

Deputation Submitted by Mrs Young

APP/20/00990

I strongly object to the proposed reservoir at Havant Thicket. This will destroy a unique and precious ecosystem and thousands of mature trees, whose carbon capture can never be replaced by planting young saplings. An oak tree, for example, takes 50 years to mature enough to produce acorns. These thousands of trees help protect us from flooding unlike saplings which don't. Killing and all this woodland, flora and fauna, thousands of animals and invertebrates, which includes endangered Bechstein's bats and 14 other species, endangered Nightjars, Hazel dormice, Adders to name just a few is inexcusable! I imagine the beautiful deer will be culled too. They will be displaced with nowhere to go, so sadly are likely to be culled to prevent them running out onto roads nearby. Without trees people and the planet won't survive. This is well documented too. Ancient woodlands now only cover 2.4% of the UK! Our UK woodlands are being destroyed constantly for numerous housing developments already. Portsmouth Water have 70 sites to choose from but this is the cheapest and more lucrative as they own the land! The 9 year build will cause noise pollution, air pollution and huge traffic issues too. The removal of the trees will have a detrimental impact on air quality for everyone in the vicinity. It's well known that all these trees actually help protect us from flooding. Removing them increases the flood risk. A May 2014 Woodland Trust article 'Stemming the Flow' explains this well. God forbid if it ever fully breached all of Havant down to Langstone would be flooded. Thousands could die from the deluge that would engulf homes, schools and a dementia care home all a very short distance from the site! The full breach scenario is detailed in the plans. The dam will tower above the lower lying houses in Winterslow Drive, very near me. At 20 metres tall it will tower above the rooftops! It's only 160 metres from the of the nearest home too. We will be in a flood risk zone permanently, with insurance rises likely. Whaley Bridge, 2 years ago was almost a disaster, so these things do happen occasionally. They only had 1500 people to evacuate who lived about a mile away, not a huge population such as ours. A thousand body bags were delivered to the town as they estimated 1000 people would drown! They lived downstream about a mile away though, unlike thousands of people round here in perilously close proximity to it! This was originally promoted in 2008 as an amazing place where fishing, boating and other water activities would happen. Unfortunately, the PR campaign was so good, people still believe this and many want to swim in it! It will be so dangerous if they do. Portsmouth Water have not made it clear that that all the watersports advertised back then won't be happening. People still remember this all as it was so well publicised! I have had to correct several people about how this is not the case! I predict that there will be a number of drownings of young people keen to jump off of the viewing platform in Summer months when the water will be like a magnet to them. They will stand no chance in the freezing 18 metre deep water, unless there was a motorboat, throw lines etc on site to rescue them! Throw lines are not available at all reservoirs, which is such a basic thing! Every year there are about 7 accidental drownings in reservoirs in the UK. Bored youths, with nowhere to go, will be drawn to it with friends This reservoir will be a death trap! We are in a very

deprived area, and kids and teens with social problems will gather here and egg each other on to jump in. It is usually young people and teens who die from misadventure, as I have researched it. I fear young people become collateral damage if this reservoir is installed! In a 12 month trial in 2019 throw lines were placed at 20 locations around 8 reservoirs in Greater Manchester and each one was dedicated to people who had drowned in reservoirs! I read this from a reliable source: 'Water Power and Dam Construction'. The reservoir needs to be somewhere else. Portsmouth Water have 70 potential sites as detailed in a map they have produced. Some of them are in no doubt suitable, or they wouldn't have been considered otherwise. It should be sited nearer to where it's needed, the 160,000 Southern Water customers in Southampton and Winchester who will be benefitting from it, as Southern Water are paying for the build. Eventually, Southern Water will apply for planning permission for a direct 40km pipeline from the reservoir to it's Otterbourne Waterworks, and a high level pumping station to facilitate this, in a completely separate application, to the current one. This isn't public knowledge yet though. Ofwat have said in the agreement made this year 'It is important to protect Portsmouth Water's customers from the cost of a reservoir that they do not need' This makes it clear that it isn't required here. Please think about all I have said vote with your conscience about this. It's not a done deal yet!