

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Planning Committee

7 July 2010

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CAMBOURNE - DRAINAGE

Background

1. This matter is being reported to the Planning Committee at the request of the Planning Portfolio Holder, following assurances given to Full Council on 22 April 2010 that it would be kept under regular review by Members
2. Update reports will be presented to future meetings of the Planning Committee until a permanent solution to the drainage issues at Cambourne has been identified and implemented.

Update as at 28 June 2010

3. Prior to the Full Council meeting on 22 April 2010, nine questions on this issue were raised of the Planning Portfolio Holder and four of the Environment Services Portfolio Holder. Officers have been advised that no further questions have been raised direct of the said Portfolio holders but one question has been forwarded by RAFT(Residents Against Flooding and Tankers) to the Senior Planning Lawyer in Planning and New Communities. This has been answered and no follow up queries have been received in such regard. The Senior Planning Lawyer has also asked Martin Withers , Chairman of RAFT to check that no one is expecting any additional information back from the District Council following the public meeting on 11 May.
4. Officers have continued to liaise with representatives of The Cambourne Consortium, its Resident Engineer and Anglian Water and this has included attendance at a meeting on 10 June and a separate meeting on 22 June. The Consortium's Resident Engineer has reported that all the Primary Foul Sewer network throughout Lower and Great Cambourne has been inspected visually and surveyed internally by CCTV cameras. This has identified a number of defects and repairs required and these are ongoing. In addition it has been reported that individual developers have undertaken similar investigations to their own Secondary Foul Sewer network (ie within Estate Roads).The Engineer has reported that the investigative work for this Primary and Secondary Foul Sewer network is substantially complete and this is allowing the various teams to continue to progress with outstanding repairs. The repair works are said to be anticipated for completion by the end of July (2010) when a programme of final checking will begin . At the meeting on 22 June, Anglian Water produced two charts for the period since 3 March 2010 showing (a) the total hours of run for the pumps at the terminal pump station at Cambourne and (b) the fluctuations in the wet well levels at the said pump station. Anglian Water said they felt that both these charts showed an improving position.

5. It has also been confirmed that, if there were to be any further flooding, a revised tankering strategy is now in place . Although tankers would still need to visit the terminal pump station in School Lane arrangements have been organised such that other tankers would be deployed to other satellite pump stations in Cambourne. This would help reduce the impact on residents living in the School Lane area.
6. A meeting took place at South Cambridgeshire District Council's offices on 25 June called by Mr Andrew Lansley M.P. to update him on progress since the public meeting in terms of the ongoing investigative works and repairs. The meeting was attended by 18 people with all main parties represented including the Portfolio Holders for Planning and Health and Environmental Services as well as the likes of the Managing Director of Anglian Water and the Chairman of RAFT. It is felt that those attending the meeting were able to agree that the activity previously promised (ie at the Public meeting on 11 May) was being undertaken and it appears positive progress is being made with main repair works to the Primary and Secondary Foul Sewer networks due for completion by the end of July 2010 so that final checking could then be taken forward. It was acknowledged both by MCA Developments and Anglian Water , however, that ultimate success of the works will only be tested once there has been a prolonged period of rainfall.
7. A further update will be presented to the August meeting of the Planning Committee.

Background Papers: the following background papers were used in the preparation of this update:

- None

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