

London Borough of Harrow

Environment and Economy Sub-Committee

KEYWORDS

- "Drain"** Defined under statute (Public Health Act 1875) as a conduit which drains a 'single curtilage'. This includes both foul and surface water.
- "Sewer"** Defined under statute as a conduit which is not a drain i.e. serves more than one curtilage.
- "Public Sewer"** A sewer may have been adopted by the Sewerage Authority or else vested in that authority by virtue of Public Health Act 1936. This Act declared that all sewers commissioned prior to the enactment (October 1st 1937) were to become designated Public Sewers (known as S.24 sewers). Thames Water Utilities Ltd. are the sewerage authority for this region.
- "Watercourse"** 'Includes all rivers and streams and all ditches, drains, cuts, culverts, dikes, sluices, sewers (other than Public Sewers within the meaning of the Water Industry Act 1991) and passages, through which water flows.'
- Extract Land Drainage Act 1991 S.72.
- For the purposes of this report the term watercourse is restricted to the historic system of channels which have formed naturally or constructed to drain land. It includes open channels that have subsequently been culverted.
- "Ordinary Watercourse"** All watercourses which are not designated as Main River by MAFF are identified as Ordinary Watercourses. The majority of watercourses within the borough come within this category.
- "Riparian Owner"** 'You are a riparian if your property or land is on or near a watercourse.'
- 'If Land Registry plans do not show ownership of a watercourse it is presumed to be owned up to the centre line by each riparian owner.'
- Extracts from "Riverside Owners Guide" published by the Environment Agency outlining the Common Law rights and responsibilities of riparian owners.
- "Local Land Drainage Authority"** Authority who implements powers and responsibilities as outlined in Land Drainage Act 1991 for Ordinary Watercourses. Responsibilities are, essentially, to ensure that "the proper flow of water" is not impeded; Permissive Powers are available for the LLDA to undertake

flood relief or maintenance works. London Borough of Harrow Act as Local Land Drainage Authority.

"Primary Land Drainage Authority"

The Environment Agency is the Primary Land Drainage Authority with full responsibilities for Main Rivers. All Permissive Powers exercised by a Local Land Drainage Authority are subject to supervision by the Environment Agency.