

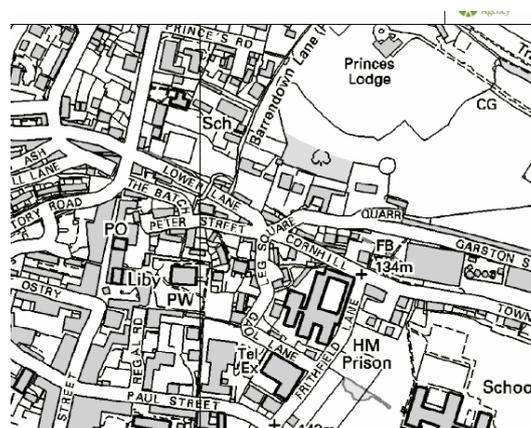
## Wessex Regional Flood Defence Committee

### Local Levy Programme 2011/12

#### Shepton Mallet Improvement Scheme

(Updated December 2011)

#### Local Authority: Mendip District Council



#### The Problem

The Environment Agency took over responsibility for the River Sheppey in 2006 from Mendip District Council. In October that year a heavy rainfall event led to approximately 24 residential properties, and 6 businesses flooding. In June 2008 a similar flood event occurred with 28 properties flooding. Parts of the culvert system in the town pre date 1880 and are not able to convey extreme flows. In places such as Leg Square, hydraulic restrictions cause the culvert to surcharge, sending water through the streets until it can rejoin the river further down stream.

Following a pre feasibility study to investigate the flooding issues in Shepton Mallet, a detailed Feasibility Study was completed and a workable option was identified as a way to reduce the flood risk in the town. The option concentrates on improving the culverted lengths of the River Sheppey. A subsurface investigation was subsequently carried out to mitigate the risks of damaging underground utilities.

#### Works required

The works include improving culvert entrances and exits, and supplementing the section of culvert in Leg Square with a diversion of greater flow carrying capacity to overcome a severe hydraulic restriction. The cost of the scheme is £1.65 million.

## **Benefits**

The amount of water on the road is reduced as the additional bypass culvert decreases the hydraulic restriction in Leg Square. This in turn increases the flow-carrying capacity of the system and reduces the frequency of flooding for approximately 24 properties.

## **Outcomes**

Contractor Team Van Oord substantially completed constructing the preferred option by 31 March 2011, and remain liable for any defects that may arise over the subsequent 12-month period. Minor environmental and cable installation activities have since been completed and the scheme has been handed over to Ops Delivery to manage.

## **What is Local Levy ?**

Local Levy is an additional, locally raised, source of income for the Wessex Regional Flood Defence Committee (WRFDC). The income is raised by way of a levy on the County Councils and Unitary Authorities within the WRFDC boundary, voted for by the County Council and Unitary Authority Member of the Committee.

The local levy is used to support, with the approval of the WRFDC, flood risk management projects that are not considered to be national priorities and hence do not attract national funding through Flood Defence Grant in Aid (FDGiA). Local Levy therefore allows locally important projects to be undertaken to reduce the risk of flooding within the Wessex Area.

## **Contact**

For more information on this scheme or any flood risk management matter please contact the Area Flood & Coastal Risk Manager, Nick Lyness, Rivers House, East Quay, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA6 4YS, Tel: 01278 484770