

**THE ASSEMBLY**

**5 MARCH 2003**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF LEISURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

<b>PETITION - CHURCH ELM LANE, DAGENHAM</b>		<b>FOR DECISION</b>	
<p><i>The Constitution requires that petitions containing more than 50 signatures from separate households be reported to the Assembly for consideration.</i></p>			
<p><b><u>Summary</u></b> To consider a petition organised by the Dagenham Village Residents' Association concerning flooding in Church Elm Lane.</p>			
<p><b><u>Recommendation</u></b> Members are asked to endorse the actions taken so far by Officers, and to note that there will be on going liaison with Thames Water Utilities regarding this and other flooding issues.</p>			
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**1. Background**

- 1.1 Flooding of the carriageway in Church Elm Lane between Vicarage Road and Church Street has been taking place for many years and has been brought to the attention of this Council by Members of Dagenham Village Residents' Association.
- 1.2 On this occasion a petition of some 54 signatures has been submitted asking that the flooding of Church Elm Lane between Rectory Road and Royal Parade be brought to the attention of the responsible body.

**2. Report**

- 2.1 Investigations into the drainage system have shown that the road gullies, and the pipework which connects to the main sewer, are in working order.
- 2.2 The gullies are cleared and checked at least once per year in accordance with current performance indicator criteria.
- 2.3 The above investigations have shown that the surface water sewer in Church Elm Lane at this point is of a very small diameter and is possibly damaged, hence restricting the flow capacity.
- 2.4 These facts have been passed to Thames Water Utilities who are responsible for the repair, maintenance and improvement of the sewers. However, it is known that unfortunately Thames Water do not place great importance on remedial measures for road flooding other than cleaning works.

- 2.5 Following recent complaints from a local Ward Councillor, the gullies on this section of Church Elm Lane were cleaned and checked and found to be in working order. Further investigation at the end of January 2003 found that the Thames Water surface water sewer was partially blocked.
- 2.6 Due to a recent reorganisation within Thames Water Utilities all staff responsible for local issues have been relocated from Jenkins Lane Sewage Treatment Works to their head office in Reading.
- 2.7 Because of perceived communication problems it is proposed to set up a regular forum with Thames Water Utilities in order that drainage matters such as maintenance, flooding and improvement can be discussed.
- 2.8 The drainage problems that are being experienced in Church Elm Lane, and other areas within the Borough, will be raised at these meetings.

### **3. Conclusion**

- 3.1 The matter has again been raised with Thames Water and they have programmed work to:
- clean the pipe.
  - undertake investigations to determine the source of the material within the pipe.
- 3.2 This work is to take place during the last week in February 2003.