

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Planning Committee

3 November 2010

AUTHOR/S: Executive Director (Operational Services) / Corporate Manager (Planning and New Communities)

CAMBOURNE - DRAINAGE

Purpose

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.

Update as at 26 October 2010

2. Officers have continued to liaise with representatives of the Cambourne Consortium, its Resident Engineer and Anglian Water and the Senior Planning Lawyer will attend a review meeting on 28 October where representatives of the Cambourne Consortium, its Resident Engineer and Anglian Water will be present. An update as to this meeting will be provided orally to the Planning Committee.
3. A copy of a new Action plan received by the Council on 21 September was presented to the last Planning Committee and the following key passages from the Action Plan were highlighted;

“.....During 26/27 August 2010 a large number of the manholes within the foul sewer system were inspected for leaks or high flows. These observations identified ‘hot spots’ and areas requiring further investigation some of which indicated the strong possibility of cross connections from garage areas and courtyards etc. within development sites....

....iv) Cross (rogue) connections

The possibility of cross connections from Surface Water pipework based on the identified ‘hot spots’ will form the core of the investigative work contained in this Action Plan. The likelihood of cross connections is greatest on pipework and manholes or inspection chambers on the smaller upstream drainage networks.

These tend to be on private property or in communal areas and are not adoptable. Investigation of these networks will involve initial contact with the property owners and the use of teams equipped with bowzers and coloured tracing dye....

....The testing procedure involving bowzers of water and coloured dye would be undertaken by 4 teams with two operatives and an engineer to identify manholes etc to be checked and to maintain comprehensive records. Water and dye would be used to check the flow pattern through the drainage system and to confirm or otherwise whether water from surface water run-off areas eg roads footways,

garage areas and courtyards or roof drainage pipework is connected correctly. Multi linked systems would use several colours of dye to identify these routes....”

4. The last Report to the Planning Committee highlighted that the key difference in the work proposed under the latest Action Plan , and the work previously carried out, was the recognition by the Engineers of the real prospect of what they referred to as “Cross (rogue) connections” .The view was expressed that that this was seen as an acknowledgement that the continuing problems encountered in August were likely to be in part the result of “...water from surface water run-off areas, for example roads footways, garage areas and courtyards or roof drainage pipework...” not being connected correctly. It was also pointed out that previously attention had focused on survey and repair work to the main sewers. Whilst the work that had been carried out in terms of survey and repair work to main sewers had undoubtedly have been of benefit (as evidenced by the fact that individual properties have not been flooded where there had been heavy rainfall) the problems encountered in August showed that they were not limited to main sewers.
5. Investigation involving bowsters of water and coloured dye has taken place each week since 4 October in relation to surface water run-off from various areas including roads footways, garage areas and courtyards and copies of the weekly reports that have been received to date are attached .The Council was advised that the testing work to include these areas was expected to take up to 6-8 weeks to complete and this testing work is still on-going. The testing that has taken place has revealed a number of cross (rogue) connections and some poor standard of workmanship that is also contributing to surface water infiltrating the foul system. What is currently awaited is a series of programmes as to when remedial works will take place to deal with the defects and the rogue connections which have been identified and it is hoped the Senior Planning Lawyer will be able to provide some detailed information as to programmes of works by way of a verbal up-date to the Planning Committee.
6. In any event a further update as to continued testing and completion of remedial works will be presented to the December meeting of the Planning Committee.

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

- Reports from Colin Sharp (WSP) as to testing

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