

Item 6 – Public Question Received under Standing Order 27.5

	Question From	Question to	Question
1	Mrs Buckley	Councillor Lloyd	<p>On 31st January 2023 in a response to my question asking if Portsmouth Water customers in Havant would receive the recycled water I received and shared with you the following reply from Bob Taylor, Chief Executive Portsmouth Water :</p> <p>'If the recycling project is approved the mixed water will be supplied to two outlets. One of these used on a more routine basis, sends water to use at Farlington water treatment works for further treatment and to supply our Portsmouth Water customers. The other supply will in times drought deliver a supply to Southern Waters Otterbourne Treatment Works.</p> <p>At the Overview and Scrutiny presentation on 5th July 2023 when questioned about Havant residents receiving this recycled water 5 per cent of the time was mentioned by Bob Taylor. 5 percent equates to using the reservoir for Portsmouth Water's customers including Havant for approximately 18 days in a year.</p> <p>At the same meeting Portsmouth Water's Slide 18 indicated 'our customers will only receive some recycled water mixed with spring water in draught or emergency scenarios' and that Portsmouth Water customers will almost always receive water from Bedhampton Springs.</p> <p>These three descriptions are very different. Are you concerned that conflicting responses are being given by Portsmouth Water's Chief Executive?</p>
<p>Reply: The Council understands the concerns residents have with the water recycling proposals and agrees that any inconsistencies in information provided, should be clarified. The water recycling scheme is not the Council's proposal, nor will the Council be the</p>			

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			<p>decision maker. Since it is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project it will ultimately fall to the Secretary of State to make the final decision on the scheme. Because the scheme is being promoted by a third party, the Council is not best placed to provide detailed responses to technical questions and feels specific points should be directed to either Portsmouth Water or Southern Water.</p> <p>The Council will of course continue to engage with and to question Southern Water and Portsmouth Water on the proposal and will be a strong advocate for Havant and it's residents when the Development Consent Order is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate. The Council will also work with the water companies on their engagement strategy, to urge them to meaningfully and extensively inform and consult with local communities, on the proposal.</p> <p>The Council absolutely expects both Portsmouth Water and Southern Water to be absolutely clear, transparent and consistent with the information they provide to residents and the Council, as well as the information they will eventually provide to the Planning Inspectorate for the Development Consent Order application.</p>
2	Mrs Buckley	Councillor Lloyd	<p>The water company information keeps changing in relation to the proposed effluent recycling. Initially Southern Water said that they would need to treat and pump 5 MI/d of recycled effluent up to the reservoir every day of the year. That was 2 Olympic sized swimming pools, then it increased to 3, now in the latest information presented by Portsmouth Water they say that 8 Olympic sized pools of water (20MI/d) of effluent will be treated and pumped to the reservoir, even though the recycled water is only needed as a drought resource.</p> <p>Just imagine all the energy that is required every day to treat and pump the recycled effluent, the carbon footprint will be enormous.</p> <p>Would you agree with me that this is not sustainable solution and that we must press Southern Water to undertake a more robust review of the alternatives, in conjunction with the regulators, to identify more sustainable and better value solutions to meet and identify short and medium term water shortfall in a drought?</p>

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<p>Reply:</p> <p>The Water companies have set out and have consulted on their review of alternatives through their Water Resources Management Plans. The Council responded to that consultation, questioning whether it is the best option. The Council will continue to engage robustly throughout the Development Consent Order process and ensure we continue to be a strong advocate for the interests of the Borough.</p>			
3	Mrs Buckley	Councillor Lloyd	Having listened to the water companies would you and other key councillors be prepared to meet with representatives of local groups who are concerned about effluent recycling to give them the opportunity to voice their concerns?
<p>Reply:</p> <p>The concerns of local residents are well understood, and the Council has already hosted a well-attended public meeting where the Council and the water companies, clearly heard the concerns that residents have. The Council has made clear to the water companies that there is significant local concern over the scheme in its communications with both Portsmouth Water and Southern Water.</p> <p>I would be happy to meet with representatives of local groups who are concerned about wastewater recycling, so they have the opportunity to voice their concerns directly with me.</p> <p>I must however, stress again, to any and all residents' groups and members, that it is not the Council who will be deciding whether the principle or the details of the proposal are acceptable. This proposal will be considered and determined by the Secretary of State under a Development Consent Order. As I've already stated, the Council will continue to engage robustly throughout the Development Consent Order process and ensure we continue to be a strong advocate for the interests of the Borough.</p> <p>I will ensure a link to the project FAQs is added to the Council website, where residents can find out more about how they can feed in their view to the decision-making process.</p>			

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