

Wiltshire Council

Council

13 November 2012

Item 7b - Major Incident Plan

From Cllr Bill Douglas, Chippenham Hardens and England Division

To

Cllr Keith Humphries, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Protection Services

Question 1

In the light of the Presentation today of the Major Incident Plan is the Cabinet Member aware of the flooding of commercial premises on Chippenham High Street? This has been a continuing problem of the past years and the severity has increased in the near past.

The problem occurs when heavy rains fill the available drains and surface water flows down the High Street entering shops and flooding at the lower end of the High Street. Two of our major businesses, Wilkinsons, W.H.Smiths and shops on either side are regularly flooded.

I have received E-mails and verbal complaints from the Managements asking that action be taken as soon as possible, as the near forecasts include several severe flood warnings. Also, with the approach of Christmas they are concerned that flooding would have a devastating effect on their businesses.

Our Incident Plan should cover this unusual flooding situation as a matter of urgency as these warning signals could be a prelude to a major incident. I do understand that drainage is difficult but one would think that with the river being within 20metres of the affected area a system carrying overflow into the river, could be devised. Will the Member ask that this problem have urgent assessment and action by the Engineering Section concerned?

Response

A verbal response will be given at the meeting.