

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (ELMBRIDGE)

DATE: 8TH SEPTEMBER 2014
 LEAD: NICK HEALEY, AREA TEAM MANAGER (NE)
 OFFICER:



SUBJECT: DRAINAGE UPDATE

DIVISION: ALL

<u>SUMMARY OF ISSUE:</u>

This report summarises drainage maintenance activities in Elmbridge.
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<u>RECOMMENDATIONS:</u>

The Local Committee (Elmbridge) is asked to:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Let the Area Team Manager know of locations where there are persistent drainage problems for their local communities. |
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<u>REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:</u>
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The Area Team Manager has information detailing defects with the drainage system in Elmbridge. The recommendation is intended to facilitate prioritisation of 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.

<u>1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:</u>

- 1.1 **Cyclic gully cleaning.** Every gully in the County is cleaned and inspected on an annual basis. This is managed by Surrey County Council's Operations Team and delivered by Kier (prime contractor) and Conway (sub-contractor).
- 1.2 **Drainage condition works.** Where defects are identified during the cyclic cleaning and inspection programme, or otherwise, the Area Team is able to prioritise the countywide drainage condition budget for minor drainage repairs. The Area Team manages this activity, with delivery by Kier (prime contractor) and (normally) Walkers (sub-contractor).
- 1.3 **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. This activity is currently under review with a view to developing a five year programme akin to Operation Horizon. The "Wet Spots" list is maintained by Surrey County Council's Asset Planning team. Capital schemes are developed and promoted by Surrey County Council's Planned Works team. Works are delivered through Kier (prime contractor) and sub-contractors as appropriate.
- 1.4 **Client jetting.** The cyclic gully cleaning and inspection 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. The client jetter is provided through the cyclic gully cleaning contract.

- 1.5 **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.
- 1.6 **Local Committee Divisional Programme schemes.** For example last Financial Year 2013-14 the Divisional Member allocated significant funding to provide a brand new drainage system in St Peter's Road, West Molesey. These schemes are commissioned by the Area Team, with Surrey County Council's Design Team providing project management and design resource. They are delivered through Kier (prime contractor) and sub-contractors as appropriate.
- 1.7 **For all drainage related activities the primary point of contact for Members and residents is the Area Team. Appropriate contact details are available on request.**
- 1.8 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.
- 1.9 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>

2. ANALYSIS:

- 2.1 On completion of the annual gully clean in Elmbridge in April 2014 16,051 gullies had been cleaned out of a total of 17,454 gullies scheduled to be cleaned and inspected in Elmbridge altogether. Of those that were not cleaned:
 - 1,249 were inaccessible due to parked vehicles – officers are working with the supply chain to overcome this problem;
 - 63 were obstructed – for example underneath fences;
 - 110 had jammed covers;
 - 289 were reported as not found;
 - 354 had blocked outlets at the first visit – these were all revisited by a larger machine as part of the annual cyclic cleaning contract and 299 were subsequently dealt with – the remaining 55 were passed back to Surrey County Council for further investigation.
 - 215 had broken covers.

- Any gullies that are not currently scheduled (as they were not previously mapped) are due to be attended to in due course, and added to the schedule for future years.

2.2 It is recommended that Members tell the Area Team Manager where there are persistent drainage problems for their local communities. These problems are normally troublesome puddles, and may be caused by a number of different factors:

- Blocked connections from gullies to the downstream drainage system – these would be picked up by Conway as part of the cyclic gully cleaning activity;
- Slow running connections due to damage, root ingress or insufficient capacity – these would not be picked up by Conway as part of the cyclic gully cleaning activity, but are normally evident during moderate to heavy rainfall;
- Poor surface profile, where water is sitting on the surface and does not flow into a gully at all;
- Blocked drainage systems owned by Surrey County Council – if a drainage system is blocked somewhere downstream of a gully, water can back up or surcharge onto the carriageway;
- Blocked 3rd party drainage systems – frequently Surrey County Council's gullies discharge into drainage systems owned by Thames Water – Surrey County Council has very limited influence over Thames Water's maintenance of their surface water drainage assets;
- Full or defective soakaways;
- Blocked or inadequate ditch – some ditches are owned by Surrey County Council – some are owned by their riparian owners.

2.3 If Members were to identify persistent drainage problems, or indeed where such problems come to the attention of officers by other means, it becomes possible to prioritise those defects that are causing the biggest problems for the local community. Surrey County Council's response to persistent drainage problems includes the following steps:

- If no gully or other drainage feature is present, design and install either a gully or other appropriate feature, or re-profile the surface to send the water to existing gullies or drainage features;
- If a gully is present...
- Clean and inspect the gully, either as part of the annual cyclic clean, or using the client jetter;
- As part of the cyclic cleaning contract, blocked outlets are revisited once using a larger machine;
- If a gully is still blocked or draining too slowly, further investigation is commissioned – this further investigation is a combination of:
 - Further exploratory jetting supervised by the Area Team;
 - Excavation to reveal and repair suspected damage or blockages;
 - CCTV surveying;

- If the further investigation suggests repairs can be made for a modest price (up to approx £20,000) the Area Team commissions repairs using the drainage condition budget;
- If the further investigation suggests more expensive repairs are required, or indeed expensive brand new infrastructure (more than approx £20,000), officers would advise the Local Committee in case the Local Committee wished to allocate capital funding, or put the site on the Wet Spots list for a future centrally funded scheme.

2.4 Whenever Members report a persistent drainage problem the site is added to the list for the drainage condition budget. This list is shown in Annex A. It is a live list and may well be out of date by the time Committee meets in September 2014.

2.5 This Financial Year 2014-15 funding has been made available for a comprehensive countywide soakaway cleaning programme. The soakaways in Elmbridge that are due to be cleaned this Financial Year are listed in Annex B.

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.

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

Consulted: N / A

Annexes: 2

Sources/background papers: None.

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