

Hi Everybody.

On Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June I attended the Ward Forum meeting held in Todmorden Town Hall where discussions were held relating to many issues that are happening in Todmorden.

My interest was the part relating to the gullies where Stephen Lee outlined what would and could be happening over the next few years.

I put my hand up to be able to speak on this subject but was not able to ask questions about the current system relating to gully cleansing so I have written a short report with my thoughts on the matter.

I worked for the Council for over 25 years and was involved in the reporting of blocked gullies etc from one department to another. It is surprising that some of the gullies that had problems back when I worked for the Council still have problems now and I have been retired for over 15 years so there seems to be little progress in addressing the issue most complained about in our town especially during flooding events.

I was a volunteer flood warden for 15 years (the Lead Flood Warden) and coupled with my time working for the Council dealt with over 40 flooding incidents which is more than enough for anybody so my time on the ground seeing what happened when it was happening was crucial to the comment I have made in the short report.

I got fed up with reporting defective gullies via the website because all that seemed to happen to the request was that they disappeared as nothing was done to carry out repairs etc as requested.

I would estimate that there are 70% +/- 10% of the street gullies in need of some sort of intervention which is a lot to make them able to do the job that they were intended to do.

I feel that unless there is a change in the strategy of gully cleansing things will get worse not better so I feel it is imperative that more money is found to allow a proper service to be rolled out and hopefully get the gully problem sorted out once and for all.

Yours faithfully

Keith Crabtree