

Notes on meeting with Chris of Paul Basham

On Wednesday 4th Sept 2024

1. General location of drainage schemes

Chris commented as follows:

- a. In the road – possible but likely to be more expensive as needs to be engineered to cope with heavy lorries
- b. In the verge – greatest possibility. 2 basic structures – dish shaped with gravel channel in the middle and grass sides or a “garden” verge (with plants in it). However, in both cases, better if no pedestrians walk on it and not suitable for car parking. A system can be designed to support the weight of car but this would be more expensive.
- c. Piped into gardens – not recommended as homeowner likely to object and access issues (plus could be cut off at any time).

2. General design vs bespoke

Chris said it would be far more cost effective to have a standard soakaway design rather than a bespoke design for each verge section. Contractors (or landscape gardeners) would then be asked to dig until they hit roots or services and then stop and fill in per standard design.

3. Effectiveness

Chris will use general filtration rates for his Stage 2 report to calculate effectiveness. He recommends doing a couple of test holes at Stage 3 to test the actual filtration rates.

4. Stage 2 report

This will be completed by end Sep. The 3 generic designs will be:

- a. In verge dish shaped
- b. In verge garden design
- c. In road

He will also discuss how a and b could be engineered to support parking.

5. Way forward

Most promising areas are the verges in front of Meadows and Downlands. Assuming they give permission, these may serve as test areas for the concept ie how effective at dispersing water, how costly to construct/maintain and whether practical (pedestrians/parking). Chris will confirm the cost for Stage 3 for these sections.