



# Ramsey Town Commissioners

## Drainage Information Sheet

This information sheet is provided to inform new property owners or occupiers of the arrangements relating to mains drainage.

The sheet provides general guidance only and in the event of any failure or blockage appropriate professional advice must be sought.

### **What causes drainage problems?**

Drains stop working for any number of reasons, however the most common causes which the Commissioners have found are:

- Pipework cracked or damaged through general wear and tear
- Tree-root penetration of the pipework
- Damage to pipework caused by vehicle pressure (i.e. heavy vehicle parked above weak point for prolonged period)
- Collapse of pipe (typically in pitch-fibre pipework installed during the 1960's)
- Sagging of the pipe line caused by progressive subsidence of the soil around it
- Blockage caused by materials put down a drain, toilet or sewer.

An important factor to reduce the number of blockages that occur in any system is to ensure that care is taken over what items are pushed, poured or flushed into a drain or sewer. The following are examples of items that should never be put down a toilet or drain, however it is not an exhaustive list:-

***Cement slurry, rubble, concrete, stones, engine oil, chemicals, fats, food, newspapers, magazines, paper of any type other than toilet paper, nappies, sanitary products and other bulky items.***

**Drains and sewers are not intended to deal with any material other than water and toilet wastes, the introduction of any other materials can result in blockages either to the private drain or the mains sewer.**

## **Who is responsible for drains and sewers?**

A drain is a pipe that carries the waste water (foul or surface water) from just one property. If a blockage or defect occurs in a drain this is the responsibility of the property owner up to the point where the pipe either connects to another pipe from another property, or another pipe connects to it. At this point the drain normally becomes a sewer, however if the joint drain has not been adopted it may remain the responsibility of property owners whose property is jointly served by it up to the point where it joins the mains sewer. Blockages which occur in sewers will be dealt with by the Commissioners however in certain circumstances prosecution can be taken against person responsible for putting materials down drains which cause blockage.

Please note that the Ramsey Town Commissioners do not undertake works to private drains. Property owners must engage a private firm to do work, should it prove beyond their own capabilities.

### **The Main Sewer.**

This is generally the responsibility of the sewerage authority or its agent which within Ramsey is the Ramsey Town Commissioners. Connections or alternations to mains drains may not be made without prior approval. Should you encounter any problems with the main public sewer or drains, then in the first instance you should contact the Technical Department at Ramsey Town Hall.

### **Highways Gulleys.**

These are designed to take the surface water from roads and backstreets. They are not designed to take foul water. Any problems relating to these drains i.e. that they are blocked, overflowing or giving off odours, should be reported to the Department of Transport or to the Technical Department at Ramsey Town Hall.

### **Properties connected to a Cesspit, Septic Tank, or a Private Sewage Treatment Plant.**

These are private drainage systems and as such the responsibilities for such systems fall entirely on the householder(s), and are not the responsibility of either the Department of Transport or the Commissioners. The maintenance of these systems and the emptying of them are entirely down to the householder(s). However it may be the case that one such system serves more than one property. Where this is the case, each householder is responsible for his or her own drains until the point where it connects into a common part of the system. Any works or maintenance required to these common parts are the joint responsibility of all householders served by the system.