



PRESS RELEASE

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NEWBURY TOWN COUNCIL – UPDATE ON VICTORIA PARK, NEWBURY

It has been some while since investigations into subsidence in Victoria Park started, and Newbury Town Council recognises that resolution is keenly awaited.

The Town Council is in possession of a final draft report from an eminent hydro-geological consulting firm which sets out likely causes of subsidence from a hydro-geological point of view. The draft report has been discussed with the Town Council's legal advisors, including a barrister who has hydro-geological expertise, and as a result, the Council has been firmly advised not to publish the draft report as it stands. The Council has also been advised to seek further expert opinion, firstly from a civil engineer as to what works are required to correct any damage, and secondly from a quantity surveyor to establish the exact costs of those works.

The Town Council was further informed that the full extent of any damage was not necessarily immediately obvious and was advised to wait for a reasonable period of time until the park stabilised. Now that the park does appear to have stabilised, the Council is in the process of commissioning the requisite further professional reports.

Cllr Julian Swift-Hook (Leader of Council) said, "The Town Council is continuing to do all it can to ensure the best outcome, and we are advised that the premature publication of reports could seriously undermine this objective. We are all frustrated by the time this is taking, but we are moving as fast as we sensibly can on this long and complex task, and would ask everyone to please bear with us. As we have always said, our aim is the best outcome for Victoria Park and for the taxpayers of Newbury, so we are focusing on doing this right rather than quickly."

END

Cllr Julian Swift-Hook – Leader of the Council (julian@swift-hook.co.uk 07799 888444)