

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No 7

meeting date: 13 SEPTEMBER 2011
title: UPDATE ON BADGER WELLS WATER CULVERT, SABDEN
submitted by: JOHN C HEAP, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
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1 PURPOSE

1.1 To advise Members on the joint arrangements made with Lancashire County Council for the replacement of a section of the Badger Wells Water culvert at Sabden.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities

- Council Ambitions - To protect and enhance the environmental quality of our area. To keep the environment of housing areas safe, attractive and well used.
- Community Objectives – To conserve our countryside, the natural beauty of the area and enhance our built environment.
- Other Considerations – Council Vision - An area with an exceptional environment and quality of life for all; sustained by vital and vibrant market towns and villages acting as thriving service centres meeting the needs of residents, businesses and visitors.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Badger Wells Water is a watercourse that drains part of the southern slopes of Pendle Hill. It runs through Sabden to join Sabden Brook.

2.2 In 2002 a section of the stone arched culvert on this watercourse collapsed at the rear of No 12 Wesley Street, Sabden.

2.3 In July 2007 heavy rain created very high flows in this watercourse which surcharged the culvert in the vicinity of the existing collapse and caused water to run down Whalley Road and flood Victoria Mill and residential properties on Whalley Road. The surcharging of the culvert worsened the structural stability of the length of culvert at the rear and side of Wesley Street.

2.4 Natural accumulations of stone are also built up in the open section of the watercourse before it goes into the remaining length of culvert. If this stone is washed into the culvert it could cause further blockage, which because of the size of the culvert, would be very difficult to remove.

2.5 Under land drainage legislation the responsibility for the repair of the culvert lies with the owner of the land as riparian owner and the Council as drainage authority has powers, which it may exercise to require the riparian owner to carry out the necessary repairs to maintain the flows in the watercourse.

2.6 Despite extensive local enquiries and a lengthy land registry search the owner of the land could not be established at the location where the collapse had occurred.

- 12.7 In July 2007 the Policy and Finance Committee approved a request for £10,000 of funding to carry out works to reduce the risk of further flooding from Badger Wells Water.
- 2.8 Part of the remaining culvert was removed because it was subsequently considered unstable. Temporary shoring was erected on the north side of the watercourse to prevent further blockages from any slippage of the banking.
- 2.9 The remaining funding (£8,070) was insufficient to complete the original scheme and alternative less costly methods and solutions have subsequently been sought. No suitable solution has been identified.
- 2.10 With the enactment of the Floods and Water Management Act 2010, Lancashire County Council were designated as the "Lead Local Flood Authority" (LLFA) for Lancashire. Ribble Valley Borough Council, along with all district Councils have a duty to cooperate with their LLFA in the evaluation and management of flood risk arising from "ordinary" watercourses" and other sources. Note that the "enmained" watercourses, which in the case of the Ribble valley include the rivers Ribble, Hodder and Calder and the major tributaries, are not included in this initiative. Badgers Wells Water is however an "ordinary" watercourse and hence the flood risk associated with it is a topic for consideration by the LLFA.

3 ISSUES

- 3.1 In a series of pragmatic discussions between the Lancashire County Council Flood Management and Ribble Valley officers, it was agreed that the flood risk arising from the Badger Wells Water could be greatly reduced for the benefit of the residents and highway users by the cooperation and pooling of the appropriate resources of the two authorities.
- 3.2 Ribble Valley Borough Council is now therefore completing the necessary design works for the replacement of the collapsed and defective lengths of culvert. LCC for their part are to subsequently undertake and complete more extensive works at their costs, which are estimated to cost £25,000. The works to be completed in the current financial year.
- 3.3 LCC have provisionally reserved a further sum in the forthcoming year for the dredging of the stream bed and the de-silting of the highway culvert at either side of the collapse site. RVBC are to undertake a survey of the stream and prepare a schedule of works for this later stage. This preparation work to be undertaken this year.
- 3.4 The amount (£8,070) of the Capital funding brought forward to 2010/11 is appropriate to complete the in-house design work for the culvert replacement and to also prepare drawings for the next stage of the works should LCC include the works in their 2012/13 works programme.

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications
- Resources - Whilst LCC have confirmed that the works are included in their current programme there is always the risk that these resources are withdrawn.
 - Technical, Environmental and Legal - RVBC are at risk if the design of the replacement culvert is inadequate or incorrect. To minimise this risk the contractor (LCC) is being involved in the design process, as the contractor must be capable of undertaking the works. The final design will also be checked as adequate by the culvert manufacturer (no additional cost).

- Political - There are no adverse political risks.
- Reputation - The completion of the scheme will improve the reputation of the Council.

5 **RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE**

5.1 Committee are recommended to note this report.

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

Background papers:-

- Report to Community Services Committee (17 July 2007) - "Badger wells Water, Sabden Culvert Collapse
- Capital Programme 2010 /11

For further information please ask for Terry Longden, ext 01200 414523.