

Petition by residents of St. Audrey Lane, St. Ives Area.

For several years now, many residents of St. Audrey Lane and the west end of Warren Road, have suffered from surface water flooding that has flowed into the sewerage systems preventing residents flushing their toilets. There have been occasions when sewage has flooded residents bathrooms, as well as their gardens. It should be noted that the affected dwellings in St. Audrey Lane are bungalows, and therefore they only have ground floor toilets.

Many residents believe that the problems have been exacerbated since the housing development of 120 plus houses on the opposite side of St. Audrey Lane, which is on higher ground. Although this housing development has two balancing tanks, it has frequently been noticed that considerable amounts of water has been laying about in the vicinity. The 120 plus houses were built at least ten years ago.

A few years ago there was flooding problems in the vicinity of the junction of Pig Lane and St. Audrey Lane, when it was reported that there was a collapsed drain.

I believe that there are two systems in Pig Lane. There is the foul which takes the flow from St. Audrey Lane and the houses north of there, and goes to the Broadleas Pumping Station near to Eastfield Infant & Nursery School, but I do not know when this system was last updated or how it performs now, but I have been informed by a resident that he had been told that the pump does not have the capacity in inclement times. There is also a surface water system which starts at the ditch on the north side of St. Audrey Lane, goes down Pig Lane and into the top end of Warners Park.

Obviously the plight of residents who are unable to flush their toilets in inclement times is totally unacceptable in the centre of St. Ives Town and in the twenty first century.

It would seem that there could be possibly two authorities responsible, CCC and Anglian Water, although HDC has some responsibility during the consultation process of planning for the housing development, as well as the three other developments near by.

For information, St. Audrey Lane is the A1123 which cuts right through the centre of St. Ives.

John W. Davies (20th. January 2008)