

## **Wrington flood relief scheme begins**

The second stage of a £1.4m scheme to help alleviate flooding in Wrington will start on Monday 2 July.

The project, jointly funded by North Somerset Council, the Environment Agency, Wessex Water and developer contributions, will see the construction of a new bank over the Rye Brook.

Stretching 163m and reaching two metres in height, the bank, known as a flood storage embankment, will provide an area for excess water to be contained when the Rye Brook reaches full capacity. The bank will include a small outlet for the Rye Brook to continue flowing along its natural course.

The project, which will be constructed by Skanska, will take 16 weeks to complete and will include digging down four metres.

The resulting bank will reduce the risk of flooding in the Rickyard Road and Silver Street area dramatically. The bank is being built to hold water from a 'one in fifty year storm' and is expected to prevent properties from flooding in the future. Gardens may still flood during extreme weather.

The first stage of the flood relief scheme was completed in 2014. This involved the replacement of a large flood relief drain in the village to create more capacity during times of heavy rainfall, helping to slow excess water from flowing back onto the road or into properties.

Prior to the scheme, 79 (26 moderate risk, 42 significant risk, 11 very significant risk) properties were at risk of flooding. After completion of both stages of the project, just 13 properties will be at moderate risk of flooding.

Cllr Peter Bryant, North Somerset Council's executive member with responsibility for environmental protection said this was an important scheme that would significantly reduce the risk of flooding in Wrington.

"We have been working hard to address problems in areas with known flood risk since North Somerset was badly hit by floods in 2012 and have completed many schemes across North Somerset. The first stage of the Wrington flood relief scheme has been successful completed and this second stage will provide further relief for people living in the village."