

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2015

THAMES WATER - UPDATE

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

(Contact: Simon Wright, Tel: (01993) 861533)

(The report is for information)

1. PURPOSE

To provide the committee with an update in respect of issues that have previously been discussed with regard to Thames Water.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the update report be noted.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1. The committee will recall that a number of issues have been raised with Thames Water over the past couple of years in respect of flooding issues, drainage strategies and infrastructure.
- 3.2. At the April 2015 meeting consideration was given to a strategy prepared by Thames Water. Representatives of Thames Water attended the June meeting and a meeting between interested parties has taken place at Brize Norton and Carterton.
- 3.3. As a result of the initial meetings Thames Water have acknowledged that there were some concerns that they might not be aware of all the planned growth in the two catchments and the potential impact this may have. Subsequently Thames Water arranged for their Asset Planner to meet with the Chairs of both Parish Councils. This meeting clarified a number of issues and all parties were satisfied that they understood the growth challenges in both parishes.
- 3.4. Thames Water is now moving towards gaining funding to allow their contractor to progress the various actions identified within the Drainage Strategies. As part of this process Thames Water will need to engage closely with the Parish Councils to try to gain more specific evidence of flooding events. It is clearly understood that it is the residents that have the detailed information that Thames Water require.
- 3.5. Thames Water has previously tried holding engagement sessions in village halls for people to come to share their experiences but unfortunately they've not worked very well. It is intended that this is something will take place over this winter with both Carterton and Brize Norton. Successful sessions have been held in Cotswold District with Fairford and South Cerney Parish Councils and Thames Water hope that they can expand this way of working into Carterton and Brize Norton. Thames Water will seek to work with the Town and Parish Councils in how best to communicate with the customers as they are very effective at communicating with residents.
- 3.6. Thames Water have undertaken to keep the committee advised of progress and have indicated that they will be in a position to come back to members in the spring as by then they will have a much better view of the situation.

4. ALTERNATIVES/OPTIONS

None applicable.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

No direct financial implications arising from this report.

6. RISKS

None.

7. REASONS

Drainage and flooding issues accord with the corporate aim to protect and enhance the environment of West Oxfordshire and maintain the district as a clean, beautiful place with low levels of crime and nuisance

Keith Butler
Head of Democratic Services

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Date: 10 November, 2015

Background Papers:
None