



Slow the flow installations

Woolston Avenue: keeping you informed

Hertfordshire County Council and Central Bedfordshire Council are working together to oversee the delivery of **flood risk management** works at Woolston Avenue. The works form part of ResilientTogether, a Defra funded innovation project focused on improving how the Pix Brook catchment responds to **heavier rainfall**. The project combines monitoring technology, improved drainage and natural flood management measures to slow the flow of water during heavy rain and storms, reducing pressure on the Pix Brook and downstream areas.

As part of this work, several **Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)** are being installed across the area, including two new bioswales at Woolston Avenue.

Why this location was chosen

This location was selected because water naturally runs down Woolston Avenue towards Pix Brook during heavy rain, and the grass verges provide enough space to install bioswales safely without affecting nearby homes or underground services.

Surveys, drainage modelling and environmental assessments confirmed this location offered a practical and effective opportunity to **slow the flow** of water downstream during heavy rain, while keeping disruption to residents to a minimum.

What residents will see onsite

Construction will involve **excavating the grass verges** using small construction vehicles, with material removed by lorry. The areas will then be rebuilt using gravel and specialist soils that allow water to be stored temporarily before draining naturally.

Timeline

Construction starts **mid-February** for up to **six weeks**.

*Subject to weather and co-ordination with utilities.

Residents will be kept informed if timings change.

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What is a bioswale?

Most of the time the bioswales will be dry and will appear as planted landscape features. During heavier rainfall they will **temporarily hold water** before slowly draining away. The planting will be low-maintenance, resilient, and designed to fit in with the character of the street.



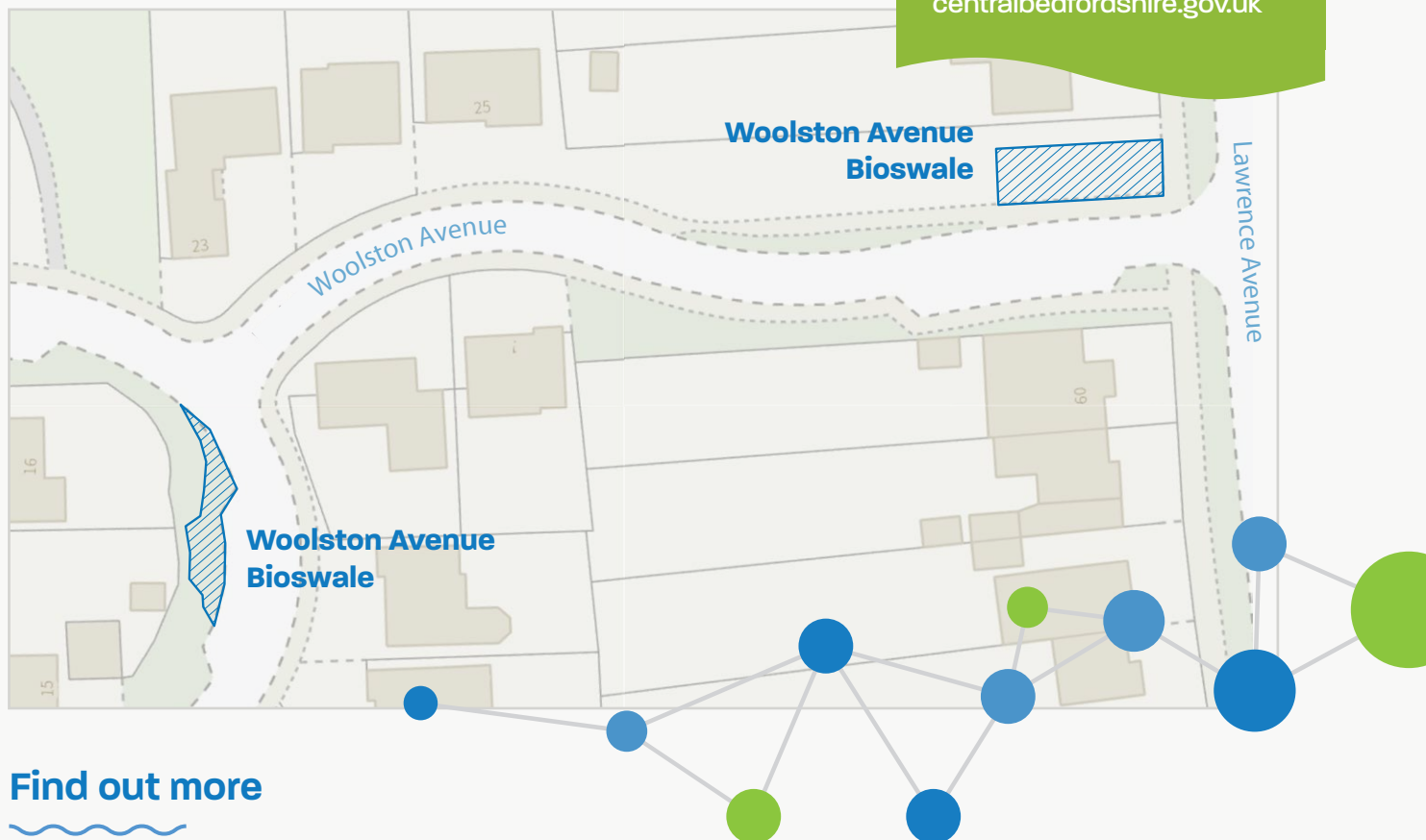
Traffic and access

Access to homes will be maintained throughout the works.

- **Information signage** will be in place where needed, and disruption will be kept as limited as possible.
- **Ground Control**, the appointed contractor, will notify residents if site conditions or timings change.
- If **temporary traffic restrictions** are required, affected residents will be notified directly by letter.

Can I get involved?

A **community planting day** is planned towards the end of construction, subject to weather. Details will be shared closer to the time. To take part please register your interest by email ResilienTogether.Project@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk



Find out more

Members of the ResilienTogether team will be available to answer any questions you may have at:

Letchworth Broadway Gallery

2 The Arcade, Letchworth Garden City SG6 3ES

Tuesday 3 March, 5pm–7pm

We will organise further information events in the coming months. If you are unable to make the event, but have a question, contact us:

- Email: ResilienTogether.Project@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
- Telephone: **0300 300 4969** (9am to 5pm)

Onsite contact

A dedicated contact point, on-site signage and a named Ground Control site supervisor will be available throughout the works.

For serious out of hours **emergencies** such as vandalism or trespassing call Ground Control direct on **0800 334 5606** (weekends and 5pm to 9am weekdays).