Sandyhills Park, Glasgow – Green space enhancement Deculverting Shared funding

The focus of this scheme was the implementation of natural flood management measures to recreate floodplain capacity and resolve localised flooding. Shared funding enabled Glasgow City Council, Scottish Water and SEPA to progress the project in a way which enabled development, and enhance existing greenspace - including amenity value by de-culverting sections of the Tollcross Burn as it flows through Sandyhills Park

New footbridge over Tollcross Burn

De-culverted Tollcross Burn

The Tollcross Burn was culverted in the 1950s to help meet housing shortages after World War II. The houses were demolished in the 1970s and the area converted into grassland and semi-naturalised woodland. As part of the local surface water management plan (SWMP) and Scottish Water's strategic sewerage programme, flood risk was reduced by restoring the floodplain and thereby providing space to increase storage capacity for surface water and creating capacity in the combined sewer network.

Additional upgrades include a footbridge over the de-culverted burn, providing further amenity value to the local community. Funding, facilitated through the MGSDP, was secured through a combination of Glasgow City Region City Deal, Scottish Water, and SEPA Water Environment Fund. Although public consultation was initially deemed successful, once works were completed it became evident that some local members of the community had concerns about the scheme.

"*..we hadn't picked up that there was a section of the community who were very opposed to the works. There is consulting people and there's engaging people. And if people don't actually understand what you're doing, you haven't engaged with them. We still get correspondence from this section of the community.*" MGSDP Partner

LESSONS LEARNT: The scheme highlights the difficulties that can be encountered with community engagement. A lesson learnt is to ensure public engagement, rather than consultation takes place.