

COUNTY COUNCIL: 9TH NOVEMBER 2021

Alteration proposed by Councillor Goldsack

Additions in bold and deletions shown in strikethrough

Motion from Councillor Mark Goldsack

A motion to protect homes and property from unnecessary surface water.

This motion seeks to ensure that residents homes and property is afforded the maximum protection from surface water particularly. Other water issues exist but this motion seeks urgent attention and action to address known surface water problems across our County.

The Council notes that:

- in my home division of Soham we are constantly struggling to deal with surface rainwater in an effective and non-damaging manner, which is probably mirrored throughout the County.
- excessive and long-standing deep puddles result in water ingress to many properties in the vicinity of such drains and puddle areas.
- the same poor occupants of those properties will inevitably find it increasingly difficult if not impossible to attain household insurance for their homes and property, due to the inability of current drainage systems to effectively handle surface water run-off from heavy storms.

The Council further notes three likely reasons for this.

- Climate: We have a climate status that is now resulting in weather extremes across the globe. In the UK and our county, we are being often hit with extreme rainfall that over burdens the existing system such that extreme puddling occurs, on roads, streets, footpaths and into property, causing localised flooding and highways impairment.
- Development: In the last five decades we have seen exponential growth of development on green and brown field sites, flood plains and more. Such fields were the routes for surface water taking excess from the highway and these too have been built with historically acceptable but increasingly stressed minimal bore pipework for surface water run-off.
- Highways: We have road surface issues, road construction concerns and hidden infrastructure maintenance and design issues that simply are not coping with today's needs. Aged and narrow surface water pipework is failing to handle the volume of water that now collects in the same places time after

time. The gullies and drains are cleared but even when 100% clear the bore of the pipe loses against the battle of the incoming surface water.

The Council has a duty to protect the property and lives of those within our county, it therefore resolves to commit to the following actions:

- i undertake a full audit of known issues with underground highways assets to identify narrow bore piping issues and determine, under present conditions and stresses, whether they can be expected to cope with the regular and anticipated deluges and subsequent surface water of the like now regularly seen.
- ii to use the audit and local plans to predict which systems will be overwhelmed and to incorporate that into planning discussions with local planning authorities.
- iii ~~expedite in full the last winter flood review report, taken 9 months thus far, to capture the main causes and actions as a result of the review and integrate these into the requested review. It would appear that the section for surface water management in the current draft report is seriously lacking and does not recognise this as an area of concern with any proposed resolution.~~ **ensure the findings of the Section 19 reviews of the Winter 2020 flooding are reflected as soon as possible in the forthcoming Local Flood Risk Management Strategy to address surface water management, and consider incorporation of these issues in future highways asset management system procurements.**
- iv commit to **the people of Cambridgeshire that anywhere small bore pipework is causing an issue it will be addressed by carrying out an assessment of the** a-fully costed of a programme of works to either replace the small-bore soak away pipework, with appropriate higher bore pipe work solutions that bring immediate relief and also future proof as predicted or supply full details of alternative solutions in those areas with fully costed plans of actions that will mitigate and protect property in areas of known puddling. **Consideration of solutions and costs for addressing surface water flooding issues to go through the Council's ongoing business planning process.**
- v to note the ongoing work by the HDM Team to review drainage strategies for new developments in line with Local Lead Flood Authority advice, **and** ask the Chief Executive to write to all planning authority chairs, **along with Internal Drainage Boards, water companies, and other relevant agencies to seek their input on these strategies, highlighting our concerns about how we can** and request an immediate future proof the installation of larger bore pipework to all new developments to avoid surface water run off on highways and other areas as a result of development.