

Cabinet – 17th December 2024

Questions from Councillors

1. Question submitted by Cllr C Lugg

The Gladelands Park Homes site, in my Ferndown North ward, has for many years provided much need housing and has successfully developed a strong sense of community amongst the residents that live there.

Unlike much of my ward, Gladelands is located on lower ground and managing water ingress and flood risk, has become so challenging that I now receive regular reports from my residents that parts of the site, footpaths and gardens, have become impassable whenever there is heavy rain. On Christmas Eve 2013 the whole site flooded and residents were evacuated, at great personal emotional and financial cost to them, and financial cost to the then County Council.

Officers from the council, environment agency, Highways England, and the water companies have made some progress, clearing ditches, diverting culverts and insisting Berkeley Homes, who own the site, perform regular checks and maintenance. However the properties worse affected have no drainage whatsoever, and flood risk plans and emergency evacuation plans have not been forthcoming. I am able to provide photographs of the almost continuous flooding.

The Environment Agency, Highways and the Water Companies have now fulfilled their obligations. Would the Cabinet Member, together with an appropriately senior officer, meet with me and residents onsite to establish what further measures can be taken and implement an action plan, before we are faced with a site evacuation in the event of the most biblical levels of rainfall, which we are increasingly experiencing?