

Harewood Drive Landslip Petition Report

Report of Royton District Executive petition meeting

Thursday 25th September 2016

1 Petition

- 1.1 A petition was received regarding the River Irk banking on the Thorp Farm Estate on 9th August 2016.
- 1.2 Petition to Oldham Council to clean up and secure the River Irk banking on the Thorp Farm estate for the benefit of all residents
- 1.3 This issue has previously been raised with Oldham Council which the Council's partner Unity, have fully investigated.

2 Background

- 2.1 The land where the land slip has taken place is to the west of the River Irk and cuts across an area of unregistered land and land which the residents own. The Council own the land and footpath to the east of the River Irk
- 2.2 The landslip was inspected by Antony Bhunu, Flood Management Lead Officer, who discussed the site with the lead petitioner on 29th March and below are Antony's findings which were shared with the lead petitioner on 1st April 2016.
 - The land slip is on an area of unregistered land between the main river and the rear of properties on Harewood Road.
 - Environment Agency (EA) are responsible for the main river.
 - Oldham Council do not own the unregistered land.
 - Residents have the right to protect their property from flooding, and their land from erosion.

Various types of methods which could be used to protect their land were discussed with residents, who would need approval from EA for any works.

Any of these systems should arrest the land slip at least in the short to medium term. Antony also shared with the Lead Petitioner a document which explains responsibilities if your land is near a watercourse.

3 Petition meeting

3.1 As required by Oldham Council's constitution, the District Executive met on Thursday 25th August with an officer from Legal Services to consider the petition and drew the following conclusions:

- The unregistered land is not owned by the Council or its responsibility
- Residents should seek independent legal advice regarding insurance claims.
- Residents should look at the terms of their lease to establish if the freeholder has any obligations to secure the land

3 Recommendations

4.1 That a letter of reply be written to the lead petitioner outlining above conclusions.