

Report/QQ for Area Flood Meeting April 2024

2 meetings of the Fairford Water and Sewage Issues Joint Working Group have taken place, in January and March. Many thanks to Cllr Lisa Spivey for chairing and all others for their attendance and contributions.

- Main issues: Sewage flooding, 'dry storm discharges', river flooding and catchment management downstream
- Both tankering (for the properties in Lakeside) and river pollution have continued throughout most of the period since the last Area Flood Meeting (1612h of continuous discharge ended on 14 April).
- Some new info provided re further infiltration surveys
- TW is undertaking new catchment and sewer surveys
- Still a lack of clarity about the sewer connection from the Fairford Lakes holiday development
- Some info provided re new developments potentially taken into account, but more clarity required – have raised queries with TW re their list of developments taken into account
- Presentation given by TW re upgrading of the Fairford STW – now aiming for completion by April or June 2027. Query re what pot this is to be funded from since WINEP supposed to be complete by end of March 2025.

Outstanding info requested from TW

- Redacted copy of the TW presentation given on 15th January
- Summary report on the incident affecting properties in Lakeside 17-19/02/2024 [Horcott SPS pump operation and sewer level data (if available) and any associated operational issues]
- Feasibility of removing surface water from the sewer in the affected Lakeside area
- [Written explanation of decisions on tankering to the Fairford STW system]
- Copy of the presentation (25 March) re Fairford STW uprating
- Presentation from TW on design of the Horcott SPS sub-system (including recent new connections) and methodology for assessing impact on system operation including under heavy rainfall conditions (deferred from 25th March)
- High-res version of Fairford STW catchment map (showing all locations where properties are connected?)
- [List of developments (past and planned) taken into account in assessing capacity for further new sewer connections (some info provided, but clarifications requested)]
- Function of Thornhill Brook discharge and monitor
- Basis of the original 35 dwelling limit on the Hatherop Road development and of the increase of this to 50
- Written summary of the timescales and dependencies (including existing/planned TW schemes) of uprating the existing water supply capacity.

Questions for 26th April meeting.

- 1) When are TW going to provide this outstanding information?
- 2) What pot is the upgrading of the Fairford STW going to be funded from if this is only to be completed by 2027 and the WINEP programme supposedly ends in March 2025?
- 3) Is it reasonable to be granting permissions for significant new housing development in the Fairford STW catchment without a meaningful guarantee that the necessary infrastructure improvement will be carried out to cater for its outputs, given the evidence that the system is already overloaded beyond its capacity?
- 4) How can we have confidence that the necessary STW upgrading and/or sewer lining will take place to enable planned housing developments without increasing river and SSSI pollution, given the current state of TW's finances? Can the Government give assurance that this will happen?

Question for Environment Agency:

- 5) Is EA happy for some clearance to be carried out on the River Coln downstream of Fairford to reduce the amount and/or duration of spill into watercourses that do not have sufficient capacity and lakes that are designated as SSSI?