



The article below is courtesy of Chamber of Trade member Tony Blaney who attended the public meeting:

I attended the United Utilities Open Evening regarding the new planned pumping station on the Glebe. And here are the facts:

First of all the new plan is not an alternative to the 'big tank' planned for the back of the Glebe. I did get an explanation of why that has been abandoned though - there are apparently two reasons – firstly the size at 8,000 litres would not have been big enough. It would seem that they planned that size based on a random 10 year period of waterfall, and it turned out they had chosen the driest 10 years last century, so was hopelessly inappropriate, and hence that plan has been abandoned - completely! Secondly the tank would not itself have solved the immediate problem which is that in heavy rainfall the Glebe Rd sewer backs up and gushes out onto the road causing the flooding, as well as the damage to the TIC, and the sight of sewage "litter" (what a nice way to put it!) on the road.

So what is proposed? - Well the plan is to introduce a second pumping station on the Glebe to take the surge water away and hence avoid the above problem.

How does it work? At present there is a sewage pump capable of handling 90 litres per second of material, which pumps the material to the treatment area. There is also an 'overflow' pump which kicks in if the normal pump can't cope, and this dumps material at a rate of 400 litres per second directly out into the lake off Cockshot Point. That pump is not enough to cope with a storm surge and so the current sewer backs up and out of an overflow by Sheppard's, and ultimately out of the manholes in Glebe Road itself. Hence the damage to the TIC and surrounding area which is at a 'low point'!

They have based their model on being able to cope with a "once in 30 year" surge. It would seem that they don't have any records of actuality over recent years by the way; they just don't keep any records! Their model has told them that they are 'probably' using the current overflow about 254 times a year. But in reality they have no records of how often it actually happens?

The new pump will pull fluids directly out of the Glebe Rd sewer in the event of the main pump not coping, and will add an additional 300 litres per second of fluids handling. This apparently will be sufficient for the "once in 30 years" storm surges we seem to get most years at present.

What is the only odd thing I can see at present is the route that this new pipe will take. Instead of going along the road, or even straight across the Glebe parallel with the road, it will go directly under the deepest part of the Glebe roughly where the current iron gate is at the top of the Glebe. This is a massive engineering project taking 18 months and will involve blasting a wide cutting up to 10 metres deep through the Glebe Hill, and then making a right turn before making straight



for a new exit point just south of Cockshot point. Apparently this is a requirement of SLDC, though I cannot imagine why! It is also why the project will cost so much (£5M).

If planning goes through, work will start in September this year, and will continue until April 2013, though there will be an interruption to work during April 2012 to September 2012, this is to avoid disruption on the Glebe during the peak of the season (and the Olympic torch). Work will though continue during this period out of sight on the back of the Glebe, and at the outflow.

The installation will be commissioned in Feb-April 2013, and then the site will be re-instated. All that will remain visible is the pumping control shed (a structure about 4m x 3m x 4m high), and a paved area of about 10m square adjacent to the road. This will provide a 'hidden' access area for any maintenance, and is seen as a better option than an array of steel inspection hatches.