

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

07 September 2005

Report of the Director of Planning & Transportation

Part 1- Public

Matters for Recommendation to Council

1 WEST MALLING CAR PARK – EMERGENCY REPAIRS

Summary

The report describes the emergency measures taken to deal with a large hole in West Malling car park. It seeks Cabinet's retrospective funding approval for the cost of building a new soakaway needed to restore the car park drainage to working order.

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 On the after-noon of 14 July, the Transportation Division received reports of a hole opening up in West Malling car park. Our engineers quickly visited the site to assess the situation and discovered that the problem was far worse than first reports suggested. There was a large cavity some three or so metres deep under the deformed surface of the car park.
- 1.1.2 Under the old Kent Highways Partnership arrangements we built up a good working relationship with the county council's term contractor, Ringways, for both borough and county jobs. Since 1 April and the end of the KHP we have no continuing relationship with Ringways but pleasingly the contractor responded within a few hours to the borough's request for help in dealing with this problem.
- 1.1.3 Ringways cordoned off the area around the recycling centre immediately and chased out around the cavity to allow a closer inspection by the borough engineering team. This revealed that an old soakaway had failed. The surface water run-off for the whole car park drained to this corner and the rainwater had, over time, washed out a large cavity beside the old soakaway.

1.2 Remedial work

- 1.2.1 The simple solution of back filling the hole was not an option. A new soakaway was needed to restore the car park's drainage system. By 5 August the new structure was completed. This involved excavating to a depth of over six metres to ensure adequate storage and a good rate of soakage into the surrounding soil. Ringway then reinstated the car park surface, cleared up the site and, by 11 August, we were able to open up access to the recycling centre once again.

1.3 Financial Implications

- 1.3.1 The urgent action in this case was unavoidable to deal with this sudden emergency. In the interests of public safety and to restore the drainage system to working order we needed to carry out the work as soon as physically possible. Ringway's help in attending the site almost immediately is greatly appreciated and made that swift emergency response possible.
- 1.3.2 The final accounting for the works is not yet fully completed, but it is already clear from the working forecast of the final figure that it will be in the order of £25,000. Having considered how this unavoidable and unforeseen expenditure may be funded, and in consultation with the Director of Finance, it is recommended that the cost of the emergency works be met from the Council's general revenue reserve.
- 1.3.3 Within the terms of the Financial Procedure Rules, Cabinet will also wish to consider whether a virement is possible. I can advise Cabinet that there are no surpluses within Planning and Transportation Service budgets that can be identified at this stage that would provide the funds to finance such a virement so this emergency expenditure will need to be met through a supplementary estimate. It is recommended that this be met from the Council's General Revenue Reserve and the revised estimate amended accordingly in due course.

1.4 Recommendation

- 1.4.1 That Cabinet **BE INVITED** to recommend to Council that the cost of the emergency works be met from the Council's general revenue reserve and the 2005/06 revised estimate amended accordingly in due course.

Background papers:

contact: Michael McCulloch
Ref H9/33A

Nil

Steve Humphrey
Director of Planning & Transportation