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NWN Section I

'It won't happen again in 2,500 years', says met.

Council spares no cash for flood village

A FLOOD report on the disaster which hit Aldermaston village in July has been produced by Newbury District Council, but it plans to spend no cash to avoid a repeat of the problem.

On Tuesday, members of the council's environmental services committee discussed the report, in which the meteorological office forecast that the flash flood is unlikely to be repeated in the next 2,500 years.

Aldermaston was under two feet of water when the rains came down on July 6 and emergency services worked solidly to stem the flood, but many residents had to be evacuated from the village because their homes were waterlogged.

The report states that water ran off roofs at AWE -

over 75 acres of them - and swelled the small ponds used to check rainwater. The deluge ran into a lake at Aldermaston Court, and demolished a brick wall. A tidal wave then ran down The Street, flooding into homes.

The report recommends that some work should be carried out to take care of possible future floods, but all of the improvements are on private land.

Blue Circle are to be asked to build a drainage channel at Aldermaston Court to ensure all flood water from upstream goes straight into the existing culvert under Church Road.

Blue Circle are also required to remove a new timber fence on their northern boundary, as this contravenes planning regula-

tions. It is to be replaced with a brick wall incorporating a cill designed to retain flows resulting from storms.

A weir to the east of The Street should be removed or modified, and a new inlet to the culvert is to be built.

The open ditch system between Aldermaston and the River Kennet needs regrading. The council wants people who own the land through which the stream flows to keep the ditches maintained properly so that water can drain away quickly in the case of flood.

The committee considered voting £10,500 to replace the culvert north-east of the weir, but instead adopted a policy of co-operating with landowners to ensure the waterways were properly maintained in future.