

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**LOCAL COMMITTEE (WAVERLEY)****DATE: 20 JUNE 2014****LEAD OFFICER: LUCY MONIE, OPERATIONS GROUP MANAGER****SUBJECT: HIGHWAY GULLY CLEANING UPDATE****DIVISION: ALL DIVISIONS IN WAVERLEY**

<u>SUMMARY OF ISSUE:</u>
The report is intended to provide an update on highway gully cleaning undertaken by Surrey County Council (SCC).
<u>RECOMMENDATIONS:</u>
The Local Committee (Waverley) is asked to note the report.
<u>REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:</u>
Gully cleaning is an essential maintenance activity that contributes to the management of surface water on the highway network and assists in protecting the integrity of the road structure

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 Please note that this item is for information only.
- 1.2 Gully cleaning is the routine cleaning of the drains located on the highway. Normally located at the edge of the road by the kerb, a gully is design to take water away from the road surface. A gully consists of a concrete pot positioned under the road surface with an iron grate visible from the road. The water collects in the concrete pot before being channelled through a series of pipes connected to the main drainage system. The pot also collects any debris, leaves, litter, soil and rubbish that are washed off the road ensuring that the connecting pipe does not become blocked.
- 1.3 Without regular cleaning, gullies can become blocked and consequently will not be able to drain surface water away from the road efficiently. The resulting standing water can subsequently contribute to flooding problems and damage the integrity of the road structure leading to potholes for example.
- 1.4 There are over 159,000 gullies located on the highway network across Surrey, of which 17,342 are within the Waverley area.

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1.5 .Surrey County Council undertakes a variety of routine cleaning and maintenance activities on the drainage system each year which includes the following;

- Routine cleaning of gullies
- Clearing of blocked drains using additional jetting vehicles
- Cleaning out soakaways
- Drainage asset data collection
- Drainage system repairs

1.6 All of the routine and reactive drainage maintenance activities form part of the maintenance contracts awarded to May Gurney, now Kier. The Gully cleaning contract was delivered by May Gurney's sub-contractor ACL until mid June 2013 at which point the sub-contractor arrangement changed and routine cleaning activities are now delivered by Conway.

1.7 Data is collected during the routine gully cleaning cycle. When the gullies are cleaned, the record of the visit is electronically stored against the individual gully using a mobile device. This provides useful information on the date when the gully was cleaned, the silt levels at the point of cleaning (how full up the gully is) and if the gully is defective or blocked. This information is then used to determine whether any further maintenance action requires programming.

1.8 In terms of wider access to gully data, the public on line web reporting facility will display individual gullies in a map based format, against which issues such as blockages can be reported. Information on the gully cleaning schedule is also most easily accessed via the SCC website where it is possible to search for details on what month a specific road will be cleaned: <http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/road-maintenance-and-cleaning/drainage-and-flooding/drain-cleaning>

1.9 To ensure the programme of gully cleaning is efficient it is good practice to use the recorded silt levels when determining the frequency of cleaning. For example if a gully is more prone to becoming full of silt and therefore working less effectively then it will be programmed for more frequent cleaning. Based upon analysis of historic silt level data we have now implemented an optimised gully cleaning programme. This means that some gullies are cleaned more than once a year and others are cleaned less than once a year. The programme is designed such that main roads, as defined by the Surrey Priority Network classification, do not contain more than 50% silt and other roads do not contain more than 75% silt at any time.

1.10 Emptying the gullies of silt obviously generates waste. On average we remove over 180 tonnes of silt from our gullies each month. The silt is transferred to a centre, currently in Dartford, where the waste is recycled. For example, Aggregates are used in concrete and asphalt production, and organic material is used for composting, etc.

1.11 Where a gully cannot be cleaned at the first visit it will most likely be due to one of the following reasons; it is found to be blocked, there are parked cars preventing access, or the gully lid is jammed or broken. Approximately 3% of all gullies visited are found to be blocked and 1% are found to have a jammed or broken lid. Across Waverley, during the 2013/14

cleaning cycle, 2% (347 no.) gullies were found to be blocked and 0.8% (137) were found to have a jammed or broken lid.

- 1.12 Over 80% of the blocked gullies are cleared by additional jetting carried out within a month of the first visit. Where necessary the vehicles also use root cutting equipment to clear blocked connections. The remainder require further investigation that will most likely involve excavation and pipe repair via the minor works programme. During 2013/14, a total of 341 drainage investigations and repairs were progressed as part of this process. 68 of this total were in the Waverley area. Jammed and broken gully lids are also progressed via the minor works programme on a three monthly programme cycle.

2. ANALYSIS:

2.1 Not applicable

3. OPTIONS:

3.1 Not applicable

4. CONSULTATIONS:

4.1 Not applicable

5. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:

5.1 Not applicable

6. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:

6.1 Not applicable

7. LOCALISM:

7.1 Not applicable

8. OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Area assessed:	Direct Implications:
Crime and Disorder	No significant implications arising from this report
Sustainability (including Climate Change and Carbon Emissions)	No significant implications arising from this report
Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children	No significant implications arising from this report
Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults	No significant implications arising from this report
Public Health	No significant implications arising from this report

9. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

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9.1 This maintenance activity has undergone some significant improvements during the last year, noticeably in terms of programme adherence and the success of follow up activities such as clearing blocked connections. A targeted focus on minor drainage repairs has also proved beneficial in resolving a significant number of drainage issues across Surrey.

10. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

10.1 The contract performance will continue to be monitored and improvements developed as required.

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Consulted:

Not applicable

Annexes:

None

Sources/background papers:

None
