

Rebecca Harvey Deputation for Ref: APP/20/00990

Dear Councillors,

This isn't an either or decision. Portsmouth Water and Southern Water have many options and numerous sites available to them, that can All be utilised, either singularly or simultaneously in ensuring that the projected water shortages across the South East are met. The decision is not 'we need this reservoir as we have no alternative', because there are opportunities available. So I ask you today- please listen and think carefully about your decision- as there has never been a more prevalent time to do the right thing.

The challenge of tackling climate change is THE global problem that effects everyone of us right now, and there's no escaping it, nor is there a safe place on the earth where you can ride it out. We all have to do work together to halt it.

From individuals to governments, G7 to Biden, Climate Change is top of their agenda, as the threat becomes real and action is deemed absolutely necessary. The Arctic ice is already melting, the earth's temperature is hotting up, sea levels are rising, this isn't poppycock anymore ...

And You think there's nothing you can do to help.

Well there is... today

We can help protect mature woodlands. Why? Well it is worth noting that when it comes to carbon capture "bigger really is best" when it comes to trees. A mature tree massively out performs that of a newly planted sapling. The fight to stop the world's rising temperature is happening now and we do not have 30 years for those sapling trees to reach maturity.

Every business is now addressing this issue, re-evaluating how they can reach zero carbon emissions swiftly, even the Queen is addressing the issue with her 'Queen's Green Canopy' project, which just began in May21 to protect and conserve ancient British woodland.

The current trend of offsetting the destruction of mature forests with the planting of new trees just isn't working. These compensation packages can never adequately replace ancient ecosystems that sustain unique biodiversity, not in our lifetimes anyway.

You may think that Havant Thicket is just a small inconsequential pocket of local woodland and it doesn't matter that much if it didn't exist anymore - but this is happening all over the UK . According to the Woodland Trust, 1,400 small woods are fighting for their survival. From HS2 to Skernimgham Woods, to our Havant Thicket, they are all under threat. England's green and pleasant land will soon be very grey and not so pleasant.

We know that the rainforests in the other hemisphere are essential to climate control and they are seriously under threat from deforestation, but whilst we focus on those,

our own precious British rainforests, 'the ancient woodland' of this land is being ripped up and monetised under our noses.

Havant Thicket is an ecosystem of very great interest, (Woodland Trust, Chris Packham, throughout the Ecological Community) which includes a vast array of established fauna and flora, including protected and endangered species. It is well understood that these fragile systems take aeons to be created and cannot be replicated somewhere else or simply moved on.

So I am kindly asking you that you insist that Portsmouth Water and Southern Water like The Queen, take responsibility in preserving the ancient woodland on their site.

The loss of any ancient woodland is a human tragedy.

Secondly Leigh Park, is already a deprived area and shouldn't bear the brunt of this. The reservoir will push its residents further into poverty by forcing them to live in a flood zone with escalating insurance costs and plummeting house prices. Please press PW to do a fresh consultation with local residents, including all the changes that have occurred recently, the size of the embankment, the closeness to housing, and the fact that waterspouts, swimming and fishing will not be allowed although initially suggested. On talking to local residents it is unbelievable how many of them do not even know that this is happening.

With this current proposal Portsmouth Water are taking the easiest option, putting profit above ecology and human welfare, and being out of step with the global efforts to fight climate change with woodland conservation. Let me reiterate - Ancient woodland, with its complex ecosystems, once gone, is truly gone and cannot be replaced! Once chopped down, stored carbon is released, and those wide branches no longer filter our air for us. Please think deeply about your decision. Stop The Chop