

### Update on Flooding in Whitstable Road and other parts of Faversham from Eastern Area Committee

#### 1. Correspondence with Southern Water

As agreed at the last Eastern Area Committee meeting, Councillor Julian Saunders in his capacity of Vice-Chair of Eastern Area Committee, wrote to Southern Water (SW) on 7 July 2022 regarding resolving flooding issues in Whitstable Road and other parts of Faversham. He explained that while the Area Committee were pleased to hear about the progress so far, it was concerned that not all the issues that are causing flooding at Whitstable Road have been resolved. He noted that that lifting latches on the inspection hatch were still awaiting repair and that SW intend to fit a CCTV camera in the inspection hub in Cypress Road. He urged SW to undertake this work as soon as possible and said that the Area Committee would also like to know about the budget and planning schedule for this area of Faversham.

He also stated that the Area Committee remained concerned about the overall capacity of the system at a time when, what SW have described as 'one-in 50-year storm events', appear to be increasingly frequent and would also want to challenge SW's apparent view that there is no need to plan for an expansion in the capacity of the local network despite the significant expansion in the volume of housing in the local area planned.

On 20 July 2022, Sue Cobb, SW Stakeholder Management Team responded with the following updates:

#### ***"Whitstable Road/Cyprus Road***

*Work on the manhole covers was completed on July 6th. At the present time, the CCTV for the CSO chamber is still in the design phase and has not been built. We are keen to progress this and will update you as soon as we have further information.*

#### ***Tanners Street***

*We have carried out CCTV surveys and investigations in this area in the past and have spoken to KCC about our findings and are aware they are looking at potential future works there.*

#### ***Capacity and future planning***

*We have published our draft Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan for Southern Water region which considers the current performance in our sewerage systems and the change in performance and risk due to factors such as climate change, urban creep (this is conversion of gardens with car parking or conservatories, patios) and population growth.*

*Faversham is one of the catchments assessed in detail and in general terms the results inform us that the catchment does have a moderate level of risk with respect*

*to flooding compared with our other drainage catchments and although future effects of climate change etc will increase risk our analysis suggests that the risk is not increased to a level of high concern. It must be pointed out that this is risk of flooding from the sewerage system and does not include flooding from other sources such as surface water runoff or river flooding. The impacts here may be worse and will be considered by the appropriate authorities (Lead Local Flood Authorities and the Environment Agency). However, where the root cause of flooding or options to reduce risk overlap with Southern Waters, we will be very keen to work with others to deliver partnership schemes so that investment delivers the greatest overall benefit to residents and customers.*

*The link to our published plans is [Drainage and Wastewater Management Plans \(DWMPs\) \(southernwater.co.uk\)](#) and Faversham can be viewed by following links to the North Kent river basin district.*

*As far as future investment is concerned to address the risks we will be prioritising where to invest based on the level of current and future risk, the level of investment required to reduce that risk and the priority of that investment compared with all other investment needs across the region.*

*There are a number of storm overflows in the Faversham sewerage system which spill excess and heavily diluted wastewater, mostly consisting of rainfall, to Faversham Creek to protect against flooding. You will be aware of the national debate around the quality of rivers and the impact that combined sewer overflows may have on the water quality. DEFRA are finalising their guidance on the phasing out of the use of CSOs and which to prioritise first. We eagerly await this guidance so that we can then put plans in place to address these, though we have already committed to significantly reducing the frequency of CSO discharges by 2030. We see this as an opportunity to also address flooding from sewers. If we remove the rainfall flows entering the combined sewerage system this will have the effect of reducing CSO spills and also reducing flood risk, with the added benefit of reducing the volume of flow our pumping stations and treatment works need to handle.*

*As far as the impact of new developments on the system performance and the need to reinforce the system is concerned we can advise that we assess the hydraulic impact of all planned developments greater than 20 properties. These are added to our hydraulic models to determine the increase in flood risk. Our records show that there are currently around 1100 new properties planned for construction in the catchment across around a dozen sites. The new developments must be separately drained so that only domestic waste is connected and discharged to the foul sewer and any rainfall related flows must be drained separately. Due to the scale of development planned in the next few years and the cumulative effect this may have on the system we have determined that network capacity may be an issue.*

*We are now undertaking a detailed analysis using our hydraulic computer models to determine the impact these will have on the sewerage system and will identify any sewer upgrades that may be required to accommodate this flow. This investment required will be built into our future plans and prioritised based on the level of risk and cost to address the risk.”*

## 2. Developments reported at meeting organised by Helen Whately MP with all partners on 22 July.

### **Summary**

This meeting had updates from KCC and the Southern Water team on progress that had been made during the year and included a walk about the Whitstable Road area. Notes provided by Southern Water are summarised below

### **Key points made:**

There are multiple causes of issues in Whitstable Road and mixed responsibilities but there had been liaison with KCC and on-site visits, with everyone playing a part to resolve issues.

Maintenance scheduled tasks in key outfalls have increased

Repair work at Cyprus Road pumping station has been carried out

There is a commitment to get CCTV into Cypress Road CSO (see summary below)

There is an issue with the nearby recreation ground that needs to be resolved by the borough council. Tree planting has been suggested and the council is committed to installing a sleeping policeman to help stop flows

Beany drains will be cleaned by KCC

It is key that any flooding issues need to be called in to the customer phone line so that issues can be logged and monitored

SW will be installing more sewer level monitors that will give a proactive analysis of the network

### **Actions**

Liaison to continue between Councillors, SW and KCC

Councillors to circulate the message that any flooding must be reported by customers immediately

Next meeting to be attended by a member of the SW asset strategy and planning team to update on planning following completion of hydraulic modelling for Faversham

### **Work completed by SW this year**

- SW has checked telemetry at the CSO and confirmed that there is no spill from the sewer network at the junction of Whitstable Road/ Cyprus Road and it is performing as designed. We may still have inundation from where the flooding occurs but since the clearance of the culvert to Cooksditch from the Beaney blocks has been done we should see less of this as hopefully the highway floods less moving forward.
- SW is looking at the possibility of trialling a static camera in the Cyprus Road CSO at the junction of Whitstable Road and Cyprus Road so that we can have a visual of how the CSO operates during a storm event on top of the telemetry data we currently have. The company that we have approached is still in the design phase and as yet no date has been provided on production. It is critical we get the right product designed and built. We will keep you updated
- Blockage cleared at Cyprus Road CSO. There is a maintenance scheduled task (MST) in place for this particular section of sewer to combat the considerable amounts of fat that have been seen to build up and this has

recently been reviewed to take place more frequently in light of the blockage. The MSTs in East Street and Cyprus Road have been combined to happen every 360 days down from 390 days (East Street) and 1080 days (Cyprus Road)

- SW has completed works at Cyprus Road Wastewater Pumping Station to the wall around the storm outlet pipework and resealed the pipework around the new section of the wall. All flap valves are fully operational.
- Tanners Street remade road surface around manhole.
- Cyprus Road/Whitstable road manhole cover replaced due to worn lifting holes.
- Non-Return Valves on Faversham Creek side have been placed on MSTs to service these and ensure they are operational
- 4 manhole covers replaced with sealed units on the creek to prevent them being inundated during high tide and wet weather events.

### 3. Further Developments

#### Tanners Street

KCC are in the process of arranging a site meeting with Southern Water to discuss the topographical surveys that have been carried out.

#### Potential works at Faversham Recreation Ground

The Head of Environment & Leisure has advised that the Greenspaces team have the design of these works on their list. It will include some run-off areas on the main pathway to flow into temporary water holding areas and blockers under the gates.

KCC are also investigating this area, with the view of installing additional drainage and have had an initial site meeting with a contractor to discuss designs for slowing down the water entering from the Rec.

Meeting scheduled between KCC and SBC to discuss next steps.