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**Meeting of Executive Member for  
Neighbourhood Services and Advisory Panel**

**19<sup>th</sup> March 2008**

Report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services

**Response to petition from the residents of Poplar Street, presented  
at Council on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2007**

**Summary**

1. This report has been prepared in response to a petition presented to Council by Councillor Crisp on behalf of 20 residents of Poplar Street. The report gives details of the actions taken to rectify the unpleasant smell coming from the sewage system when the pumps operate at the nearby, newly constructed flats.

**Background**

2. The residents of Poplar Street in Holgate Ward have complained about a sewerage smell in the street and in their homes which started soon after the occupation of a new development of flats at the end of Poplar Street in April 2006.
3. It was thought that the smell was as a result of a faulty public sewer. Yorkshire Water completed a full CCTV inspection in November 2007 and confirmed that the sewer was in good condition. Yorkshire Water did however express concern regarding the design of the septic tank and pumping station at the new development and confirmed that the installation had not been adopted by them therefore it remained the responsibility of the developer.

**Work with the developers (Miller Homes)**

4. After discussions between Officers of Neighbourhood Services and the Developers, on 17<sup>th</sup> December an agreement was reached whereby Miller Homes:
  - Accepted that the problem with the drains was due to their development of the flats;
  - That they were committed to resolving the problems at their costs;

- That they would appoint a company to evaluate the installation and act on the recommendations.
5. On 4<sup>th</sup> February 2008, Miller Homes confirmed in a letter that changes had been made to the installation which would prevent the water from stagnating and therefore avoid it becoming septic.
  6. Early indications are that the problem has been resolved although the situation would continue to be monitored.
  7. Local Ward Councillor's have been kept informed of developments to resolve this matter.

## **Consultation**

8. There has been ongoing consultation with the residents of Poplar Street via Councillor Crisp.

## **Options**

9. Report for note only.

## **Analysis**

10. The street and houses will continue to be monitored.

## **Corporate Priorities**

11. This work is specifically relevant to the following Corporate Priority:
12. Improve the actual and perceived condition of city streets.

## **Implications**

13. **Financial** – No implications in this report
14. **Human Resources (HR)** – No implications in this report
15. **Equalities** – No implications in this report
16. **Legal** - Enforcement may be necessary if the problem persists.
17. **Crime and Disorder** – No implications in this report
18. **Information Technology (IT)** – No implications in this report
19. **Property** – No implications in this report.

## **Risk Management**

20. In compliance with the Council's risk management strategy, the main risks that have been identified in this report are those which could lead to physical illness and financial loss.
21. **Physical Risk** – The physical risk to residents if the problems persist will need to be monitored. Currently a low risk.
22. **Financial Risk** – The financial risk is to residents if work is needed to their property or services to reduce the impact of the problem. Currently a very low risk.

### **Recommendations**

23. That the Advisory Panel advise the Executive Member to note this report.
24. Reason: To acknowledge the work done and the ongoing monitoring.

### **Contact Details**

**Author:**

John Goodyear  
Assistant Director  
Neighbourhood Services  
Tel No. 553204

**Chief Officer Responsible for the report:**

Terry Collins  
Director of Neighbourhood Services

**Report Approved**



**Date** 28<sup>th</sup> February 2008

**Specialist Implications Officer(s)**

Environmental Enforcement Manager - Legal enforcement advice

**Wards Affected:** Holgate

**All**

**For further information please contact the author of the report**

**Background Papers:**

None

**Annexes** – None