

Development and Infrastructure Services

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Ask For: Mr Jim Smith
Our Ref: JS/LMB
Your Ref:
Date: 28 February 2013

Dear Ms Cook

FLOODING AND DRAINAGE IN RHU AND SHANDON

Thank you for your letter of 30 January 2012 regarding flooding issues in the Rhu and Shandon area. I can confirm that there is a cyclic programme of gully, channel and culvert grill cleaning which covers the whole of the drainage inventory throughout Argyll and Bute. However, the situations you have concerns about are primarily related to circumstances we have very little control over and problems which develop at a rate which we are unable to respond to immediately in all locations, given the constraints on resources.

The major repeat incidents on A814 at the Peace Camp originate from the culvert which crosses the A814 at the top of the hill (Culvert No 1) between the Faslane North and South gates. The inlet grill to this culvert was to be maintained by the MoD contractors. There was however some doubt over the lines of responsibility within the Faslane team and as Councillor Maurice Corry has indicated, we have requested a meeting to clarify these issues later this month. I can confirm that initial works to improve the outfall in Maidstone Road have been successful as there was limited build-up of water at the Peace Camp during the heavy rains of earlier this month. Our design team have been asked to investigate improvements to the drainage systems from Woodlea Crescent to the outfall at the main culvert under A814. As part of the meeting with MoD we hope to be able to secure joint funding of this project which would allow works to commence during the next financial year.

The area of flooding in the low point in upper Lineside Walk has been assessed by the local team and a works instruction has been issued for improvements to the inlet grill to the roadside drainage and the introduction of additional channels to mitigate the flow of water into the adjacent properties. We have commitments to several capital schemes at this time

but hope to complete these works prior to the end of the financial year.

The Aros Road area is regularly the site of flooding, primarily due to the blocking of the culvert inlet grill inside the property line above the footpath. We have carried out works to improve the inlet grill here and the whole system of pipes under the road and into the downstream gardens have been jetted clear. We are also investigating additional works to re-divert any overspill back into the drainage system or over the seawall, to minimise the depth of water lying on A814. I must point out however that the root cause of the regular blocking of the Aros Road culvert is related to debris carried downstream through several private properties, which the Council has limited access to. It is the residents in these individual properties, as riparian owners, who are responsible for maintaining a clear watercourse and ensuring debris does not enter the system. We will however do what we can to maintain the drainage systems as conditions allow.

We do not have individual localised works schedules for specific areas of the network and are not currently able to comply with your request to publish a maintenance schedule for individual areas. This is something we do plan to do in due course. All the large culvert grills in the Lomond area are on a schedule for regular inspection immediately prior to and during flood events. The speed of build-up in times of heavy weather makes any pre-emptive work largely superfluous and we are regularly required to attend reactively to these issues at very short notice, including out of normal working hours. I presume this is what may have been referred to as the hot spot plan.

I trust that the above information gives sufficient detail of what is practicable for us to achieve within the constraints of our routine maintenance and the efforts we are making to improve the operation of the systems where practicable.

Yours sincerely



Jim Smith
Head of Roads and Amenity Services