

## **Northstowe Town Council - Hydrology Working Party**

**Meeting Date:** 21st April 2022 at 0900 - 1000

**Present:** Luke Mills (Greater Cambridge Planning), Stephen Kelly (Greater Cambridge Planning), Patrick Matthews (South Cambs Drainage), Cllr Richard Owen (Northstowe Town Council) and Cllr Paul Littlemore (Northstowe Town Council)

**Weather conditions:** No significant rainfall for a number of days.

**Meeting Purpose:** To instigate actions 1, 2 and 3 from the Town Council's hypothesis as presented in agenda item 21-22/197.

### **Summary:**

Action 1: Rudimentary physical inspection of chamber S419 and/or S420 as marked in 0481-D-246 Rev A, within a few days of sustained heavy rainfall, but not within a rainfall event, to identify if surface water is flowing unexpectedly.

Initially chamber S419 was opened and there was clear evidence of running water coming from the spur from H9 marked as S422H. As this was evidential enough we decided there was little value in opening S420 as the water could be visibly seen to travel in the direction of S420. Video was taken by Cllr Littlemore, which has subsequently been filed with the Clerk, showing the flow clearly. It was discussed that site dewatering may explain this flow, however there were no visible signs of active pumping of water on the site from the boundary.



Figure 1: Water ingress from S418ST in Chamber S419

The group did additionally open S506 which is fed from the southern greenway behind H9 and flows towards S421 and then outflows to S422H. This inspection chamber was dry so it was concluded that this wouldn't be contributing to any outflow from S422H.

The group took the opportunity to observe the CFA piling that was in progress. The drill being used clearly indicating that groundwater is present below the surface in the area of operation.

Action 2: Facilitate regular access to inspect S422H as marked in document 0481-D-246 Rev A, again within a few days of sustained heavy rainfall.

Since the publication of the Town Council's Hypothesis the southern greenway is now mostly accessible. The group walked the length of this stretch observing in a number of areas that there was a steady flow toward the outfall towards the Phase 1 Water Park.

The group noted that a ditch on the boundary of Phase 2 which was holding water, and an apparent channel which has been dug toward the outflow from southern greenway.

Action 3: Any information on how S418ST as marked on document 0481-D0246 Rev A was sealed following its original installation.

Unfortunately L&Q and BDW were unable to send representation to this meeting, so these actions will be addressed at a later date.

### **Next Steps / Follow Up Actions:**

FA1: Greater Cambridge Planning to confirm with BDW whether the flow of water observed in S419 relates to any of their construction activity and arrange for a CCTV survey of the drain to confirm the source.

FA2: Greater Cambridge Planning to confirm that the parallel ditch observed which seems to be outflowing into the southern greenway is in line with approved plans.

FA3: Greater Cambridge Planning to seek clarity on vegetation management within the swales of the two greenways.