

# REPORT

**Cllr Brown: Cabinet Member for Environment & Transport**

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## **Pitton Flood Alleviation**

### **1. Summary:**

The purpose of this report is to request Cabinet approval to undertake improvements to the watercourse at Pitton to reduce flooding in the village.

Land Drainage Consent for the works has been granted by the Environment Agency.

The cost of the scheme, including fees is estimated to be £36,500. If approval to proceed is given by Cabinet it will be necessary to bring forward finance in the Capital Programme to 2004/2005 from 2005/2006 to enable the work to be completed before the Land Drainage Consent expires.

### **2. Background:**

2.1 The brief history of recent flooding in Pitton and action taken to investigate and alleviate the problem is set out below.

March 1995 – Extensive and prolonged groundwater flooding occurred in High Street Pitton

March 1997 – The Council with grant aid from MAFF installed a 600 mm drainage culvert from the centre of the village to the open watercourse in White Way.

February 2001 – Ground water rose and the culvert was overwhelmed by the volume of water and flooding occurred.

2001 – 2002 – Consultant re-evaluated drainage and identified possible improvement to the watercourse in White Way.

July 2002 – possible improvements to the watercourse in White Way approved by the Environment Agency and Land Drainage Consent granted.

January 2003 – Groundwater rises again in Pitton. The culvert is overwhelmed and flooding occurs again.

February 2003 – The Council set up the Flood Steering Group to liaise with other agencies and identify areas for joint working to alleviate flooding in the district.

November 2003 – Pitton identified as a priority area in the Steering Group's report to Cabinet.

March 2004 - £25,000 per year for 4 years included in the capital programme to help address identified priorities for flood alleviation.

### **3. Present Position in Pitton:**

- 3.1 Reviews of drainage during recent flood events has indicated that the culvert installed in 1997 is not operating at its full capacity. The scheme proposed is designed to increase flows through the culvert during flood events by improving the open water course in White Way into which the culvert discharges.
- 3.2 The Environment Agency has given Land Drainage consent for the scheme and agreed to an extension of time until the end of October 2004 for carrying out the consented works.
- 3.3 A specification for the improvement works has been drawn up and the cost of the scheme, including fees, is estimated to be £36,500.
- 3.4 It must be emphasized, however, that while the proposed work will improve the situation when flooding occurs in the village it is unlikely to completely protect the centre of the village from peak flood water flows.

### **4. Financial Implications:**

- 4.1 The Capital Programme contains £100,000 for flood alleviation schemes. This is phased at £25,000 per year for the four years from 2004/2005 to 2007/2008.
- 4.2 The estimated cost of the land drainage works at Pitton is £36,500. If approval for the scheme is given it will be necessary to bring forward finance in the Capital Programme to 2004/2005 from 2005/2006 to fund the works.

### **5. Recommendations:**

It is recommended that:

- 5.1 Improvement works to the watercourse in Pitton be undertaken
- 5.2 Funding for the scheme be brought forward in the Capital Programme to 2004/2005 from 2005/2006.

### **6. Background Papers:**

- 6.1 Report from Such Salinger Peters – Flooding Problems in Pitton, July 2003.

## **7. Implications:**

7.1	Financial -	If the recommendations are agreed the profile of the existing capital programme for flooding will need to be adjusted when the programme is updated.
7.2	Legal -	Most of the work involved is on private land and the Council will need to enter into agreements with the land owners for access to the watercourse to carry out the work, and for future maintenance arrangements.
7.3	Personal -	None.
7.4	Community Safety -	None.
7.5	Environmental -	The work will reduce the environmental impact of flooding which causes damage to property, disruption of services and pollution.
7.6	Core Values -	Providing excellent service; being fair and equitable; being environmentally conscious.
7.7	Wards affected -	Ward 27
7.8	Consultation undertaken -	Information sent by letter to Parish Council and local residents directly affected by the proposals.