**TOWN MEADOW DRAINAGE PROJECT – SPECIFICATION FOR CONTRACTS FINDER**

**Address: Town Meadow, junction of Lower St / Tanners Lane, Haslemere, Surrey**

A map of a neighborhood

Description automatically generated

Background

Since taking over ownership of Town Meadow in 2020, the grassed area in the centre of the meadow has been getting increasingly boggy. This has the dual effect of reducing the amount of usable space for our residents and making it difficult for our groundscare company to maintain. We are also concerned that water is now, at times, covering the footpath to the south of the meadow, meaning that dangerous ice forms when frozen.

We were aware from a document provided by Waverley Borough Council (below) that they had previously tried to drain the meadow in the 1980s by running a central pipeline from the spring head to the covered part of the stream. This pipe had a series of perforated pipes herring boned into it to increase drainage through the soil. Although this appeared to work for a short period of time the report says that the water (springs) started to appear in other areas of the Meadow.

In 2022 a company was engaged to look into the issue and find a potential solution and a CCTV pipe camera showed that the original pipe had collapsed at around 35 metres from its outlet to the stream. No remedial work was undertaken.

HTC has now allocated budget to fund works to solve the issue.

Requirements:

The Council requires a drainage specialist to:

* Survey the site.
* Produced a detailed plan for implementing a drainage solution
* Provide a costed quote for the work.
* Undertake the drainage work.

The Council is mindful that the area has a number of natural springs and therefore may be difficult to drain completely. Any bid for the work should indicate the extent to which the meadow can be dried out and future maintenance requirements to keep the drainage solution working effectively.

Climate Emergency:

Haslemere Town Council requires that the environment and sustainability are considered in any solution put forward. The successful tender will demonstrate that these factors have been taken into account when designing the drainage plan.

TOWN MEADOW (PYLE WELL MEADOW) report from WBC

GEOLOGY

"There is geological evidence of the former existence here of a marsh or mere, which covered ground between the Station, Tanner's Lane (formerly Hawe Lane or Hail Lane) and the present Post Office, e.g. the peaty lower part of the field immediately below Pyle Well was at one time part of its bed. By 1850 the mere had dwindled to a series of small ponds. There was one in the corner of Pile Well Meadow (Town Meadow) adjacent to Tanner's Lane."

Bygone Haslemere — E W Swanton

"In former days we got our water in Haslemere from draw wells and "dip and deve" or dipping wells, of which latter the Pile Well was one. There was a draw well in Cow Street and an excellent spring in the meadow off Tanner's Lane (Town Meadow)."

Two K's Pamphlet

"Although many domestic and farm supplies have probably been obtained from the Drift deposits of this district, details are known of only three ... the third relates to Pyle

Well in Lower Street, Haslemere which formerly supplied part of the Town; much of the supply from this well, which was sunk through Head deposits and possibly into the underlying Atherfield Clay, was probably derived indirectly from water which issued from the Hythe Beds and infiltrated into the Head."

"Springs are common at the junction of the relatively impermeable Atherfield Clay and the overlying permeable Hythe Beds .

Geology of the Country Around Haslemere — Geological Survey

RECENT HISTORY

In the 1980's a strong spring flow arose in the middle of the Meadow and a steady stream of water overflowed from the pond at Pilewell Cottage. A limited land drainage system (shown A-B on the enclosed plan) was constructed by WBC in 1988/89, which was designed to intercept that spring and was extended to capture the overflow from the pond. This successfully eliminated the surface flooding from the pond (and continues to do so) and, for a period of time, successfully drained the strong spring flow in the centre of the Meadow. The spring then surfaced at a different location and subsequently the drain was extended to again intercept it. Groundwater has now emerged at a number of other locations across the Meadow.

To effectively drain the Meadow permanently would require an extensive and very closely spaced herringbone system of sub-surface drains. For this to be completely effective the top soil would need to be replaced with a free draining soil. Due to the limited depth of the outfall it would not be possible to drain to any depth and given the extent of widespread spring activity, there is no guarantee that any drainage system would be completely effective. It is worth noting that groundwater levels now reflect the succession of extremely inclement periods and are at levels of elevation previously unrecorded.

