

Agenda Item: 21

Executive Board

15 July 2009



Feniton Old Village Drainage Report

Summary

This report details the findings of Howick Consultants Study of the Feniton Old Village drainage problems.

Recommendation

1. That Members approve the carrying out of works to improve the systems as identified in paragraph 5.1 of the Consultants report.
2. That Members give consideration to whether they wish to investigate the cost of an appraisal in order to apply to DEFRA for funding for a replacement system.

a) Reasons for Recommendation

In order to reduce the possibility of flooding to the properties in Old Feniton.

b) Alternative Options

Do nothing.

c) Risk Considerations

That further flooding events will take place and EDDC will be accused of doing nothing.

d) Policy and Budgetary Considerations

The recommendations comply with the council's safe, clean and green environment. Currently there are no monies available for the appraisal or the system improvement work.

e) Date for Review of Decision

N/A

1 Main Body of the Report

EDDC has instructed Howick Consultants to produce a report on the condition and effectiveness of the storm water drainage system in Old Feniton. The report followed the flooding events of 29 & 30 October 2008.

The report gives a break down of how the drainage system is made up, the catchment area and ownership and responsibilities. Other than where the drainage system is located in the highway, it will normally be in the ownership of the riparian owners (owners of the land it passes through). Where it is in the highway and provides highway drainage it will be the responsibility of DCC.

The drainage system's lack of capacity has resulted in flooding on a number of occasions in the past, the most recent event was 29 & 30 October 2008 when at least 3 properties and the Church were flooded.

The Church is sited in the low part of the village and was seriously flooded by water overflowing from Curscombe Lane. Properties in the lowest part of the lane were also affected.

A CCTV survey has been carried out and a computer model of the drainage system has been put together to assess the performance and capacity of the existing pipe work.

Improvements to alleviate flooding can be of two types:-

1. Work to improve the system can be undertaken for a modest expenditure and would include cleaning and repair of the twin pipe section and brick culvert between the inlet and MH 4 and the replacement of the brick culvert and associated repairs between MH 10 and MH 11 with a 300mm pipe. It should be possible to undertake this work for less than £10,000. The work would make some small improvements to the system but there would still be the threat of flooding on a regular basis.
2. If flooding was to be prevented against a 1 in 75 year event the entire system would need to be replaced by a piped system using 525mm pipes. This would cost in the region of £100,000 to £200,000.

There are alternatives to replacing the system which would provide a 1 in 75 year level of protection but further work is required to appraise these alternatives to find the most cost effective solution.

In order to implement any replacement scheme it will be necessary to apply to DEFRA for grant aid. In order to do this we will have to carry out an appraisal, in accordance with DEFRA's requirements, to ensure that the best value for money is provided while achieving the most appropriate standard of defence. Members will be aware from their consideration of the investigation into the problems associated with New Feniton, there is a cost associated with preparing an appraisal. The cost could be up to £30,000. There is no funding in the budget for this work.

Legal Implications

The District Council is a Land Drainage Authority and benefits from Land Drainage powers under S.14 Land Drainage Act 1991, although it does not have a duty to exercise them.

Financial Implications

As stated in the report, there is no budget available either in Capital or Revenue to pay for any additional expenditure.

Consultation on Reports to the Executive

None

Background Papers

- Old Feniton Drainage Report, Howick Consultants

Keith Steel – ext 2420
Senior Engineer – Street Scene

15 July 2009

Karime Hassan – ext 2735
Corporate Director

