

Cabinet – 9 November 2023

Written question from Cllr Michael Lilley to the Leader

1. Is the Cabinet of IW Council officially holding the Environment Agency to account over raised concerns by residents that the Simeon Recreation Ground flood defences were not manually installed properly which led to the severeness of the flooding and resulting hardships experienced by residents in my Ryde Appley and Elmfield Ward and residents of Ryde Monkton Mead Ward and is IW Council going to pursue full compensation to residents from the Environment Agency if it is clearly proved their was “human error” on their part?
2. Is the Cabinet of IW Council Cabinet raising concerns about the sewage overflow releases on to Ryde beaches daily from 24th October 2023 to 5th November 2023 at the height of the flooding by Southern Water which could have huge Environmental Health implications for Ryde residents, with Southern Water?
3. What is the Flooding Recovery strategy to support all the households and residents affected by the flooding in Ryde Appley and Elmfield, Ryde Monkton Mead Wards and other Ryde Wards and how is this being communicated effectively in a cross agency joined up approach to residents? It is has to be noted residents who I speak to feel abandoned, not listened and feel IW Council does not understand their anxiety of their months/years of recovery facing them as they try and rebuild their lives?
4. How is Cabinet going to improve to the observed poor communication between agencies in regard the recent severe flooding?

Response

Cllr Lilley’s recent email is a timely reminder of the of council’s lead role in working with towns and parishes and the voluntary sector to support communities to recover from the recent flooding events.

We are committed to helping residents to recover from the recent event. This includes providing information and advice but also the coordination and provision of financial and other support to those households that have been directly impacted by flooding.

The Cabinet lead for Emergency Planning response and recovery is Cllr Lucioni, with Cllr Fuller taking the lead role in respect of preparing for and responding to flooding events. Both cabinet members have been working hard to support the affected communities over the last two weeks and will continue to lead on the community recovery effort and our work on formal flood investigations.

In terms of financial support, working closely with the town council and voluntary agencies, we now have a full list of those affected in Ryde and other areas, including those in most need of support. We have received confirmation from government

that we can access flood recovery grants and we will be providing more detail on this for those households that have been flooded as soon as we can.

Alongside accessing grant support, we will be developing packages of support and associated on the ground advice, and looking to make this as an efficient process as possible to ensure households can access this quickly and effectively.

One particular request I would make is to ensure that all those households that have been flooded inform the Environment Agency and Southern Water as this will enable access to support from those agencies.