

TO: ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 8th June 2004

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF FLOOD ALLEVIATION MEASURES

FROM: PLANNING and ENGINEERING

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** As part of the Committees 2003/04 work plan this report is to inform Members about the progress of the Watercourse / Flood Management Work Programme for the period spanning from September 2002 until June 2005.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1** Members will recall that the Watercourse / Flood Management work programme for 2003/04 was attached as Appendix 1, to the 13 January 2004, Environment Scrutiny report.
- 2.2** This work programme has now been extended to June 2005, now attached as Appendix 'A' to the report. It has been updated with a short commentary to demonstrate how each task has progressed against the original 2003/04 programme, in-conjunction with current and forthcoming work.
- 2.3** Members attention is particularly drawn to references WM 10, WM 11, WM 12 and WM13 which are four new initiatives to the previous programme.

3.0 POLICY and BUDGET FRAMEWORK

- 3.1** The undertaking of the Watercourse Management work programme is in compliance with the Council's Community Plan, the Council's Flood Defence Plan and the Planning & Engineering Service Plan. Further links can be found within the EMAS corporate environmental priorities and indicators. The Capital schemes identified conform with parts of the Council's Capital Strategy and the other works are financed through Revenue Budget code 222.

4.0 OUTCOME REQUIRED

- 4.1** As part of the Committees on going work plan, Members are requested to note the report.

R. JEWSBURY
ENGINEERING MANAGER

Background Papers

Environment Scrutiny Committee agenda reports and minutes for 9 October 2001, 8 January 2002, 3 April 2002, 26 July 2002 and 8 October 2002

Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee agenda, report and minutes of 13 January 2004

Executive Portfolio Area and Holder: Environmental Services, Cllr Mrs M Begg.

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WATERCOURSE MANAGEMENT / FLOOD WORK PROGRAMME 2003/05

Ref.	Task	Target Date	Progress
WM 1	Pingle Brook Flood Alleviation Scheme in Cubbington <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete Scheme 	30 Sep 02	Completion 22nd Nov 2002. Total scheme costs are within the allocated Capital budget. This scheme provides a 1 in 100 year level of protection for 36 properties. Delays to completion were due to inclement weather towards the end of the muck shifting operation. The scheme is currently being scrutinized by the Committee as part of their work plan.
AD 1	Ladycroft, Foul Relief Sewer, Cubbington <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete Scheme 	Not originally Programmed	This scheme emanated from a decision by the Executive following an Ombudsman complaint where the Council was found guilty of failing to take action where it had identified a statutory nuisance for a public health risk that was likely to recur. The executive recommended that the nuisance should be abated and instructed Engineering to resolve the problem quickly. The design & construction was accomplished in 12 weeks and the works completed in early December 2002 . The customer satisfaction evaluation survey of the finished works concluded that residents were very satisfied with the construction and management of the works.
WM 2	St. Marys Lands - Saltisford & Hill Close Gardens Flood Alleviation Scheme in Warwick <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete Scheme 	30 Oct 03	Completion 9th Oct 2003. Total scheme costs are within the allocated Capital budget. This scheme provides a 1 in 100 year level of protection for 44 properties and highway infrastructure. It has also allowed for the future development of residential properties on the site of the existing stables off Bread and Meat Close. The customer satisfaction evaluation survey of the finished works also concluded that residents were very satisfied with the construction and management of the works.
WM 3	St. Marys Lands - Gog Brook Flood Alleviation Scheme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feasibility Design Start Construction Complete Construction 	13 Aug 02 31 Oct 02 25 Feb 03 30 July 03	<p>This scheme was intentionally slipped, partly due to a 3 month delay as a result of the Ladycroft scheme, but more importantly in order to bring it in line with the master implementation programme for the overall St Mary's Lands Project.</p> <p>The feasibility and detail design has been completed to the Planning application stage. The Planning application was submitted on the 21st Nov 2003. It was hoped that Planning approval would be granted by the end of Jan 2004 but due to archeological and ecological considerations the planning application will not be considered by the Planning Committee until the 15th June. The completion of the scheme is still targeted for Nov 2004 in time for the planting season.</p> <p>On completion of the scheme it will provide a 1 in 100 year level of protection to 46 properties and highway infrastructure. It will also allow for the development of the new stables and car parking off Hampton Road and further provided two new full size football pitches from the deposition of the excavated spoil on site.</p>
WM 4	DEFRA High Level Target 4B (National Inland Flood Defence Database)	31 Dec 02	Completed by the target date. The information has been forwarded to the Environment Agency. The information gathered was for a National Defence Database for the Condition & Risk Assessment of all Structures on 'Critical Watercourses'. The risk assessment of the assets was undertaken in conjunction with officers from the Environment Agency.

WATERCOURSE MANAGEMENT / FLOOD WORK PROGRAMME 2003/05

Ref.	Task	Target Date	Progress
WM 5	Emergency Plan - Flood Response Plan to link with WDC and County Council Emergency Plan.	31 Oct 02	Draft working document operational but not complete. Due for publishing in Oct 04. The plan is an operational document and is being produced to supplement the authorities Emergency Plan. It will formally agree with WCC Emergency Planning Unit and the Emergency Services a framework whereby the Council's services can be quickly and effectively marshaled and developed in response to flooding incidents which fall outside the scope of normal service delivery. The Plan is primarily for the Urban areas where the potential for flood risk covers a wider and more densely populated area. Rural areas have also been considered and it is intended that rural Parish flood plans will be integrated into the Plan. A meeting with WCC's, EPU and key emergency partners was held on 18/6/ 02. Following this an initial 'draft' Warwick District Flood Response Plan has been prepared. Partnership working with WCC's, EPU on the production of specific 'Parish Flood Plans' has also been completed. Training of staff to deal with a Flood Emergency scenario 'exercise Tempest' was organised by the Environment Agency and undertaken in Jan 2002. In house training of staff has also been undertaken in December 2003 for basic flood response awareness.
WM 6	Surface Water Drainage Forum	Ongoing	<p>A meeting of the forum was held on the 24/9/02 and discussions at this meeting provided the updates on the Kenilworth area and the identified drainage problems in the Warwick area, their cause and a proposed course of action. A lot of work was undertaken on their rectification of previously known highway drainage problems in all parts of the District before the termination of the Highways Agency in March 2003. As a result of the impetus from WDC Drainage Forum a Kenilworth Strategic Sewerage Forum was formed in April 2003. The Key partners are STW for sewers, WCC for highway drainage, WDC for land drainage and watercourses and Railtrack for major culverts under the Kenilworth rail network. These partners have been working on their individual areas of responsibilities under the co-ordination of the Kenilworth Strategy Forum. In October 2003 members of WDC Drainage Forum and Environment Portfolio holder, WCC Warwick Area Committee, Kenilworth Town Council and Andy King MP were given a presentation on the Kenilworth Flood Alleviation Strategy following STW public announcement that they were to spend £9 million on improving the sewerage systems in Kenilworth. A further meeting of key partners was also held in January 04 just prior to STW commencing their works on site. Works are now progressing by STW and will continue over the next 2 years throughout Kenilworth. Members of the Drainage Forum and Kenilworth Members are regularly informed of STW forthcoming works prior to them being in the public domain.</p> <p>Initial meeting between officers of STW and WDC have also commenced over known drainage flooding 'hot spots' in Warwick and work in the Emscote Road area has already taken place. Other areas under discussion are in the vicinity of Millers Road.</p>

WATERCOURSE MANAGEMENT / FLOOD WORK PROGRAMME 2003/05

Ref.	Task	Target Date	Progress
WM 7	Cyclic Watercourse Maintenance Inspections	Ongoing	Monthly inspection undertaken with a 98% achievement for the Mar 04 end of year. Figures are reported as part of Engineering's local performance indicator, ref EM 4.
	Improvements to Maintenance to Meet BVR Action Plan	April 03	Subject to additional revenue bids which were unsuccessful in Oct 2002 bids were again made for additional resources to meet the BV Action Plan have been made as part of the Service Plan process from Nov 2003 onwards. Unfortunately these bids were again unsuccessful due to budget restraints, so proactive work in the Rural areas will not be possible.
WM 8	Liaison over Kenilworth Flood Alleviation Scheme.	Ongoing	<p>A meeting with Elliott Morley MP with Andy King MP, officers from EA, English Heritage, WDC, Kenilworth District and Town Councillors was held in Sept 02 with the objective of trying to resolve the difficulties over the securing of the scheme between English Heritage and the Environment Agency due to the substantial cost implication on both parties as a result of the requirements of the Reservoirs Act. The outcome was for the EA to re-examine the cost benefit analysis and then provide a technically acceptable scheme in light of a revised approach with English Heritage. The scheme would still need to be prioritised in relation to resources and commitments elsewhere. Andy King MP has chaired meetings in June and Oct 03 with a view to moving the scheme forward. The scheme has now reached a stage where a final report has been prepared by the Environment Agency identifying two options which have cost benefits of between 7 and 8. It is now a case of waiting for the Government threshold to be reduced from the current 20+ , to 5 to 10, which is not expected for the next 3 to 4 years, if at all. As a result the Town Council are going to explore the possibilities of obtaining European funding for the scheme through WCC and if successful the scheme could be constructed outside of the Government funding criteria.</p>
WM 9	<p>Tanyard Stream Flood Alleviation Scheme, Kenilworth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feasibility • Report to Executive • Design • Start Construction • Complete Construction 	<p>5 April 04</p> <p>July 04</p> <p>2 Aug 04</p> <p>28 Feb 05</p> <p>30 Sept 05</p>	<p>Feasibility and desk top study work for this scheme has started. Topographical surveys have also been undertaken and a hydraulic model has been constructed for the catchment. An improvement strategy is now being undertaken with a view to detailed proposals being prepared for public consultation later in the year.</p> <p>This scheme will form part of the Kenilworth Drainage Strategy which involves a co-ordinated approach with key partners like STW, WCC and Railtrack to mitigate flooding within Kenilworth.</p> <p>It is hoped that the scheme will be able to provide the ABI minimum standard of 1 in 75 year level of protection to 54 properties and highway infrastructure. Unfortunately we are unable to provide the normal 100year protection level due to the enormity of the problem and the space available for improvements to be undertaken on this land locked stream 95% of which is in private householders riparian ownership.</p>

WATERCOURSE MANAGEMENT / FLOOD WORK PROGRAMME 2003/05

Ref.	Task	Target Date	Progress
WM 10	Transference of Watercourse Management Work to the Environment Agency.	April 2006	<p>The Government announced its decisions on the Review of Flood and Coastal Defence Funding on 12th March 2003. These decisions included making the Environment Agency (EA) responsible for all rivers presenting the greatest flood risk. The Agency already carries responsibility for all main rivers, but under this Review they will now become additionally responsible for the 'Critical Ordinary Watercourses' (COW's), previously the responsibility of LA's.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Executive report for a decision on whether to form an Agency Agreement with EA. 	May 2005	<p>The Governments reasoning behind the decision in March 2003 was that they consider it necessary to transfer the responsibilities for the COW's to the Environment Agency. This would place accountability in the hands of one body for flood defence on all rivers creating the greatest flood risk. It was also recognized that the performance of LA's in discharging their responsibilities on flood defence had been patchy throughout the Country.</p> <p>DEFRA did, however, recognize that many LA's do an excellent job and have therefore suggested to the EA that they contract back, through Agency agreements, the day to day operational work to the LA's who are willing and have a good track record of service provision. Warwick District is one those highlighted as a high performing Council in this field and depending on decisions by other LA's there maybe the opportunity for partnership working outside the District boundary</p> <p>Although aware of this decision, notification from the LGA was not received until 30th June 2003. It was decided at this time that no further action would be taken until further details had been published.</p> <p>The working details, which are in the form of a legal agreement, were released Nationally in October 2003, following an information gathering exercise undertaken by the EA in July 2003, to which WDC subsequently responded to on the 26th July.</p> <p>Further discussions have been on-going with the EA. These have resulted in them deciding, in consultation with DEFRA, that the transference of COW'S in Warwick District to the EA would be in the third and last phase and would not be until April 2006, although the legal advertising period for this change occurred between 31st March and 30th April 2004. Any Agency agreement would be for a 3yr renewable period and revenue costs associate with delivering the requirements of this agreement will be on a cost reimbursement basis. It is currently unknown whether this will also include support costs.</p>

WATERCOURSE MANAGEMENT / FLOOD WORK PROGRAMME 2003/05

Ref.	Task	Target Date	Progress
WM 11	St Johns Brook Flood Alleviation Scheme, Warwick <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feasibility • Report to Executive • Design • Start Construction • Complete Construction 	Oct 05 Feb 06 Mar 06 July 06 Nov 06	<p>This scheme was first identified following the Easter 98 and August 99 major flooding events across the District. The St Johns Brook has a catchment area of some 653 acres (264 Ha) and is classified as one of the District's 'Critical' watercourses. By definition, this means it has the ability to flood more than twenty five properties within its catchment. The Brook's catchment has expanded considerably with built development since the 1960's and very little has been done to address the resultant increases in storm water flows. Members will also be aware of its location following their Scrutiny site visit along its length on the 22nd May, where the complexities and maintenance liabilities of some of its features and future development pressures were identified. From an initial desk top study the St Johns Brook Scheme is anticipated to alleviate 42 properties per year from flooding in accordance with the Councils Corporate Strategy performance target CO.3-B2.</p>
WM 12	Saltisford Brook/ Wedgenock Lane Brook Flood Alleviation Scheme, Warwick <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feasibility • Report to Executive • Design • Start Construction • Complete Construction 	Not originally Programmed July 04 Sept 04 Oct 04 June 05 Oct 05	<p>This scheme has emanated from a decision by the Executive to sell the former Saltisford Depot for development for which a planning brief was prepared in February 2001. This highlighted that the site was subject to flooding and it has now become a major issue following an objection being raised to a developers planning application for the site. Engineering have stepped in and from preliminary feasibility work have conclude that a scheme of flood alleviation can be implemented on District Council owned land which would reduce the 100 yr flood levels to an extent that the site becomes a viable development with a resultant Capital asset.</p> <p>Timescales however are crucial as the scheme needs to be completed prior to the first occupation of any building on the site.</p>
WM 13	Fishponds Brook, Kenilworth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feasibility • Design • Start Construction • Complete Construction 	April 04 June 04 Sept 04 Nov 04	<p>The works required on the majority of this privately owned watercourse known as Fishponds Brook are necessary to improve water flows and quality as part of the overall strategy for reducing flooding in Kenilworth. Engineering will be undertaking the works in parts, whilst also co-ordinating private riparian owners work to ensure the correct hydraulic solution and a uniformity of approach. WDC Leisure Department are one of those substantial landowners. Engineering and Leisure staff had a public meeting in Nov 03 with the residents of Brookside Avenue, all Ward Councillors and the Environment Agency. Feasibility works commenced in April 04 after topographic and further hydraulic modeling had been undertaken. These works will be funded from revenue and recharges made to riparian owners where necessary. A recent newsletter update was sent to affected residents in early May to keep property owners informed about the schemes progress.</p>