

## SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

## LOCAL COMMITTEE (ELMBRIDGE)

DATE: 16<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2014

LEAD OFFICER: NICK HEALEY, AREA TEAM MANAGER (NE)

SUBJECT: DRAINAGE UPDATE

DIVISION: ALL

**SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

This report summarises the annual cyclic gully emptying programme recently completed in Elmbridge.

The process for responding to drainage defects is described.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:****The Local Committee (Elmbridge) is asked to:**

- (i) Let the Area Team Manager know of locations where there are persistent drainage problems for their local communities.

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The Area Team Manager has information detailing defects with the drainage system in Elmbridge. The recommendation is intended to facilitate prioritise investigation and repairs to those defects. Not all defects result in problems for the local community; the intention is to prioritise those defects that are causing problems.

**1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:**

1.1 For some years Surrey County Council has had contracts in place to clean every gully in the County on an annual basis. The latest gully cleaning contract provides for the location and silt level of every gully to be recorded. The location information has been used to develop an asset inventory. It is intended to use the silt level information to optimise the gully emptying schedule. Some gullies need emptying more frequently than others. The optimised programme will take this into account to ensure that each gully is scheduled to be cleaned as often as it needs.

1.2 In addition to the cyclic gully emptying contract the Council's drainage maintenance activities also include:

- Drainage condition works –this is a countywide programme for repairing minor drainage defects;
- Capital drainage schemes – Members may recall the “Wet Spots” programme – this is a capital programme that delivers a small number of high value capital drainage schemes each year to resolve major long term problems;
- The Client Jetting Machine – the cyclic gully cleaning contract provides for one jetting machine shared among the eleven Boroughs

and Districts for ad hoc jetting – this resource is in Elmbridge one week in every eleven and is directed and supervised by the Area Team;

- Local Committee revenue funded works – the Area Team Manager uses the Local Committee’s Pooled Revenue for drainage activities not covered by any of the activities listed above – for example last Financial Year a ditch maintenance programme was undertaken in partnership with Elmbridge Borough Council – for example additional jetting – for example occasional drainage defect repairs.
- Local Committee Divisional Programme schemes – for example last Financial Year the Divisional Member allocated significant funding to provide a brand new drainage system in St Peter’s Road, West Molesey.

1.3 This Financial Year the Area Team is able to prioritise allocation of the countywide drainage condition budget for minor drainage repairs.

1.4 The Capital Drainage Programme, previously known as the “Wet Spots” programme, is currently under review with a view to developing a five year programme akin to Operation Horizon.

1.5 The Surrey County Council website includes pages relating to Highway drainage: <http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/road-maintenance-and-cleaning/drainage-and-flooding/drain-cleaning> These pages give an overview of the Council’s drainage activities and answer the most frequent questions.

1.6 The Elmbridge Drain Cleaning Schedule, which lists all the roads in Elmbridge is also available on the Council’s website: <http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/road-maintenance-and-cleaning/drainage-and-flooding/drain-cleaning/drain-cleaning-schedule/drain-cleaning-in-elmbridge> At the time of writing the 2013-14 programme was available for download. The 2014-15 programme will be published in due course.

## **2. ANALYSIS:**

2.1 On completion of the annual gully clean in Elmbridge in April 2014 15,178 gullies had been cleaned out of a total of 17,456 gullies in Elmbridge altogether. Of those that were not cleaned:

- 1,190 were inaccessible due to parked vehicles;
- 32 were obstructed;
- 93 had jammed covers;
- 247 were reported as not found;
- 346 had blocked outlets.

2.2 The process for the annual gully cleaning contract is as follows:

- An attempt is made to clean each gully;
- If the gully can be cleaned, a visual inspection is conducted and any defects recorded;

- If the gully cannot be cleaned, the reason is recorded;
  - If the gully was inaccessible due to parked vehicles cones and signs are placed and the gully is revisited once over the following days;
  - If the gully cannot be cleaned due to some defect or blockage it is scheduled for follow up with a larger, more capable machine;
- If the gully is cleaned on the second visit , a visual inspection is conducted and any defects recorded;
- If the gully cannot be cleaned on the second visit by the larger machine the apparent defect(s) are recorded – these gullies are then reported and recorded for prioritisation of investigation and repair using the countywide drainage condition budget.

2.3 If a road is to be cleaned and parking problems are anticipated, signs are placed in advance and letters distributed to residents, to encourage them to leave gullies unobstructed. Within the contract there is provision for gullies obstructed by parking to be revisited only once.

2.4 Annex A contains examples of reports where gullies could not be cleaned on the follow up visit by the larger machine. These reports are reviewed by the Area Team and prioritised for investigation and minor repairs. The Area Team prioritises these according to whether there are resultant drainage problems for the local community. Some blocked gullies cause significant problems – for example large puddles on the carriageway or footway. Some blocked gullies do not cause significant problems. The drainage condition budget is not sufficient to repair every defect, and so prioritisation is essential.

2.5 Table 1 shows those sites that have already been prioritised for investigation and repair this Financial Year.

**Table 1 Sites already prioritised for minor drainage repairs in 2014-15**

Location	Prompt
Seven Hills Road Roundabout	Divisional Member
Gower Road at junction with Kenwood Park, Weybridge <i>“The Great Lake of Weybridge”</i>	Local resident, Divisional Member, Cabinet Member
Water Lane, Cobham	Observations of inadequate system from previous investigation
Westcar Lane, Hersham, outside numbers 1 and 2	Divisional Member
Weybridge Railway Station	Longstanding problem; Divisional Member

Location	Prompt
Woodlands Lane, Cobham	Observations during heavy rain during recent Winter
Station Road, Thames Ditton	Prioritised from defect reports; I Divisional Member
Hurst Road, East Molesey	Long standing drainage problems affecting pedestrians route to park.
Hurst Lane, East Molesey	Longstanding problem causing erosion to adjacent bank.
Garrick Gardens, West Molesey	Longstanding problem at junction with Hotham Close
Oaken Lane, Oxshott	Longstanding flooding problem

2.6 The sites listed in Table 1 above will be added to as the Area Team prioritises defects reported by the gully emptying contractor, and according to its own knowledge of problems on the network. Members are encouraged to report drainage concerns that cause problems for their respective local communities, to assist the Area Team in prioritising minor drainage repairs.

### **3. OPTIONS:**

3.1 None at this stage.

### **4. CONSULTATIONS:**

4.1 None at this stage.

### **5. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:**

5.1 The financial implications of this paper are detailed in section 2 above.

### **6. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:**

6.1 It is an objective of Surrey Highways to treat all users of the public highway equally and with understanding.

### **7. LOCALISM:**

7.1 The Area Team prioritises minor drainage repairs according to local priorities. Members are encouraged to assist this prioritisation.

### **8. OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

- 8.1 A well-managed highway network can contribute to reduction in crime and disorder as well as improve peoples' perception of crime.

### **9. CONCLUSION:**

- 9.1 The Council's drainage activities form a comprehensive strategy for cycle maintenance, identification of defects, and prioritisation of minor repairs.
- 9.2 Capital drainage schemes are promoted by the Council's Highways Service. The programme of capital schemes will be provided to Divisional Members when it is available.
- 9.3 The Local Committee also has funding for minor drainage repairs, or indeed capital schemes.

### **10. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:**

- 10.1 The annual gully clean for Elmbridge will begin later this Financial Year
- 10.2 The Area Team will continue to prioritise minor drainage repairs as defect reports are submitted, and according to feedback from the local community.

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**Contact Officer:** Nick Healey, Area Team Manager (NE)

**Consulted:** N / A

**Annexes:** 1

**Sources/background papers:** None.

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