

## Day-lighting or Opening up of Piped/Culverted watercourses.

The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and Land Drainage Act 1991 place a duty on Sefton Council as a Lead Local Flood Authority to oversee surface water flooding. One of the causes of flooding is the inappropriate culverting of watercourses.

To reduce maintenance costs, improve flood risk management and bring environmental benefits, Sefton Council encourages de-culverting or the restoration of culverted watercourses to open channels, where the opportunity arises.

### The detrimental effects of culverting include:

- Loss of and adverse effects on environmental features and wildlife habitat;
- Increased likelihood of flooding due to blockage;
- Increased impact of flooding;
- Loss of floodwater storage;
- Increased difficulties in providing for drainage connections;
- Difficulties in the repair, maintenance and replacement of culverts;
- Increased health and safety hazards;
- Increased difficulty in detecting the origins of pollution and in monitoring water quality.

### Specific residential benefits of de-culverting include:

- Reducing flood risk.
- Increasing the capacity of the system.
- Reducing maintenance costs.
- Easily identify issues requiring maintenance.
- Providing valuable habitat

### Large scale de-culverting benefits can include:

- Complimenting other urban regeneration initiatives
- Using water motion to mask city noise and provide an atmosphere of quiet and calm.
- Giving a place a sense of identity, because each combination of landform, waterway, bankside and buildings are unique.
- Offering educational and play opportunities for children, enhancing pedestrian and cycle routes and giving people a feel of the countryside and its seasons in an urban environment.

If you are interested in de-culverting a watercourse in your property and would like some advice, please contact Sefton Council's Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management team at the email address below.