

Thank you Chair.

Again we are forced into the position as residents to take the lead in raising concerns over another infrastructure debacle. This time we have received robust support from The News and the Hayling Islander in bringing this latest issue to the fore.

Southern Water have a very poor record of service to the Hayling Island community over many years. The more recent issues include:

- Major, repetitive and illegal flooding of the Stoke community in 2010 due to multiple failures of the pumping station. Repeated in 2014.
- In 2016/2017 many weeks of road closures were required to repair the pumping station in Mengeham, this caused unauthorised periods of sewage discharge into the water table.
- And now a major and complete failure of this same Stoke pumping station. The station is designed to pump the wastewater from the Island network (comprising 13 other pumping stations) to the Treatment Works at Budds Farm.

This total failure resulted in an illegal and pressurised discharge of raw sewage from blown manholes in the local network, flooding land and flowing via ditches bordering the local houses and a river bed into Langstone Harbour. This discharge lasted between 24 and 36 hours, and even a massive convoy of 22 tankers dispatched over the Island was unable to staunch the flow. It does not take much imagination to understand the residents' fears once again watching an uncontrolled torrent of sewage flowing round their properties.

Following previous concerns from the Hayling Island Infrastructure Advisory Committee, Southern Water presented the network status to the Committee a year ago on the 25<sup>th</sup> of October 2017.

At this meeting, Southern Water said:

- "Southern Water is not concerned over the capacity of the wastewater system serving the Island, and the pipe to Budds Farm has plenty of capacity."  
We question the accuracy of this statement.
- "Southern Water produce infrastructure for the near term and there would not be a need for more pumping stations in all likelihood."  
This statement is clearly not true.
- "Southern Water stated that only official discharge goes into the surface water such as rivers."  
Again clearly not true.

- “In the worst case scenario, a tanker would be sent out within 30 minutes.”

This did not happen!

We are informed that an investigation is underway on this latest incident’s causes, actions and clean up. We need to know who is undertaking this investigation and when the conclusions will be available for review.

At a meeting hosted by Save Our Island last month between the residents, HBC and Southern Water, we asked Southern Water to come forward with a re-engineered wastewater network capable of controlling overload/failure situations and not require or facilitate any illegal discharges into the Stoke community or Langstone Harbour and that it complies with current regulations. We also agreed to table the issues in the form of an EIR request to Southern Water covering the problems, actions, backup capabilities and future plans.

I have that paper in my hand and in it Southern Water have chosen not to answer any of the key issues claiming sub judice and rights to secrecy, although we now know that one of the pumps is being replaced as a matter of urgency. We will continue under the auspices of the Advisory Committee to work constructively with Southern Water to achieve the objectives.

Without this commitment from Southern Water, we find it very hard to see how HBC can validate Southern Water as a fit-for-purpose service provider as part of the Infrastructure section of the Local Plan 2036.

Finally, we would encourage Southern Water to adopt a more conciliatory tone in accepting their prior deficiencies and publicly acknowledge that their primary clients are the residents, not the Environment Agency or OFWAT. We should all require Southern Water to implement a redesign which will no longer disrupt the quality of life for the community whose only crime was to buy a house in Stoke village.

Thank you.

Dave Parham  
Save Our Island