

## **Flooding in Almere**

Lesley,

Further to Friday's public meeting to discuss flooding problems along the River Alyn, I have attached the photographs I sent to the Environment Agency when I originally reported the blockage, but as I said on Friday evening, it took about 9 months to get the blockage cleared.

I believe what the gentlemen speaking about silt levels is true, since if silt causes the river bed to rise, the water level also must rise by the same amount, thus reducing the height from water surface to river bank.

I look forward to hearing what results you get from your efforts.

Regards,  
Jeff Peet.



## **Flooding in Rhyl and Prestatyn**

I recently attended a meeting arranged by WAG and chaired by A.M. Darren Millar to obtain evidence over flooding issues throughout the region.

As a County Councillor for one of the areas hit by flash flooding, and an ex police officer who was on duty at the time of the Towyn Floods I feel I have a good all round knowledge of the impact of flooding upon our communities and of the relevant concerns that our residents have in respect of future potential problems.

As a County Councillor I received complaints from a number of residents from both of these areas.

The main problem being in Eastville Avenue Rhyl, and parts of Parc View Estate Rhyl.

The timing of these floods are in no small way attributed by the ongoing building developments within this area and the lack of a suitable drainage infrastructure to cope with the additional surface water and sewage that emanates from same.

We should remind ourselves that the flooding of both areas is not attributed to breaches of sea walls or swollen riverbanks it is caused by drains being overburdened and subsequently backing up and spilling water and sewage out onto the streets. The levels of this water has on several occasions reached a level where it was entering peoples properties.

The evidence base for suggesting that an overdevelopment of the area has in some way impacted upon this problem is self defining.

Records will show that there were no flooding problems through excess surface water before the building of additional houses on Rhyl South East an area which now incorporates some of the largest private housing estates in the County.

It appears to me that when we cover natural drainage land such as fields with concrete we divert the surface water via new drains into existing drains which were never designed to cope with this additional influx of water, add to that the additional sewage input from the numerous developments then it should provide the relevant evidence to any such enquiry held to look into such flooding issues.

Another area of concern is the rising tide levels, our surface water is being diverted to the sea, if tides rise as is expected, then this in itself will cause a situation whereby surface water drains will be backed up by incoming tides when pumping stations are overcome by water from both inland and seaward directions.

Taking this into account my colleague Rhyl East Cllr John Bellis and I successfully achieved an agreement by full council that all planning applications for developments of over 50 houses should be assessed by the relevant utility services such as Environment and Water Board and receive assurances from same that the current drainage systems can cope with additional surface and sewage caused by additional housing, which could of

course lead to the the knock on effect of potential flooding.

One of the people attending this meeting referred to other Countries designing properties that can be built on flood plains and cope with such a natural phenomenon, I need not remind this gentleman that this will not afford any protection whatsoever to the number of households that currently exist within the flood areas unless of course you knock them all down and rebuild them with sufficient basement protection or on stilts of course.

The answer is no more developments until there are sufficient drainage systems and coastal protection schemes that can afford the ultimate protection of our current resident properties within flood risk areas. Until then Environment and Water board agencies should be held to account and take responsibility for any flooding which can be directly attributed to overdevelopment of flood plain areas.

Regards Cllr Ian A Gunning.