

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLANNING and TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD

21 February 2012

Report of the Director of Planning Transport & Leisure

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 LITTLE MILL FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME

Summary

This report provides an update on this Environment Agency flood risk management project.

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 When I last reported this scheme to this board at the meeting of 22 February 2011, the Regional Flood Defence Committee was due to consider it for inclusion in their capital programme of works.
- 1.1.2 However, changes in the way that projects are funded mean that the percentage funding available is directly related to the benefit/cost ratio. A ratio of at least 5 is needed for a project to be fully funded and it has been estimated that the Little Mill scheme ratio is around 1. This means that substantial external funding would be needed for an area protection scheme safeguarding all the vulnerable properties in Little Mill.
- 1.1.3 As an alternative, the Environment Agency (EA) is proposing to investigate individual property protection measures such as waterproof doors and non-return valves.
- 1.1.4 An East Peckham Flood Group meeting was held at Little Mill on 19 January 2012, attended by local residents, where these options for flood risk management were explained by the Environment Agency. The meeting discussion is summarised in the 'Feedback Form' at **Annex 1**.
- 1.1.5 As the form explains, the EA are now consulting more widely with residents on how they would like to see the scheme progressed.

1.2 Legal Implications

- 1.2.1 None for the Borough Council.

1.3 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.3.1 None for the Borough Council.

1.4 Risk Assessment

1.4.1 None directly for the Borough Council, but the risk of flood to the Little Mill community will obviously remain significant unless alternative means of funding can be identified.

1.5 Equality Impact Assessment

1.5.1 See 'Screening for equality impacts' table at end of report.

Background papers:

contact: Steve Medlock

Nil

Steve Humphrey

Director of Planning, Transport & Leisure

Screening for equality impacts:		
Question	Answer	Explanation of impacts
a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to cause adverse impact or discriminate against different groups in the community?	n/a	
b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality?	n/a	
c. What steps are you taking to mitigate, reduce, avoid or minimise the impacts identified above?		n/a

In submitting this report, the Chief Officer doing so is confirming that they have given due regard to the equality impacts of the decision being considered, as noted in the table above.