

Central South and West Area Committee 13 November 2007**98. FLOODING**

The Committee had before it a report (previously circulated and now appended) of the Environment Scrutiny Committee that had been submitted to the Executive Board's meeting on 15th October 2007.

Steve Smith gave a brief presentation on the function of drains and sewers.

Mr. Harrold addressed the Committee concerning Holdacre ditch. In response to Mr. Harrold's comments, Steve Smith said that Holdacre ditch had been cleared last year and was due to be cleared next year.

In response to comments from Councillor Sushila Dhall, concerning the clearance of ditches and streams, Steve Smith explained that landowners were responsible for doing so. He explained that the Council concentrated its efforts on clearing those streams and ditches which, if they were not cleared, would affect the most people if they flooded.

Ms. B. Mercer asked a series of questions regarding flooding. The Chair asked Ms Mercer to let officers have a copy of the questions so that arrangements could be made for a reply to be sent to her. Ms. Mercer also commented on the lack of information that had been made available since the meeting held on 13th August. In response, the Chair said that it was difficult to keep people informed of the outcome of all meetings held. He explained that ward councillors did their best to keep residents informed. He said that details of the sixty-six recommendations and the twelve prioritised actions were available on the Council's website, Steve Smith told the meeting that the Environment Agency had allocated funds to meet the cost of works in the Vicarage Lane area.

Councillor Bob Price referred to the lack of communication between agencies and councillors and residents. He spoke of the importance of carrying out work, such as providing water barriers and clearing streams and ditches, which could be done easily and at low cost.

Councillor Sushila Dhall suggested that the Environment Agency should be urged to dredge the river beds.

Resolved:-

- (1) to ask that the programme for clearing ditches be sent to members of the Committee;
- (2) that the Executive Board and managers be informed that the Committee believes that there is an urgent need to implement measures which can be carried out easily in order to reduce the risks and effects of flooding.