

**CAMBOURNE TERMINAL PUMP STATION  
SURCHARGE and DAMSON WAY FLOODING  
MEETING 24 March 2010**

**Meeting Notes**

**Present:** Martin Withers : Chairman (RAFT)  
John Vickery, Roger Hume, Clayton Hudson :  
Cambourne Parish Council  
Brian Heffernan, Sue Ellington, David Morgan : SCDC  
Steve Webb, Pete Holland, Paul Elsam : Anglian Water  
Maurice Gordon, Colin Sharp : WSP (Development &  
Transport)  
Neville Stebbing Project Director : MCA Developments

**Object:** The meeting was called by MCA and Anglian Water to hear the concerns of residents and local councillors/council officers regarding the recent flooding incidents at the Terminal Pumping Station in School Lane Cambourne and the flooding of Damson Way including residential properties. Complaints were also levied regarding the noise of the continuous tankering of surcharging water and the lack of adequate cleaning up afterwards.

**Comments from RAFT (Residents Against Flooding and Tankering) :**

MW confirmed that they require the following:

1. A serviceable infrastructure system is provided.
2. AW confirm it is fit for purpose
3. Tankering arrangements are revised to reduce the impact on residents close to the Terminal Pump Station.
4. Compensation is provided to those residents affected by both the flooding and the noise of the tankering.

### **Comments from Councillors on behalf of Residents:**

1. Serious flooding of effluent and associated debris around the Terminal Pump Station and Damson Way.
2. Flooding into 2 properties in Damson Way.
3. Lack of clean-up afterwards
4. Noise from tankering for 24 hours.

In addition CH (Cambourne Parish Council) sought details of the Directors of MCA Developments or its constituent developers, ie Bovis and Taylor Wimpey. (NS agreed to supply the information asap after the meeting).

CH also confirmed the Parish Council had passed a resolution recommending refusal of planning approval of any new development until this flooding issue is resolved.

### **Developer's Strategy/Action Plan:**

NS confirmed on behalf of the MCA Development Ltd that it was acknowledged that significant ground water was entering the foul system and causing the Terminal Pump Station to become overloaded. He confirmed without prejudice that MCA have allocated a significant sum of money to investigate and resolve this issue. It was acknowledged also that it was in everyone's interest to resolve this matter as a priority but the apportionment of blame could only be established once the investigations are completed. This work had begun and was continuing in earnest.

MRG explained the current strategy which had been operational with revisions since Aug 09. This includes an action plan to examine all 12 km of Strategic Foul Sewer almost all of which is subject of a Section 104 Agreement with Anglian Water. The agreement for the more recently constructed section in Upper Cambourne is currently being processed.

Visual and CCTV surveys are being undertaken and any identified potential leaks / queries are being investigated and repaired. In addition the consortium developers (Bovis/Taylor

Wimpey) are examining their own sewers and connections onto the Strategic network which could amount to as much again in sewer length. Those developers not part of the MCA consortium are also being pursued to undertake similar investigative work. Finally it may be necessary to check the integrity of all house connections.

In addition MRG confirmed the Emergency Call-out procedure introduced following the incident in August 2009 in conjunction with Anglian Water provides for the control of the feeder pump stations currently operated by MCA Developments and the provision of tankering to attempt to avert flooding during periods of heavy or prolonged rainfall. This is triggered by the monitors in the TPS. Although this system, including the introduction of a Non-Return Valve to isolate the Damson Way system, has worked successfully throughout the winter the circumstances prevailing at the end of February and early March combined with the high rainfall created an exceptional load on the TPS and led to flooding of local roads and properties.

#### **Comments from Anglian Water :**

Anglian Water confirmed that in Dry Weather Conditions the Terminal Pump Station operates for between 8-9 hours daily. This considered normal and within the design criteria. There is no case for increasing the pump capacity or to use the existing supplementary rising main. This would increase the discharge from TPS but would cause major problems at the Uttons Drove treatment works. Anglian Water do not have a license to increase their discharge at that point.

Anglian Water noted the residue of the previous flooding problem at the TPS had not been cleaned up and would action this asap.

### **Suggestions from Councillors/Residents :**

Identify a problem area and invite residents to pour water into the system with dye and investigate where it goes. It was suggested this could be a PR exercise with cooperation from local councillors.

Reduce the impact of concentrated tankering from the TPS on nearby residents.

### **Requirements from Councillors /Residents:**

Assurance from Developers they would take these issues on board, determine a programme to resolve the problems, provide a clean up after any further flooding and provide compensation to residents flooded and affected by the noise of the tankering.

### **Way Forward:**

The 'Working Party' of Developers and Anglian Water agreed, based on all the comments above, to review their strategy at their scheduled strategy meeting tomorrow (25<sup>th</sup>) and report back to RAFT by 1 April 2010.