

REPORT TO FULL COUNCIL – 9 OCTOBER 2007

AGENDA ITEM NO.

7(ii)

Committee:	Finance and Administration Committee	Agenda Item
Date:	20 September 2007	8
Title:	Elizabeth Way Culvert, Saffron Walden	
Author:	Phil Hunt, Engineering and Safety Officer, 01799 510521	Item for decision

Summary

This report advises Members of an Environment Agency survey of the Council owned culvert at Elizabeth Way and behind Radwinter Road in Saffron Walden and the need to carry out urgent work on the structure.

Recommendations

That this Committee requests the Full Council to add £270,000 to the Capital Programme for 2007/08 to allow reconstruction of the failed section of culvert as a matter of urgency and necessary maintenance to the other sections of culvert as appropriate.

Background Papers

Environment Agency letter of 2 August 2007

Structural Condition Report for Elizabeth Way Culvert -Environment Agency

Impact

Communication/Consultation	It will be necessary to
Community Safety	Yes - flooding and possible collapse. Grilles are being ordered to prevent people entering the culvert
Equalities	None identified
Finance	Up to £270,000 estimated for repairs. This will need to be added to the Capital Programme for the current financial year if agreed by the Full Council on 9 October 2007.
Human Rights	Non identified
Legal implications	None identified
Sustainability	None identified
Ward-specific impacts	Saffron Walden Shire

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Workforce/Workplace	None identified
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Situation

- 1 On 6 August 2007 the Council received an engineer's report, commissioned by the Environment Agency, on the structural condition of the culvert on the Slade tributary, a "main river", running from the rear of 20 Elizabeth Court to the rear of 73 Radwinter Road in Saffron Walden. Two sections of this culvert, beneath the public open space on Elizabeth Way and beneath the rear access track to properties in Radwinter Road (see the appended plan), are in the ownership of the Council. Both of these parcels of land were transferred to the Council under s106 agreements relating to the Multiflora Nursery development in the 1980's.
- 2 The first length of culvert, approximately 60m of in-situ concrete construction, is believed to have been built during the 1960's by the nursery. The survey indicates that it is in danger of total collapse and requires urgent replacement. A 3m section of the roof has broken away creating the potential for further, progressive collapse and consequent blockage which could cause flooding to the land to the south of the entry point and Radwinter Road. In addition it is considered too dangerous for man entry and no further access should be permitted. The invert of the culvert is up to 5.5m below ground level.
- 3 A preliminary assessment of the costs involved in replacing this culvert indicates a figure in the region of £270,000 excluding VAT and fees. This figure could be increased dependant on a detailed site survey and the ground conditions. Officers will continue to investigate alternative methods of resolving these problems and possible sources of financial assistance.
- 4 In the short term officers are arranging for the construction of grills to prevent access to the culvert. These have to be designed to Environment Agency approval and take into account the need for access for maintenance. The cost of these grills is likely to be in the region of £10,000.
- 5 The remainder of the culvert owned by the Council, approximately 125m in length in two sections, is of bolted corrugated steel "Armco" construction. These are in reasonable to good condition but showing signs of corrosion and nearing the end of their design life. Officers have not yet made a full assessment of the work required to carry out necessary repairs.

Risk Analysis

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
Flooding if culvert is blocked	Medium	Medium	Replace culvert

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Collapse	Low	High	Prevent access
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