

**Lendrum Place Community Consultation on Flood Prevention
held November 8, 2005 at St. Martin School**

Consultation Summary

Attendance: 65

Main presenter: Russell Barth, Senior Engineer & Flood Prevention Project Leader for
Ward 5, Drainage Services, City of Edmonton

Presentation

The consultation began with introductions and an overview of 2005 flood prevention programs and educational activities. Mr. Barth then reviewed drainage engineering findings for the community and presented recommended system improvements. These were:

- Build a new sanitary sewer pipe along 113A Street to 60 Avenue to relieve system pressure and increase capacity.
- Upgrade an existing sanitary sewer pipe between 115 and 114 Streets to eliminate a bottleneck and increase capacity.
- Upgrade an existing sanitary sewer pipe near 61 Avenue to eliminate a bottleneck and increase capacity.
- Build a dry pond on the school yard and recreation fields adjacent to Lendrum School and divert stormwater to the pond. The water would be held there until the underground system had the capacity to drain it away. There would be three connections to the stormwater system to enable quick drainage.
- Seal sanitary manhole covers to prevent rainwater from entering the sanitary system. (*already completed*)
- Subsidize the installation of backwater valves in all homes in low lying areas. (*already in place*)

The estimated cost of implementing all system improvements is \$2.28 million. The implementation plan calls for the sanitary sewer upgrades to be done in two to three years while constructing the dry pond is expected to be done in three to six years. Implementation timing will depend on stakeholder discussions, funding and the capacity to do the work.

Mr. Barth noted that a stormwater wetland pond proposed to be built on the University of Alberta farm west of Lendrum across 115 Street will also reduce the amount of stormwater flowing into Lendrum. This project is not included in the Lendrum list but is part of the overall recommended drainage improvement package.

Input from Residents

People at the meeting were in favour of the recommended improvements but there were suggestions for improving on the plans. These included:

- Place the University wetland on the lowest spot on their property near 115 Street.
- Consider building a berm rather than a ditch on the outside of the dry pond along 113A street.
- Place a perforated pipe around the dry pond to deal with the high water table.
- Confirm the high water table will not leave the dry pond permanently wet.
- Increase the level of maintenance until the improvements can be made.

Some residents in attendance expressed doubts about the adequacy of system maintenance. It was felt that there is not enough routine maintenance done. There was a request that more information be provided regarding maintenance policies and frequency. There was a commitment made to forward Drainage Operations' maintenance schedule to people in attendance. It was noted that Operations will come out to look at any existing or potential flood concern and take appropriate action.

There was a concern that plugging the manhole covers will worsen the pooling of water in street or lane depressions. Removing the plugs adds unwanted volume to the sanitary system and is not recommended, said Mr. Barth. It was suggested Drainage Operations be called to look at specific, isolated spots. They may be able to resolve the problem using other techniques.

Although the proposed service level is 1 in 100 years for the dry and wetland ponds, there was a concern that the ponds won't have enough stormwater capacity. The impact of Pleasantview, the new LRT station and new developments in Lendrum was also raised as concerns. Mr. Barth explained that Pleasantview sewers do not go through Lendrum, the LRT stormwater outlet will not connect to the Lendrum storm system and that – to be approved - new developments must have a plan in place that won't add pressure to the existing storm and sanitary systems. Overland flows from Pleasantview should be reduced by stormwater drainage improvements planned for that neighbourhood.

A number of questions focused on the proposed dry pond. These included questions on the slope of the sides, how the water drains away, what playing space if any will be lost, where will the excavated dirt go, and how long the playing fields will be unavailable because of construction and rehabilitation.

Mr. Barth explained many of these details will be finalized during the detailed design phase. Further involvement and final consent of many different stakeholders will be needed before the dry pond can proceed. Every effort will be made to return the fields and parkland to original or better than original status. Sod will be used so playing fields can be brought back into operation as quickly as possible.

It was noted that the backwater valve subsidy for Lendrum homeowners who did not experience sanitary flooding will likely continue in 2006. This will depend on whether there are dollars remaining in the program after the flood season ends in September.

Next Steps

Session participants wanted to see the projects done as quickly as possible. Mr. Barth emphasized that moving ahead with the recommendations and implementation plan is contingent on receiving City Council's approval of a funding package. This package will include recommended improvements for all 43 at risk neighbourhoods and is scheduled to be presented in April, 2006. In the meantime, design work is continuing. A portion of the funding for the package may come from a provincial infrastructure grant.

Consultation with homeowners on individual projects that impact their immediate streets and back lanes will take place during the design phase of each individual project.

Residents will be kept informed of Lendrum flood improvement projects by information bulletin and through updates on Drainage Services' website at www.edmonton.ca/floodprevention. Additional comments or questions may be forwarded to Mr. Barth at 496-5552 or russell.barth@edmonton.ca