

## CRITICAL ORDINARY WATER COURSES IN SOUTH DERBYSHIRE THAT WOULD TRANSFER TO THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

### **Hatton – Salt Brook**

1.5 km length from Yew Tree Farm at north of village to its confluence with the River Dove to the south east of the village. Severe flooding occurred to properties to the north of the village in November 2000.

### **Stanton Watercourse**

4.5 km length from lake on UK Coal land to its confluence with the River Trent at Drakelow. This includes the highway culvert under the A444 which is scheduled to be upgraded by Derbyshire County Council in May 2004

Severe flooding occurred to the A444 trunk road, Stanton Village Hall and adjacent properties in November 2000

### **Willington – Sandsbrook**

1.8 km length from balancing reservoir adjacent to the A38 to confluence with Egginton Brook to the south of the village.

Severe flooding occurred to properties in November 2000.

### **Shardlow Dyke and Culverts**

0.8 km length of open dyke, culverts and trash screens which forms part of the flood defence system for the village. Without these defences properties would be vulnerable during flood events.

## ANNEXE B

### ADVANTAGES / DISADVANTAGES OF OPTIONS

#### **Advantages of not contracting back**

The EA would have resources to put into maintenance of the watercourses which would be of benefit to residents.

It would be good practice for the Shardlow Dyke and culverts to be taken over by the EA, as they are an integral part of the flood defences that they have overall control of. Their defences include extensive flood banks, control valves and a pumping station. Currently responsibility for flood defence in this village is confusing and of great concern to residents, this would therefore be resolved.

SDDC would not have to give the EA any payment for enmaining the COWs.

Money within our limited Land Drainage and Flood Protection Budgets would no longer have to be directed to the four COWs so could be spent on all of the other watercourses in the district.

#### **Disadvantages of not contracting back**

SDDC would perhaps miss an opportunity to have a budget from the EA that would go someway towards improving our standards.

It might be seen as undesirable to no longer have control of these COWs that are vulnerable to flood, however, we would still be able to report any concerns to the EA for action.

#### **Advantages of contracting back**

Monthly payments, yet to be agreed, are paid from the EA to SDDC.

This money would be specifically for the four COWs unlike the present situation where budgets have to be spread across the district.

#### **Disadvantages of contracting back**

Could create confusion to the public i.e. the EA have control of the COWs but we are agents to them, would they take their queries and concerns directly to them?

Inspection of watercourses will have to be reported on the EA database - National Flood and Coastal Defence Database (NFCCD), for which we do not have the software or operating expertise.

SDDC Legal Section describes the Operating Authoritys Agreement as being 'extremely onerous and weighted in favour of the EA' – see Legal Implications.

SDDC would be legally bound to carry out works in an 'environmentally sound and sustainable way' and to make 'an assessment of the environmental impacts of the works by competent staff'. Though this is desirable, we do not have this level of expertise.

Though the EA 'wishes to provide each operating authority with sustainable funds in year one to match current levels of expenditure, there are no guarantees of being able to do so'.

All costs associated with delivering the requirements of this agreement will be on a cost reimbursement basis, 'there will be no provision for profit'.

SDDC will be required to 'receive and respond to outside office hour calls from public and other bodies'. At present, we only have a voluntary engineer standby system where officers respond if available; it is unlikely this would satisfy EA requirements.

Additionally, SDDC will be required to 'have emergency plant and resources on a 24 hour standby to attend blockages, breakdowns and general flooding incidents'.

The Engineering Technician with responsibility for land drainage and other Engineering duties would not necessarily meet the demands of the EA while attending to the rest of the District.

