

COMMITTEE: North Area Board

DATE: 13 October 2016

SUBJECT: Thames Water Flood Alleviation Scheme at Icknield Way

REPORT BY: Acting Service Director – Planning & Transportation

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IMPLICATIONS:

LEGAL

COMMUNITY SAFETY

EQUALITIES

ENVIRONMENT Y

FINANCIAL

CONSULTATIONS

STAFFING

OTHER

WARDS AFFECTED: Bramingham

PURPOSE

1. To update the Area Board on matters relating to the flood alleviation scheme developed by Thames Water alongside Icknield Way.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. The Board is recommended to:
 - Note progress by the Council and Thames Water in implementing the actions agreed at the Extraordinary Area Board meeting;
 - Thank Thames Water for attending the meeting and in providing an update on the flood alleviation scheme.

BACKGROUND

3. At its meeting on 30 August 2016, an Extraordinary Meeting of the North Area Board considered a report and presentation by Thames Water into the flood event following a severe storm on 7 June 2016. The incident caused flooding in Marsom Grove.

REPORT

4. At the Extraordinary Area Board meeting, a number of actions were agreed by Thames Water and the Borough Council.
5. Thames Water will be present at the meeting and will update the Area Board on progress on the actions they agreed to undertake.
6. Since the meeting, the Council has:
 - Confirmed its view that the scheme including its construction, was Permitted Development and that a further application for planning consent was not required;
 - Confirmed that once complete, it will be retained as open space;
 - Sought a view from TW regarding the materials used to construct the berm following concerns raised by residents
 - Sought from TW the detailed scheme design documents such that an Independent review could be undertaken and to enable this to confirm that the completed scheme met the design criteria defined by TW at the 30 August meeting – this is the alleviation basin to 1 in 30 years event and the berm to 1 in 100 year event.
 - Commenced scoping the Independent review of the scheme
 - Commenced scoping of an investigation under Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 that would cover recent flood incidents in Marsom Grove and other areas of the town
 - Responded to a number of complaints concerning rats both in dwellings and in the vicinity of Marsom Grove. Residents attributed these incidents to the construction of the flood alleviation scheme
7. With regard to the rats, the Council's Pest Control Team have investigated and undertaken the following:
 - Requested that Thames Water bait the sewer network in this area
 - Placed bait in a number of properties and arranged follow up visits
 - Advised residents to arrange drainage surveys in order to assess whether damaged and/or blocked drains are providing a means for the rats to enter premises.
8. Members should note that the Pest Control Policy and Procedure is to investigate and work with residents to prevent access by rats to their properties.

PROPOSAL/OPTION

APPENDIX

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, SECTION 100D

Minutes of the Extra Ordinary Meeting of the North Luton Area Board held on 30 August 2016