Shevington Memorial Ground Drainage Scheme

Practical Considerations:

1. Based on the partial plan shown on the Shevington Parish Council's discussion document, the majority of the surface water drainage will be directed eastwards along Church Lane and then along Churchfields to join Millbrook at the northern end of Lawnswood.

2. The only outlet from Millbrook is via the culvert under Crooke Road. The culvert consists of twin 600mm diameter pipes, which are already of insufficient capacity for existing high water flows. Without the regular clearing of tree branches and other debris from the upstream side of the culvert, Crooke Village would experience many more incidents of flooding.

3. In the event of any substantial rainfall, the enhanced drainage will create an increased flow of storm water and a shorter run-off time. Ironically the only part of Crooke village within the Millbrook catchment area is the playing field to the north of the nursery and chapel, the village as a whole drains directly towards the River Douglas valley.

4. Additional flow and faster run-off will result in more frequent flooding events in Crooke Village. This could be alleviated by providing water storage and/or retarding the flow with a system of weirs or "leaky" dams.

5. If all the proposed drainage were to discharge westwards to join the existing drainage network in the vicinity of the mini-roundabout at the end of Church Lane where it meets the B5206, there would be no additional load from this scheme into the Millbrook.

6. The catchment area upstream of the Crooke Road culvert consists of some 700 hectares of pasture and woodland, together with another 200 hectares of built-up area, comprising most of Shevington Village to the east of Shevington Lane and north of Vicarage Lane. The sub-soil is mostly silty clay and after prolonged periods of wet weather becomes saturated. Any further rainfall discharges rapidly into the network of watercourses. The recent developments in connection with the sports field and allotments will have contributed to the higher risk of flooding in Crooke.

Legislative Considerations:

1. Under the Flood Risk Regulations 2009 and Flood and Water Management Act 2010 county councils and unitary authorities are responsible for producing a Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP). The "lead local flood authority" in this case would be Wigan Council.

2. A preliminary flood risk assessment map and report was to have been submitted to the Environment Agency for review and published before December 2011 or by June 2017 if they considered that there was a significant flood risk in the area.

3. It is understood that, as client/developer for the scheme, Shevington Parish Council would enter into a Section 104 agreement under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 with Wigan Council to adopt and maintain the Memorial Park drainage infrastructure. This agreement needs to be in place before the drainage work starts.

4. The present design does not conform to a "sustainable drainage system" (SuDS) under schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 in:
   "
   a) Reducing damage from flooding
   b) Protecting and improving the environment
   c) Protecting health and safety
   d) Ensuring the stability and durability of drainage systems "

5. Wigan Council would be unwilling to adopt any new drainage network under a Section 104 agreement without it meeting the requirements of a sustainable drainage system. (SuDS)

6. If the scheme were to be given planning permission in its present form the members of CVRA and Crooke village residents would lobby Wigan Council most strongly to include obligations on the Parish Council under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act to include in the design flood alleviation measures such as water storage and flow retardation.

   For and on behalf of Crooke Village Residents Association
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