

# Press release: Northwich flood risk management scheme officially opened

Guests were invited to a special event on Friday 30 June to mark the completion of the final phase of construction for the £7 million defences.

The market town of Northwich suffered serious flooding in 1946 and more recently in 2000 and 2012. This has caused distress and financial impact for residents as well as costing millions of pounds worth of damage to homes and businesses.

The new scheme reduces flood risk to almost 400 homes and businesses as well as 3 development sites in Northwich, Cheshire. It is the result of close effective partnership working between the Environment Agency, Northwich Town Council, Cheshire West and Chester Council, Northwich BID and the Canal and Rivers Trust, as well as local businesses and the wider community.

The scheme itself is made up of 1.7km of flood defences using a combination of flood walls and embankments, along the banks of the River Dane and River Weaver. To ensure that Northwich's historic facade is kept intact, the project has used high quality finishes on the walls and state-of-the-art solutions including glass panels and floating ecosystems in order to reduce the visual impact of the defences. In addition to fixed flood defences, the scheme will also use demountable defences and flood gates across key footpaths and highways.

Lee Rawlinson, Environment Agency Area Manager, said:

This scheme will help to keep the local community protected while at the same time helping to safeguard the economic investment in the town, and the permanent jobs created as a result. Northwich is at risk of flooding from the Rivers Dane and Weaver and the construction of this flood scheme will reduce the risk to nearly 400 local homes which equates to protecting more than 1,000 residents and further businesses. Cheshire West and Chester Council has been working tirelessly to encourage development in the town and by reducing the risk of flooding, we can further boost the confidence of potential investors and ensure Northwich continues to prosper during, what are, challenging times.

Councillor Samantha Dixon, Leader of Chester West and Cheshire Council, who officially opened the scheme, said the flood defence project would play a key role in the town's continued economic growth. She explained:

Recent public investment in Northwich includes £35 million for the capital works to stabilise the town from subsidence, and future growth plans include £100 million of private investment and £15

million of public investment. The partnership work undertaken during the last few years will help to put Northwich in a much better economic position for the future and will help to support inward investment.

Even with new flood defences in place, the risk of flooding can never entirely be removed. It is important that residents prepare in advance. They can start by telephoning the Environment Agency Floodline on 0345 988 1188 to find out if they can sign up for free flood warnings.

Information about [preparing for flooding](#), including how to check your flood risk, develop a flood plan and putting together a flood kit is also available online.

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## **[Press release: Foreign Secretary in Brussels for talks with EU Foreign Ministers](#)**

We are going to be talking about sanctions against those who have been involved in a series of chemical weapons attacks in Syria and I'm very pleased to say that this is one of the things that the UK government has been talking about for many months. There's been a series of chemical weapon attacks, the latest of which was the barbaric attack in Khan Shaykhun on April 4. What the Foreign Affairs Council will be agreeing today is that 16 named individuals will be sanctioned, their movements will be restricted, their assets will be frozen. They are military technical personnel, which shows the resolve of the UK and the rest of our friends in Europe in dealing with those who are responsible for chemical weapons attacks.

We will be also discussing the continuing crisis in North Korea. On the Testing of the ICBM that we saw recently, we remain absolutely determined to try to get the North Koreans to see sense and to continue to put pressure on the regime in Pyongyang. We think the best way to do that is to put pressure on the Chinese. We are seeing some progress there but a lot more to be done.

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## **[News story: Fine of £26,677 imposed](#)**

## [for fisheries offences](#)

On 7 July 2017 JJR Fishing Limited, owner of the fishing vessel Golden Sceptre PD50 and its master, James West, pleaded guilty to 2 breaches of the Fisheries Act 1981 at North Tyneside Magistrates' Court.

The court heard that in January 2017 the vessel was boarded by officers from the Royal Navy fisheries protection vessel HMS Severn which was carrying out fisheries enforcement duties in the area. During the inspection it was identified that the vessel was not transmitting on its Automatic Identification System (AIS), contrary to Section 30(1) of the Fisheries Act 1981 as read with article 10 of Council regulation (EC) No. 1224/2009. When questioned about this by the officers Mr West, who is also a director of JJR Fishing Limited, replied that he had turned the system off in order that other vessels would not be able to see where he was fishing.

The court also heard that Mr West had failed to comply with the obligation to submit a fishing vessel logbook, in that he had not submitted any fishing activity reports for two days' worth of fishing activity.

The vessel owner, JJR Fishing Limited was ordered to pay a fine of £15,750 together with an additional fine based on the value of the catch of £2,250, with a victim surcharge of £120 and court costs of £1,500.

The vessel master James West was fined £5,250 together with an additional fine based on the value of the catch of £1,250, with a victim surcharge of £120 and court costs of £437.

A spokesman for the MMO said:

"The court in this case considered these offences to be serious in nature and imposed significant penalties, which recognises the scale of offending that took place in failing to submit logbook information and failing to transmit AIS. Failing to comply with regulations which apply to commercial sea fishing carries with it the risk of fines of this magnitude."

"In these cases the MMO will always take the appropriate action including prosecution to ensure offenders do not profit from such illegal activity and to protect fish stocks for the wider fishing industry and future generations."

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## [News story: Minister Burt visits Iraq](#)

## to underline UK support

During his visit Mr Burt congratulated Iraqi leaders for the professionalism of the Iraqi Security Forces and the courage of the Iraqi people.

He met with Iraqi leaders including President Massum, Prime Minister Abadi and Foreign Minister Jaafari. Mr Burt also met with Deputy Special Representative for the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq, Lise Grande, as well as key international partners and UK military personnel.

Mr Burt emphasised that the collapse of Daesh in Mosul represents a major step forward in the global fight against international terrorism. He also stressed the importance of following up the military success with stabilisation and humanitarian assistance in liberated areas, progress on a lasting political solution, and efforts to rebuild the local economy.

Commenting on his trip, Minister Burt said:

Visiting Iraq was an important opportunity for me to congratulate personally Iraqi leaders, their security forces, and all Iraqis, on their victory in Mosul.

It is vital that the international community stands by Iraq as it begins the painstaking task of rebuilding and reconciling so that families can return home safely. And I'm proud that the UK, as part of the Global Coalition will continue to play a leading role in providing military, humanitarian and stabilisation support to the government of Iraq. I was pleased to thank some of our Armed Forces directly for their contribution.

We will also continue to work closely with Iraq and our international partners to promote reconciliation and economic development, to foster long-term peace and stability.

### **Further information**

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**[News story: The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport Appoints David Blyth to the Board of the](#)**

# Theatres Trust

The Rt Hon Karen Bradley MP has appointed David Blyth to the Theatres Trust Board for a three year term from 1 July 2017.

David Blyth has been involved in theatre and arts entertainment management for over thirty five years in both the commercialised and subsidised sectors. In 1987 David joined the management team of the local authority run Fairfield Hall Arts Complex in Croydon and over the next five years was Head of Operations. He joined The Ambassadors Woking as General Manager in 1992 and became Head of Operations for the Company in March 1997, while retaining the role of Chief Executive of the Ambassadors Woking. In February 2000 he joined the board of ATG as Operations Director. He subsequently relinquished the role as Chief Executive of Woking in September 2006 to concentrate on the expanded position of Operations and Buildings Development Director. In March 2011 he was appointed as Ambassador's Property Director, with responsibility for their portfolio of 39 venues across the UK, America and Australia. David retired from Ambassador Theatre Group in 2015. Since his retirement David has become the Chairman of the Marina Theatre Trust in Lowestoft.

Theatres Trust Trustees is not remunerated. These appointments have been made in accordance with the Cabinet Office's Governance Code on Public Appointments. It is a requirement of the Code that political activity by those appointed is declared. David Blyth has declared that he has not carried out any political activity.