

**BERA E-NEWSLETTER 29<sup>TH</sup> May 2018**

**URGENT INFORMATION REGARDING JUNCTION OF THORPE HALL AVENUE AND THORPE ESPLANADE**

Earlier today a major incident with the sewerage system, due to the heavy downpour of rain, occurred at the junction of Thorpe Hall Avenue and Thorpe Esplanade. This section has only just been repaired after the previous bad weather. The Council are aware and have informed Anglian Water of the situation. The road remains closed at this junction with an emergency road notice being issued by the Council for up to 21 days. Can I please ask people to drive carefully in this area, as we have had a number of incidents of speeding vehicles and treating the diversion as a Formula 1 circuit. Please remember these are side roads that cannot cope very well with vast amounts of traffic, especially if they are speeding. Below are a couple of comments we have received from residents who are Highways experts, who are well informed, and at least one used to work for the Council.

**"Once again we have the fountain at the junction of Thorpe Hall Avenue and Thorpe Esplanade, today at 1pm. Once again, only a few days after opening the road is closed again.**

**This has been a problem for years and it is because Anglian Water will only apply a cosmetic repair and not fix the underlying problem. The water comes down Thorpe Hall Avenue and is unable to pass into the sea fast enough. Whatever the cause it needs fixing.**

**This requires an engineering solution that it seems Anglian Water are not willing to spend the money on. This has been a problem for years and the fountains we have had in the northern part of Thorpe Hall Avenue have been avoided by bolting down the covers but even this is not enough to overcome the back pressure on the esplanade. The water needs to get away faster and that requires much more work than has been done. Today the rain was not exceptional and summer thunderstorms are to be expected and provided for.**

**I note that Anglian Water made nearly £1M per day profit in the last accounts and this is because they are relying on an aged system that they do not invest enough money in.**

**It needs somebody at the Council to get a grip with Anglian failures and have a long term solution to this problem.**

**Thanks for your time."**

**"My overriding concerns are twofold:**

**The inconvenience caused by the seemingly substandard repair following the last incident**

**Any cost borne by the tax payer due to the substandard repair following the last incident. I would like reassurance that the Council will be engaging with Anglian Water with rigour."**

There is no doubt that a more substantial repair and engineering solution needs to be found, as we cannot have this happening every time there is a major downpour of rain, coupled with a high tide. After all we are a seaside town and our engineering works should be designed to cope. Maybe before any further housing is developed the Council needs to look at its total infrastructure, not only above ground ie roads, schools, doctors but as important is all underground works.