

**BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Environment Committee**  
**Thursday 22 February 2024**  
**Decision Report**

**Refurbishment of Bolam Water System and Access to Lanes**

**Recommendations**

**1.The Committee RESOLVE to agree: to the installation of a new water system on this site following a major water leak on a system that is in effect over 50 years old. To replace this system would come at an indicative cost £35,000.**

**This would also need to be carried out before any work was undertaken on the lanes on the same site which has been agreed previously.**

**2.Committee note that the Secretary of the Association has made a slight alteration to the arrangement agreed by committee for access. They have allowed a limited window of access, and this arrangement is working well and recommend that this should be continued.**

Ward

Cowpen

Risk Management

There is no budget for this project and would have to be met from reserves if agreed.

Objective

To further promote the environmental, social, and economic wellbeing of the town and its community. It will also help to manage the water system within water authority regulations and to eliminate any illegal connections.

Report

A water leak was reported on this site on Tuesday 30 January 2024 the investigation work was carried out on day rates at an indicative cost

£5,000. The next water bill for the meter that feeds the site will be in the region of £1,000 as a result of the leakage. This leak was exacerbated by a blockage in the main drain that the site field drain connects into. It took 4 days to trace the leak and when found, it was discovered that an illegal connection had been made some years ago by a tenant who no longer has a plot. When the repair work was being undertaken it revealed the condition of the existing water pipe and highlighted that further leaks could happen at any time in the future on the existing system. Officers also believe there are other illegal connections across the site and if the Council went ahead with the lane refurbishment at a substantial cost and other leaks were then discovered it could lead to the lanes reverting back to their former state and need repairing again.

The association have been allowing access to the site on 3 specific days Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday between 10 am and 12 noon. These times and days also coincide with the days which the Association shop is open for allotment holders to purchase gardening products and feed for livestock. This allows them to monitor the vehicles which are entering onto the site and tenants are aware that they must be off site by that time.

**D Clough**  
**General Services Officer**

**14 February 2024**