Exercise: *Problem Tree Analysis*
Problem identification and analysis

- Problems can be overpowering, so it is important to focus on a limited number of problem areas which can be tackled, either in the short term or within a medium term (depending on the action).

- Problem (or opportunity) analysis can be thought of as the foundation of the planning process. Serious thinking at this stage allows potentially effective lines of action to be opened up.

- Be ware!! It is not easy at this stage to keep potential solutions separate from the problem definition - but it is essential.
Problem tree analysis

- What is the core problem?
- What causes this?
- What effects stem from it?

One technique is to write problems down on cards and then to arrange them in logical order.
Example of a problem tree related to water supply

Figure 24 Problem Tree: Water Network Problem
Problem Clarification (1)

The following questions are designed to help you think through your problem:

1. What is the problem? (write a rough description and underline key words and phrases)

2. Why is it a problem? What would it look like if it was solved?

3. Whose problem is it? Who owns it?
   - Who would be interested in a solution? - name individuals/organizations who might be willing to put some effort into finding a solution
Problem Clarification (2)

4. Where is the problem located? -The whole target area/part of the area or part of the surrounding district?

5. When is it a problem? Special time? Seasonal?

6. How long has it been a problem? Weeks? Months? Years?

7. Are you dealing with the real problem? It may be a symptom of a bigger problem or a solution to a problem. If it is either, go back to no1 and redefine the problem

8. What would happen if nothing was done about the problem?
Problem Analysis: Conclusions

- Good problem analysis lays the foundations for effective planning
- It is worth spending the time to do a problem tree analysis well as it leads to creative and innovative actions
- Problem or opportunity analysis is not easy to do well, it requires changes in the way of thinking
- Don't shoot from the hip! Solutions will be developed later