

CABINET

16 OCTOBER 2024

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

James Owen

Early this year, many will have heard the story of the residents of 5 Oswestry properties having to privately pay £3,000 to pump away water following flooding around a culvert under Gobowen Road, which has been a reoccurring issue over recent years. While owned by Shropshire Council, the culvert is managed by Cambrian Heritage Railways, who insisted that the culvert was maintained as agreed and the issue was instead due to the volume of water exceeding the capacity of the culvert. The flooding in this location during periods of heavy rain not only affects these properties, but also leads to flooding of Gobowen Road, which has a significant impact on all residents and visitors to Oswestry travelling to and from this direction. There have also been accusations that past developments upstream of the problem culvert drain surface water from highways/properties into the watercourse, leading to a higher volume of water than would naturally occur, rather than into the sewage system. Could the Council confirm if cleaning of this culvert will be completed prior to any potential incident this winter, rather than after any flooding event? Could the Council confirm if any surveys been undertaken to verify or disprove the claims that the volume of water following periods of heavy rainfall exceed the capacity of the culvert? Could the Council confirm if the accusations about the impact of development have been followed up, with enforcement action taken if required?

Response

Shropshire Council are aware of the flooding at Guinevere Close and Gobowen Road in Oswestry. The flooding is associated with a large rural catchment area, which includes Oswestry Hill Fort, draining to a culvert that runs under the public highway and under the Cambrian rail line. This culvert then runs through the Traditional Products yard and into a drawdown culvert associated with the Vyrnwy Aqueduct. Ownership and management of this culvert lies with each individual riparian owner.

No formal assessment on the capacity of this culvert has been undertaken however it is clear that some of the intense named storms that have caused the flooding during past winters have exceeded the capacity of the culvert. It is therefore essential that this culvert is properly maintained along its length to reduce the risk of flooding to properties.

Shropshire Highways have raised a job to jet and cleanse the section of culvert where it runs under the public highway. The Councils Land Drainage Team will also be making arrangements to meet the Cambrian Rail Trust to visually inspect the culvert

where it runs under the rail line. Should any defects or restrictions to flow be identified during this visit the Council will request that the Cambrian Rial Trust undertake the require works as soon as possible.

Shropshire Council are not aware of any development upstream of the culvert that may have resulted in increased flows entering this system. If the community have any information to suggest that development has not complied with the approved plans they should contact the Council's planning enforcement team.

Victoria Moore

What was the original cost to the council of the green bin stickers that were faulty?

There are no costs to the council for those stickers that where delivered and found to be faulty.

What is the cost of the new contract now that the council has had to source them from a different supplier.

This is within the approved budget.

<https://shropshire.gov.uk/committee-services/documents/s38258/Appendix%201%20Garden%20Waste%20Costs%20and%20Revenue%20170624.pdf>

Also are Shropshire council now looking into going to charge new house owners the cost of supplying a new green bin?

It was approved in this year's budget to charge developers the cost and delivery of new bins to the properties when they become occupied, this process has presently been put in place.