

Challenge Session with Portsmouth Water Company on the future Use of Havant Thicket Reservoir – 5 July 2023

	Question	Answer
1	When did Southern Water first raise with Portsmouth Water the potential for the Havant Thicket Reservoir to have recycled water pumped into it as part of the 'water mix'?	
2	I was for some time the HBC representative on the Havant Thicket Reservoir Stakeholder's Committee, can I ask why at no time during these meetings was the possibility of water recycling discussed or even mentioned as a possibility. It was also not a part of the planning application for the reservoir?	
3	At the above meetings, much was made of non motorised water sports being allowed to take place on the reservoir. Residents were told this would in part make up for the inconvenience that the building works would cause. This is now not shown as possibility. Will there be access for water sports and leisure activities on the reservoir for local residents or not?	
4	Why the ancient woodland was felled? Why couldn't it have been kept, which could have meant a spit of land sticking out in the reservoir was retained, containing the ancient woodland?	

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5	How has that loss of unique habitat been mitigated? New tree planting is not mitigation	
6	<p>Previously the residents were promised that non-motorised watercraft and other leisure activities were going to be allowed (on Havant Thicket Reservoir), but why are they now told instead that they were not allowed these leisure activities in the future?</p> <p>Please could Southern Water (and Portsmouth Water) explain why the promised water-based amenities are no longer part of the Havant Thicket proposal? We were originally assured the reservoir would provide a variety of water sports and other activities. Why is this no longer the case?</p>	<p>The level of recreation at the reservoir has been agreed with our Havant Thicket Stakeholder forum (which is made up of local community groups, councillors, schools and environmental organisations) after many years of discussions, surveys with local communities and learning from other reservoir sites and public parks. It is important to note that, while different activities were put forward as suggestions, we have never promised or committed to providing specific watersports.</p> <p>We have carefully considered a range of potential leisure activities at the reservoir site, including sailing and canoeing. As part of this process, we asked Planning Solutions Ltd, whose team are experts in developing and managing water-based visitor attractions, to review the visitor experience offer at the reservoir.</p> <p>All three scenarios scoped by Planning Solutions (Low, Medium and High activity levels) were tested extensively with our Havant Thicket Reservoir stakeholder forum. The overwhelming feedback we've received, both from written surveys and discussions with the local community, has been not to offer large-scale public water sports, including canoeing, at the reservoir. The forum members selected The 'Medium' level plan, with the proviso of providing scope for future expansion. This was because it would feel like a much busier place if</p>

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		<p>there was a more intense water sport offer, attract more people and put greater strain on the environment, facilities and local communities.</p> <p>Currently a draft Recreation Strategy for the reservoir has been circulated to the stakeholder forum members. Their input will help to finalise the exact recreational provision we will offer at the reservoir when it is full and operational in 2029. This will include footpaths for walking, as well as routes for cycling and horse riding, facilities for bird watching, picnic and play areas and car parking.</p> <p>There will also be a visitor centre with a café, toilets and space for community and education activities.</p>
7	What percentage of Portsmouth Water customers have water meters? How does this compare with one year ago?	
8	What percentage of Portsmouth Water customers are on the Helping Hand Tariff? How does this compare with one year ago?	
9	What percentage of Portsmouth Water customers are on a payment break? How does this compare with one year ago?	
10	The Portsmouth Water web site references the Portsmouth Water 2025-2030 business plan several times. The only document I can find is the Interactive Vision Brochure. When can we see the due to be published Summer 2023?	
11	Portsmouth Water have an excellent local reputation. What are they doing to prevent	

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	this being damaged by association with Southern Water?	
12	At present water from Bedhampton Springs is contaminated with nutrients which flow into the harbour. What is Portsmouth Water doing to combat this, will the reservoir have an impact and how would this change if Southern Water build the water recycling plant?	
13	How closely is Portsmouth Water's future coupled to that of Southern Water? If Portsmouth Water do not work with Southern Water on the reservoir, what would the future look like for Portsmouth Water? If Southern Water are refused permission to build an effluent processing facility in Havant how will this affect Portsmouth Water?	
14	Does Portsmouth Water have any concerns about Southern Water drilling boreholes in Bedhampton to investigate the areas where the water processing plant may go? Is there a risk that drilling will contaminate the aquifers?	
15	"We need to work with customers to help them reduce their water use. If we don't, they may become less clear on the link between their water and the environment it comes from and not support our efforts to	

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	reduce leaks and save resources.” I applaud this ambition but how are you doing this?	
16	I understand that extracting from the lower reaches of a river (aka Last Weir Extraction) is much less damaging to the environment than the current practice of extracting from the upper reaches of a river. I also understand that Portsmouth Water is planning to look doing this. Can you confirm this and provide an update and timeline please. IS there any chance of this work being done in time to make effluent recycling unnecessary?	
17	What does Portsmouth Water feel about the speed with which Southern Water is working to impose effluent recycling on Havant?	
18	Commendably, Portsmouth Water acknowledge the need to make water affordable for all and also the importance of making everyone appreciate that it is a priceless asset. Could you explain how Portsmouth Water will achieve both these aims?	