

**NOTES OF HOLBETON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
WITH
RHIDIAN HOWELLS, WASTE WATER SERVICES OPERATIONS MANAGER, SOUTH WEST WATER
AND
SIR GARY STREETER MP
ON 23 SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 7.30 PM IN HOLBETON VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Sir Gary Streeter MP
Rhidian Howells and Hazel Tranchant - South West Water

Cllrs John Sherrell (Chairman), Mike Reece, Andrew Hollett, Trudie Timlin Brown, Carol Ackroyd
Harry Baumer and Nirosha Gunatillake

Teresa Drew - Parish Clerk

Visitor(s)/Parishioner(s) present: 33

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Flower and Fuller
Mr A Mildmay White and Mr J Mildmay White

INTRODUCTION

Cllr Sherrell welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the guest speakers.

DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS

Points raised by:

Parishioners

Could the surface water be diverted away from the sewage plant?

Masons Yard have a separate system, could that not be utilised?

What action is being taken by the relevant agencies and Government to improve sewage systems?

Is there any intention to monitor the volume of water bypassing the plant? - *SWW have no plans to monitor*

South West Water

A valve located in a field near the sewage plant has been blocked by non-biodegradable wipes. It is important to remember the three Ps which to only be flushed down the toilet - "pee, poo and paper". Fat, food waste and nappies incur problems to sewage works and money being spent on dealing with these issues, is being diverted away from improving sewage systems.

Facts from SWW: attached are the slides used at the meeting

Sewage system is working and compliant with legislation and the requirements from the Environmental Agency

7 litres a second is the maximum capable of being treated at the sewage plant

Holbeton sewage plant is not just a holding facility

Surface water from the proposed development on Church Hill will not be able to be incorporated into a combined system

The sewage system was not built to cope with all weather systems

Wet wipes are not helping the system to work

UV is used on the extraction fluid prior to discharge, which alters the DNA and kills the bacteria

SWW inherited old sewage systems, but it is not emptied every day by tanker. When a tanker removes the sludge, it is taken to the anaerobic digestion at Marshall Mills - methane and bio solids are produced, the former collected and the latter product which remains is spread on agricultural land. This is part of the normal functioning of our works and has always happened.

DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS (continued)

Last 12 months SWW have not breached their licence, if there is a breach it has to be reported to the EA
SWW results are sent quarterly to the EA

Holbeton sewage system is compliant with the current Environment Agency (EA) licence

Three significant (50 cubic metres) spills in the bathing period, May - September, are permitted per year

Records of frequency of spills are maintained

SWW are starting to analyse in more detail the data from the sewage plant

Spills have been recorded since 2015

There is a need for SWW to improve their knowledge of local gullies

Sir Gary Streeter MP:

- Please contact him with any issues you may have - deans@parliament.uk (Sally Dean is his Constituency Office Manager)
- The quality of our water and beaches has improved and great progress is being made
- Government is in the process of rewriting laws, as a result of Brexit. This will ensure companies are held responsible if their goods are labelled as flushable and biogradable
- Suggested an open meeting is held with the Environment Agency to review the current legislation
- A meeting will be arranged by him, with the EA and SWW at a strategic level to discuss the issues raised and he will report back

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

(Holbeton Parish Council Chairman)

Date: 12 October 2021

Holbeton Parish Council website- <https://www.holbeton-pc.gov.uk>