



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Andrew Blake-Herbert
Chief Executive
Havering Town Hall
Main Road,
Romford - RM1 3BB

Monday 17 July 2020

Dear Andrew

I have received correspondence from residents of many of the roads in Rainham concerning flooding issues. Specifically, two households from River Close and Southall Drive stated that on previous occasions during heavy rainfall the surface water drains overflowed causing localised flooding. This came about because the drains in the area were blocked. The Council was contacted several times to take action to unblock the gullies by residents, the response they received was that it was Thames Water's responsibility and that your Council would get back to the residents with the outcome. Your officers failed to do so I am told.

Neither Havering Council nor Thames Water acted and now residents have endured flooding to their properties. Rather than squabble over which organisation is responsible, as the local authority I would expect the Council to act to protect local residents and then resolve issues of which organisation should pay for undertaking the necessary works.

Given the situation and the distress caused I expect the Council to provide all reasonable assistance to residents affected and to carry out the work to unblock the gullies and surface water drainage system across the area. I would urge you to task the Council's Highways engineers to investigate the drainage system in the area to ensure there are no further flooding events caused by the inadequacy of the system to cope with heavy rainfall.

I should also add that in addition to the roads mentioned in your email I have been contacted by residents of:

River Close
Southall Drive



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Stirling Close
Cowper Road
Rainham Road South
Kenway

I hope and expect that Council officers have also contacted residents of these roads in addition to those you mention as being affected.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jon Cruddas'.

Jon Cruddas MP

Member of Parliament for Dagenham and Rainham
Incorporating South Hornchurch and Elm Park