

CABINET MEMBER DECISION

Decision:

Members Questions

(i) Details of decision

There were four Member questions. These and the responses are attached as annex A.

Decision:

PETITION - DRAINAGE SYSTEMS IN CHIPSTEAD VALLEY ROAD AND THE SURROUNDING AREA

(i) Details of decision

A petition with 148 signatories was received from Emma Jewsbury that requested the Council to apportion funding to long term engineering related solutions to improve drainage systems in Chipstead Valley Road and the surrounding area (e.g. redesign of drainage systems). The petition and response are attached as annex B.

Decision taken by:

(i) Name: Marisa Heath

(ii) Portfolio: Cabinet Member for Environment Decisions

Date of Decision: 14 September 2021

Date of Publication of Record of Decision: 14 September 2021

Annex A

CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT DECISIONS

Tuesday, 14 September 2021

ITEM 2A – MEMBER QUESTIONS

Questions from Luke Bennett

Thank you for the written response (on Sept 6, 2021) to this resident petition, affirming (i) that the drainage system will be cleansed along with (ii) the CM Environment recommendation for finance to be apportioned to an engineered solution to the flooding problem on Chipstead Valley Road (opposite Chipstead Valley Primary School).

It is material and important to confirm also that the residents of Chipstead Valley Road (and the pupils and staff of the school opposite) have endured severe flooding at this location for years, not months, i.e., the problem originated long before the June / July heavy rain events mentioned in the response of 06.09.21.

1. What date will the drainage / soakaway system be cleansed? (Please note it was due to be done in the summer school holidays, but disappointingly, I was advised at the very last minute by the Highways maintenance team that it would not be done as planned, due to other temp traffic signals in place within a 4 mile radius in Bonsor Drive Kingswood). Clearly this essential maintenance must be prioritised to mitigate this acute flooding problem ASAP.
2. What does 'next financial year' mean in terms of the earliest and latest date that capital finance will be apportioned / guaranteed?
3. When will the engineering solution be designed – costed – installed? Earliest and latest dates please.
4. Comms / member & resident liaison hereon: Can the divisional member (Cllr Luke Bennett) be invited to all meetings, discussions and site visits relating to the soakaway / drainage cleansing and the subsequent (definitive) engineered solution?

Cabinet Member Response:

1. The deep entry maintenance programme has been arranged for the October half term break to minimise impact of the work on access and egress from the school.
2. "Next Financial Year" means the financial year starting in April 2022. No allocation is guaranteed.
3. This is an indicative allocation of funding based on the scoring system in place at the moment. New drainage engineers are being recruited to Highways to manage this workstream, they will be able to update once in post.
4. No.

Annex B

CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT DECISIONS

Tuesday, 14 September 2021

PETITION:- IMPROVE DRAINAGE SYSTEMS IN CHIPSTEAD VALLEY ROAD AND THE SURROUNDING AREA

We the undersigned petition Surrey County Council to We ask the council to apportion funding to long term engineering related solutions to improve drainage systems in Chipstead Valley Road and the surrounding area (eg. redesign of drainage systems)

In recent years there has been a number of instances where the drainage systems in Chipstead Valley Road have been unable to cope with heavy rainfall.

This has led to flooding of the driveways/homes/gardens of residents and also deposited silt residue from side roads (such as How Lane) onto pavements, posing a hazard to pedestrians including children and parents from Chipstead Valley Primary School.

We ask that the Council review the evidence already presented to local councillors and MPs and apportion funding for interventions to improve the long-term effectiveness of the drainage systems to support the increase in development in the area.

Submitted by: Emma Jewsbury

Signatures: 148

Response:

In June and July 2021 areas of Surrey experienced three major rainstorm events which flooded highway and domestic and commercial properties. Over 100 properties were recorded to have flooded in the living space or were classed as unliveable according to the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs liveability criteria. One of these locations was Chipstead Valley Road, a location with a history of flooding. Surrey County Council has carried out an investigation into the flood incident of Chipstead Valley Road and conducted a survey of the drainage network. Valley Road and the adjoining properties, buildings and school are situated in a location at risk of surface water flooding in all modelled storm events, information [here](#). This means that the location is at risk of flooding irrespective of the existing private and highway drainage networks' condition.

The investigation into the incident which led to this petition response made a series of recommendations which go beyond the remit of Highways and to include recommendations for property owners to take into account that this area is at risk of surface water flooding in all of the modelled storm events. During intense rainfall the capacity of the highway drainage and private drainage networks are likely to be exceeded. To mitigate this and in addition to the work being carried out by Surrey County Council, property owners should consider mechanisms to ensure their properties are resilient to this risk of flooding.

Decision Recommendation:

That Surrey County Council use the existing capital funding prioritisation process for identifying and developing projects to reduce flood risk on the highway.

Further to this recommendation. Surrey County Council has carried out surveys to assess the condition of the highway drainage network and arranged for them to be cleansed and the

location has been assessed and recommended for capital investment in the next financial year.

Marisa Heath
Cabinet Member for Environment
14 September 2021