



DUNDRY VIEW NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP

28th September 2015

Report of: John Stevens
Title: Gully Cleansing Campaign

Officer presenting report: Emily Smith

Recommendation:

- a) To **note** contents of the report.

1. Gully Cleansing Campaign - Key Communication Points for Neighbourhood Forums and Partnerships

1.1 The Flooding Problem

- Blocked road drains (which are also known as gullies) can result in a build-up of surface water during heavy rainfall events which in turn can lead to localised flooding issues.
- During autumn the risk increases because of fallen leaves covering the top of the road gully grill, preventing the passage of water to the drainage system.

1.2 Work carried out by BCC

- All 42,000 gullies around Bristol all cleansed annually on a regular maintenance schedule.
- Asset data collected by sub-contractors and reports from the public informs a risk-based approach to prioritise gullies more prone to blockage and in areas at greater risk of surface water flooding. This data may result in the frequency a gully is cleansed may increase or decrease, depending on the associated risk.
- Implementation of residents parking zones has aided access for the cleansing of gullies in densely parked areas.

- Street sweeping teams operate throughout the entire city.
- BCC is required to respond to notification of a blockage if subsequent surface water flooding is likely to flood a property or if it is covering over 50% of the highway. This can be reported by phone on the following numbers: 8.30am - 6.00pm Monday to Friday - 0117 922 2100. All other times - 0117 922 2050.

1.3 **Community Involvement**

- Providing a function similar to the snow wardens, the Gully Cleansing Campaign is attempting to raise awareness of the potential flooding issues that can arise this time of year. It encourages residents of Bristol to help protect their property themselves by simply removing any leaves covering the surface of road drains when they notice them to relieve local flooding issues.

1.4 **Health and Safety**

- Check the road is clear of traffic, and it is safe to proceed. Do not attempt to clear a drain of leaves unless you think it is safe to do so
- Wear brightly coloured clothes to ensure you can be easily seen by others
- Do not attempt to lift the drain cover, if the blockage is beneath the cover, please report it [online](#).
- Wear gloves and use an appropriate garden tool (a brush or garden wire rake) to carry out the leaf removal. Keep the leaves brushed from a road drain in a bag and dispose of appropriately with garden waste.
- Remember to bend at the knees and minimise bending or twisting your back.