

Cabinet Member (Public Services)

3rd September 2013

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member (Public Services) – Councillor Lancaster

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Executive Director, Place

Ward(s) affected:

Bablake

Title:

Petition – Flood Protection Proposals for Butt Lane and Washbrook Lane, Allesley

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive Summary:

A petition containing 82 signatures was received on 9th July 2013, sponsored by Councillor Galliers, requesting that the Council develop flood protection proposals for Butt Lane and Washbrook Road, Allesley.

Recommendations:

The Cabinet Member is recommended to:

1. Note the concerns of the petitioners.
2. Endorse the work of officers from the Flood Risk Management team and of colleagues from the Environment Agency in respect of this petition.

List of Appendices included:

N/A

Other useful background papers:

Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

No

Will this report go to Council?

No

Report title: **Flood Protection Proposals for Butt Lane and Washbrook Lane, Allesley.**

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1. Flooding has occurred in Butt Lane and Washbrook Lane on a number of occasions, most recently November 2012, causing water to enter the properties of around 20 properties.
- 1.2. The source of this flooding is fluvial i.e. it is flooding from the River Sherbourne which is a main river. Main rivers are the responsibility of and maintained by the Environment Agency (EA). The EA have permissive powers to manage flood risk on main rivers. Surface water runoff and flooding from the ordinary watercourse section of the River Sherbourne are the responsibility of riparian owners and Coventry City Council as Lead Local Flood Risk Authority.
- 1.3. After prolonged and heavy rainfall, the River Sherbourne, which runs in a man-made channel in Butt Lane, overtops and affects gardens and properties.
- 1.4. In November 2012, the River Sherbourne also overflowed on Washbrook Lane. This resulted in a steady volume of water flowing along Washbrook Lane, preventing traffic from passing. Some runoff continued along Washbrook Lane and pooled at the junction with Browns Lane. The main river is fed by an ordinary watercourse, west of Browns lane, which runs alongside Washbrook Road.
- 1.5. Under the Flood and Water Management Act, the Council as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) has a duty to investigate all flooding incidents and co-ordinate with all the relevant stakeholders who have responsibility for water in the locality.
- 1.6. In pursuance of these duties, Officers from the Councils drainage team have worked with colleagues from the Environment Agency (EA), and the following actions have been taken:-
 - 1.6.1. Officers from both organisations met in December 2012 to discuss the issue. The EA agreed to lead as it is Main River, supported by CCC as Lead Local Flood Authority.
 - 1.6.2. A private retaining wall which had partially collapsed into the river channel has been removed and repaired. This was organised by the property owner with guidance and support from CCC.
 - 1.6.3. The ordinary watercourse in Washbrook Lane has been cleaned and de-silted.
 - 1.6.4. In order to increase efficiency of the main river channel, the EA completed de-silting works in April 2013. Approximately 30 tonnes of sediment was removed from the channel.
 - 1.6.5. The EA organised a Flood Surgery on 5th February 2013, which was attended by both CCC and the EA to listen to residents and gather further information.
 - 1.6.6. An outline bid for funding of £95,000 over the next two years has been submitted to the EA in the form of a Flood Defence Grant in Aid (FDGiA) application. A Project Appraisal Report (PAR) will be prepared later this year.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

2.1. CCC and the EA are considering a number of options:-

- 2.1.1. Investigation for provision of storage upstream on Washbrook Lane. The EA have recently said that this is not a cost effective option.
- 2.1.2. The EA have run a calculator for a Property Level Protection (PLP) scheme which would provide flood protection to individual properties at risk e.g. using air brick covers, non-return valves and door barriers. Roads and gardens would still be flooded during an event. These types of PLP schemes are popular due to the speed of implementation compared to larger scale community projects and also because they directly protect properties rather than areas of land.
- 2.1.3. The EA have included the PLP funding in their medium term plan (MTP). However it does need joint funding from CCC and this could be from an FDGiA bid or other CCC Capital.
- 2.1.4. The installation of flap valves on the surface water outfalls will be investigated to prevent water returning up the gully drains and affecting the 3 cul-de-sacs off Butt lane.
- 2.1.5. The EA will inspect this stretch of the river every six months to check for debris or other obstructions which may impede flows.

3. Results of consultations undertaken

- 3.1. There has been no consultation on this matter.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

- 4.1 No decision is required at this stage.

5. Comments from the Executive Director, Resources

- 5.1 The investigation of flood related issues is part of the Council's responsibility as a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA). Responsibility for any remedial measures rests with the relevant statutory body or landowner depending on the nature and source of the flooding.

6. Other implications

6.1 How will this contribute to achievement of the Council's key objectives corporate priorities (corporate plan/scorecard) / organisational blueprint / Local Area Agreement (or Coventry Sustainable Community Strategy)?

This demonstrates the Council's commitment to its responsibility to deal with Flood management issues under the Flood and Water Management Act (FWMA), despite the fact that the area is privately owned.

6.2 How is risk being managed?

The Drainage and Flood Risk Management Team will continue to monitor the area following heavy rainfall events and work with the EA.

6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

The Council takes its role of LLFA seriously and is keen to resolve flooding issues across the City. This reflects well on the City Council at a national level and is well received by the Environment Agency and DEFRA

6.4 Equalities / EIA

No equality impact assessments have been undertaken.

6.5 Implications for (or impact on) the environment

There is no impact on the environment as a result of this recommendation or the proposals.

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

The City Council works closely with partners with regard to Flood Management, and those partners are aware of this issue. There are no current implications for those organisations.

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