

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**LOCAL COMMITTEE (TANDRIDGE)**

DATE: 20 MARCH 2015
LEAD OFFICER: JOHN LAWLOR, AREA TEAM MANAGER



SUBJECT: GODSTONE ROAD, LINGFIELD – SEWER LEAK

DIVISION: LINGFIELD

<u>SUMMARY OF ISSUE:</u>
At the Tandridge Local Committee meeting in February 2015, it was noted that a sewage leak had been identified in Godstone Road, Lingfield near the build-outs. Members asked that a report be presented to the March 2015 Local Committee meeting to provide an update on the actions taken to rectify the problem, including the views of the Tandridge District Council Environment Health.
<u>RECOMMENDATIONS:</u>
The Local Committee (Tandridge) is asked to note the contents of this report.
<u>REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:</u>
To update Local Committee on the action taken to resolve the sewer leak on Godstone Road, Lingfield, as requested.

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

- 1.1 A report was presented to the Tandridge Local Committee on 13 February 2015 to consider the outcome of the monitoring of the kerb build-outs in Godstone Road, Lingfield and suggest a number of amendments to the scheme.
- 1.2 At the meeting it was noted that, although not a County function, a sewage leak had been identified in Godstone Road near the build-outs. The Committee agreed that as a matter of urgency the Chairman send a letter to the relevant authorities to ask that they immediately repair the sewage leak in the village. It was also agreed that a report be prepared for the March 2015 Local Committee meeting to provide an update on the actions taken to rectify the problem, including the views of the Tandridge District Council Environment Health.

2. ANALYSIS:

- 2.1 The sewer leak was reported to Southern Water as a 24 hour emergency callout on 13 February. They attended site on 14 February and carried out a dye test which indicated that the leak was in the private sewer leaving Bay Trees going into the mainline sewer.
- 2.2 The developer was contacted on 13 February and asked to investigate the sewer leak as a matter of urgency. The developer responded that they were aware of the issue and a dye test they carried out at that time confirmed that their system was working correctly. They commented that if the problem lay within their system, then the pipe would have blocked and the pump chamber registered a fault.
- 2.3 The results of Southern Water's dye test have been reported to the developer together with their conclusion that the repair of the leak is their responsibility. The developer's response was that unless additional information had come to light, their position remained unchanged. They requested a copy of Southern Water's report. Southern Water sent a letter confirming their actions and conclusions, which has been sent to the developer. At the time of writing this report, there has been no further communication from the developer.
- 2.4 Tandridge District Council's Environmental Health officers have been contacted for assistance in this matter. Tandridge Environmental Health has advised that they have carried out a number of dye tests since September 2014 at properties both in Bay Trees and in the vicinity. These dye tests did not indicate that the leak originated from private sewer pipes or connections. The developer invited Southern Water to attend a meeting on site to try to resolve the issue, but Southern Water maintained that the leak was not their responsibility and declined the invitation.
- 2.5 On the basis of the latest dye test undertaken by Southern Water, the Chairman of the Local Committee sent a letter to the developer and the housing association on 3 March 2015 pointing out the public health concerns relating to the sewage leak and requesting that the repair to the damaged sewer be carried out immediately.
- 2.6 Southern Water has been asked to provide a copy of the detailed site report of the dye test they carried out on 14 February together with photographic evidence of the results. Tandridge Environmental Health has advised that they cannot take any action without this evidence. Officers will provide a verbal update at the meeting.

3. OPTIONS:

- 3.1 Not applicable

4. CONSULTATIONS:

- 4.1 The views of Tandridge District Council's Environmental Health officers have been sought, as reported in para. 2.4 above.

5. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:

5.1 The cost of repairing the damaged sewer would be the liability of the responsible authority.

6. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:

6.1 There are no equalities and diversity implications arising from this report.

7. LOCALISM:

7.1 There are no localism implications arising from this report.

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:

9.1 The report sets out the action taken to resolve the issue of sewage leaking onto the carriageway in Godstone Road, Lingfield. Officers will continue to apply pressure on the relevant authorities to repair the damaged sewer. It is recommended that the contents of the report are noted.

10. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

10.1 Officers will continue to apply pressure on the relevant authorities to repair the damaged sewer.

Contact Officer:

Anita Guy, Senior Engineer, South East Area Team, 03456 009 009

Consulted:

Tandridge District Council Environmental Health

Annexes:

None

Sources/background papers:

Report to Tandridge Local Committee 13 February 2015 (Item 4)

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