.

Work to create a new flood alleviation channel under the A39 began in April and a major step forward in the scheme will happen next week.

To minimise disruption to road users, contractors are to employ innovative construction techniques. Contractors are to create a temporary bridge on top of the A39 to enable excavation work to be undertaken beneath the road with a minimum of disruption to road users. Whilst the bridge is installed there will be a need to temporarily close each lane of the A39 in turn. The highway will therefore be down to a single lane on traffic lights from 19 to 22 July.

So far 750m of earthworks have been dug with material being taken off site.

The Environment Agency has hired contractor Team Van Oord to build the flood alleviation scheme. The project is expected to be completed before next April.

The completion of the scheme will mean the standard of flood protection is greatly improved for homes and businesses in the village to at least a one in a hundred year standard. Effectively, this means that the village will have only a 1% chance of river flooding happening in any year once the works are in place.

 A new flood alleviation channel, with an increased capacity south of the A39, is the best option to significantly reduce the risk of flooding to around 200 properties in Cannington and to the A39.

The new flood relief channel will cross land owned by a number of different people who have been involved in early planning discussions.

We will continue to work closely with landowners, Cannington Parish Council and other local organisations to ensure that this important project runs smoothly and that the community is kept up to date as the project progresses.

In 1984, a small flood alleviation channel was built to reduce flows through the centre of the village. However, earlier investigations have shown that the existing flood alleviation channel is not sufficient to deal with current and future flood flows.  This was seen in November 2012, when more than 40 properties were flooded twice from the brook within a matter of days.