

Villagers celebrate flood defence works

An MP has welcomed measures that will protect a village blighted by flooding.

Mark Lancaster met with parish councillors of Stoke Goldington to see the work taking place on flood defences following 2007's terrible deluge.

They invited the member for Milton Keynes North to see the diggers constructing balancing ponds, which will store and help slow down the excess water discharge caused by heavy rainfall.

It was heavy rainfall which caused the village to be submerged back in 2007, in June and then again in July. The floods left scores of people homeless and for three years villagers have feared a repeat disaster every time heavy rainfall was forecast.

There were several setbacks in securing the commencement of the works but after working alongside Milton Keynes Council and the Environment agency, work is finally under way and should be finished by Christmas.

Parish council chairman Roger Trett said: "At long last defence work is under way following intense lobbying from the parish council and Mark Lancaster. Residents are still concerned but they welcome the commencement of long promised works."

Mr Lancaster said: "This is a fantastic example of how when a community comes together and perseveres it can deliver the results it needs. And, as in this case, there is nothing more important than protecting their village, homes and families."