



Little Marlow Sewage Treatment Works Liaison Committee agenda

Date: Monday 11 April 2022

Time: 11.00 am

Venue: MS Teams [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Agenda Item	Page No
1 Apologies	
2 Minutes of the previous meeting To agree the minutes of the meeting held 2 August 2021 as an accurate record.	3 - 8
3 Action Log To review the action log	9 - 12
4 Update on the July 2021 Compliance Incident Update from the Environment Agency regarding the July 2021 compliance issue.	
5 Thames Water Price Review Group Update from Thames Water.	
6 Site Updates Opportunity for Thames Water to provide any further updates on the site.	
7 Questions An opportunity for public and committee member questions. Please send question in advance to anne-marie.kenward@buckinghamshire.gov.uk .	
8 Date of next meeting To be confirmed.	

If you would like to attend a meeting, but need extra help to do so, for example because of a disability, please contact us as early as possible, so that we can try to put the right support in place.

For further information please contact: Anne-Marie Kenward on anne-marie.kenward@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.



Little Marlow Sewage Treatment Works Liaison Committee minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the Little Marlow Sewage Treatment Works Liaison Committee held on Monday 2 August 2021 in Ms Teams, commencing at 10am and concluding at 11:15am

Members present

P Emmett (Little Marlow Parish Council), S Kershaw (Coldmoorholme Residents Association), M Overall (Little Marlow Country Park) and D Watson (Buckinghamshire Council) Chairman

Others in attendance

L Bee (EA), D Collyer (TW), T Fowler, A-M Kenward (Buckinghamshire Council Officer), J Outhwaite (EA) and A Scott (TW)

Agenda Item

1 Apologies

None were received.

2 Apologies

Since the last meeting the Chairman had completed the following tasks:

- Written to Thames Water (TW) and circulated their response.
- The committee should consider when it would be the appropriate moment to write to OFWAT.
- Taken part in discussions about how many Buckinghamshire Council (BC) councillors should be involved in this committee.
- Brought Little Marlow parish councillors up to date on progress following the May 2021 election.
- The chairman had recently updated the local Member of Parliament, Joy Morrissey.
- It is planned to set up a Directory on the BC website to include all relevant correspondence between BC and TW, the EA and OFWAT.

3 Minutes from the previous meeting

RESOLVED

Minutes from the meeting held 25 March 2021 were **AGREED** as an accurate record.

4 Questions from the public

Several questions had been circulated to Thames Water (TW) ahead of the meeting. Full copies of the questions would be appended to these minutes. Mr A Scott answered from his prospective as the TW Regional Operations Manager. He was unable to comment fully on future strategy which was managed by a separate team.

In response to the written questions from Cllr Wilson and questions from the Chairman, Mr Overall and Mr Emmett the following responses were made by Mr Scott:-

1.Prevention - Investment in Capacity, Capability & Processes

- Mr Scott had been working with the engineering and asset management teams at Thames Water to understand the full scope of work needed to future proof the site.
- Initial drafts were for 2 additional asset tanks, 25 meter in diameter with the new equivalents of the necessary inlet, distribution and return activated sludge (RAS) systems.
- Costs would be in the region of £10m which was not included in the latest Assets Management Plan (AMP) cycle (2019-2024). Therefore, there would be an internal TW funding review process to satisfy before works could begin. TW were keen to invest time upfront in getting the right solution before starting works to avoid abortive costs.
- Project timescales had not been defined, responsibility for timescales sat with the TW asset and project definition teams, but the installation of equipment was likely to take 2 years from when work on site began. This was due to the scale and complexity of the engineering work involved.
- In response to challenge Mr Scott stated that with all existing tanks now fully operational there was no reason to believe the site would be regularly pumping raw sewage into local rivers due to lack of capacity while planning and installation was carried out. He noted that the recent mechanical failure was a once in 14-year event.
- Mr Scott did not have figures to hand for the total additional capacity that would be provided by 2 additional tanks but stated they would give capacity for 1 of the 6 tanks to be taken offline entirely at any given time while still coping with maximum flow. **ACTION Mr Scott**
- At the last meeting it had been stated that during lower flow in summer months the other tanks could be taken offline and drained to allow for a full inspection. Mr Scott explained that instead there had been an inspection of the equipment by the engineering team on site to install the replacement equipment. This had included oil analysis, looking at heat generation, photographic work and vibration monitoring. There were delays bringing the broken tank back online so none of the other tanks were taken offline to carry out these checks.

2. Future proofing - 1000+ Houses and Climate Change

- The site had two strategies relevant to flow in place namely the Ground

Water Impacted Management Plan (GISMP) and the Drainage and Wastewater Management Programme. Copies of these would be sought and added to the committee directory. **ACTION Mr Scott/Ms Kenward**

- Currently more water was being treated than was necessary due to surface and ground water entering the sewer network. The first step would be to limit this water entering the system. This could involve sealing manhole covers and lining sewers to prevent ground water coming through.
- There was a Developer Services team within Thames Water who liaised with developers. A database called Solar was used for predicting future flow including that raised by new developments.

3. Transparency - Alerts and Notifications

The chairman asked Mr Collyer to include in his distribution list the three councillors who were elected to represent Wooburn & Bourne End in May 2021, in future updates on the site. Ms Kenward would share the relevant contact details. **ACTION Mr Collyer and Ms Kenward**

4. Five Year AMP

The current Asset Management Plan (AMP) came into effect in 2019 and would be reviewed in 2024.

Containment barrier

Dating back to 2017 Mr Overall had asked if it were possible to have a containment barrier to prevent overspill from the site escaping into the neighbouring country park in the event that the tanks overflowed. Previously there had been flooding to the anglers' car park, access road and public right of way. At the time TW had stated this would be too difficult to implement. Mr Overall asked whether something as simple as a ramp could be used to prevent sewage leaving the site.

- Mr Scott would take this suggestion to colleagues for comment. **ACTION Mr Scott**
- Mr Scott referred to an incident approximately 2 weeks before this meeting where a flock of geese had flown into overhead power lines. The sites backup generator had failed to start automatically due to there being a reduction in power rather than a total outage. It had not been possible to manual start the generator as the high voltage panel had still been receiving some electricity but not enough to power the sites larger equipment. As a result, settled sewage from sediment tanks had overflowed on to local footpaths and private gardens - the clean-up took place within 12 hours. There would now be a full investigation including a review of how the backup generators operate in the event of a power dip rather than a full outage. It was confirmed that the electrical systems on site were considered to be sufficient having been inspected the week before the incident by the TW High Voltage team and independently by SSE.

Mr Emmett had previously toured the site and asked if the storm tanks were still operational.

- There had been no change to storm tank provision on site.

Mr Kershaw asked what the process was for alerting local residents of incidents

- Mr Collyer would check the formal process but stated that after recent incidents both political and environmental stakeholders had been contacted.

ACTION Mr Collyer

Mr Scott stated that there were trials in other areas to make on site monitoring available to the public in real time. The Smart Water Programme.

5 Thames Water report

In addition to the questions above the following points were discussed:

- TW were working through the Compliance Assessment Reports (CAR) provided by the Environment Agency (EA) after recent incidents and had sent their official response to the EA. Copies of the TW responses would be sought and added to the committee directory. **ACTION Ms Kenward/Mr Scott**
- The TW Price Review Group and Ofwat were meeting as part of the 5-year price review cycle. The Chairman asked how this committee could support the review and Mr Scott would provide contact details to communication directly with the Price Review Group. **ACTION Mr Scott**

6 Environment Agency Report

Ms L Bee, Environment Agency (EA), referred to the last 3 Compliance Assessment Reports (CAR) carried out by the EA. Copies of these forms would be shared and uploaded to the committee directory. **ACTION Ms Outhwaite/Ms Kenward**

1. March 2021 – arising from the equipment failure and subsequent sewage overflow. The investigation into the resilience was ongoing.
 2. May 2021 – arising from breaches that occurred after the equipment was repaired. The EA had introduced 24/7 water monitoring and there had been no further breaches. Monitors were to be shortly removed for redeployment due to a limited number being available. Data would be shared and added to the committee directory. **ACTION MS Bee/Ms Kenward**
 3. July 2021 – Still to be issued. Arising from geese damaging powerlines and the failure of generators to come online. Sewage overflow had not reached the Thames. The EA would be pushing for resilience to prevent issues reoccurring.
- There was a separate Enforcement Governance Group who would decide what action would be taken regarding these breaches once investigations were complete. The EA used a scale for consideration whether prosecution would take place.
 - Regarding timescales it was the investigation rather than the final decision that would take the most time and would be affected by EA resources. There was not a legislated timescale for a decision, but it was hoped a resolution could be made in the next few months.
 - Mr Overall asked if the July 2021 incident had caused sewage overflow into Spade Oak Lake. Ms Bee would seek feedback on this. **ACTION Ms Bee**

- Mr Scott stated the TW monitoring had found no evidence of the overflow making its way into the local watercourse.

7 Any other business

Mr Overall referred to reports he had received from Bucks Bird Club regarding the unexplained death of 20+ wild fowls and Egyptian Geese. DEFRA had been informed of possible disease risk. There had also been anecdotal evidence of fish deaths which had not been supported by the local fishing club. However, there was no reason to believe there was issues with health of the lake.

The Chairman invited TW and the EA to comment on a news story from the [Bucks Free Press website](#) where a local man claimed to have contracted giardia disease from swimming in the Thames. Mr Scott stated that TW did not recommend swimming in the Thames and could not comment on where the parasite came from. Ms Outhwaite stated the parasite could also be transmitted from animals and humans and the EA would only monitor areas of bathing water.

8 Date of next meeting

To be confirmed. Future meetings would be based on progress or if made necessary by further incidents.

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Little Marlow Sewage Works Committee

ACTION LOG

Last updated 11/1/2021

	Agency / owner	Description	Start date	Due date	Update	Status	Date of last action
1.1	TW AMK	March 2021 incident - Compliance Assessment Report (CAR)	March 21		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> completed and issued to TW. Copy uploaded web directory 17/11/21 -TW have responded to the EA. A copy has been requested for web directory 10/1/22 – Have asked EA for copy of TW comments as per request from TW. 	Ongoing	17/11/21
1.2	EA	March 2021 incident - Investigation to be completed and referred to Enforcement Governance Group for decision	Aug 21		2/8/21 - Ongoing as per meeting update 09/9/21 – ongoing as per email on 9 Sept 22/11/21 - ongoing as per email	Ongoing	22/11/21
1.3	EA	March 2021 incident – EA seeking reassurance regarding resilience	Aug 21		2/8/21 - Ongoing as per meeting update 09/9/21 – ongoing as per email on 9 Sept 22/11/21 - ongoing as per email	Ongoing	22/11/21
2.1	TW AMK	May 2021 incident - CAR	May 21		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> completed and issued to TW. Copy uploaded web directory TW have responded to the EA. A copy has been requested for web directory 10/1/22 – Have asked EA for copy of TW comments as per request from TW. 	Ongoing	10/1/22
2.2	EA	May 2021 incident - Investigation to be completed and referred to Enforcement Governance Group for decision	Aug 21		2/8/21 - Ongoing as per meeting update 09/9/21 – ongoing as per email on 9 Sept 22/11/21 - ongoing as per email	Ongoing	22/11/21

2.3	EA L Bee	May 2021 incident – Copy of monitoring data	Aug 21		Copy of data uploaded to web directory	Complete	9/9/21
3.1	EA	July 2021 incident – CAR	July 21		2/8/21 – still to be issued. 09/9/21 – still to be issued to TW as per email of 9 Sept	Ongoing	22/11/21
3.2	EA	July 2021 incident – Investigation to be completed and referred to Enforcement Governance Group for decision	Aug 21		9/9/21 – CAR still to be issued as first part of investigation as per email of 9 Sept 22/11/21 – still to be issued	Ongoing	22/11/21
3.3	EA L Bee	July 2021 incident – Confirmation that sewage did not reach local water course including Spade Oaks Lake	2/8/21		as per comments in 2/8/21 minutes 9/9/21 – CAR still to be issued as first part of investigation as per email of 9 Sept	Ongoing	9/9/21
4	TW A Scott	Figures for potential site capacity if 2 new 25 metre tanks were installed as per question raised at meeting	2/8/21		as per comments in 2/8/21 minutes Email sent asking for confirmation TW responded 06/12/21 see copy of response uploaded to web directory.	Complete	6/12/21
5	TW A Scott AMK	Copies of reports – Ground Water Impacted Management Plan (GISMP) and Drainage and Wastewater Management Programme	2/8/21		as per comments in 2/8/21 minutes Requested from TW 9/9/21 TW have confirmed the (GSIMP) was in Phase 5 of the GSIMP programme and published on the website. See update in web directory 6/12/21 https://www.thameswater.co.uk/about-us/regulation/drainage-plans 10/12/21 - Update to be requested at the next meeting	Ongoing	6/12/21
6	TW D Collyer	Update TW mailing lists to include new local councillors.	2/8/21		as per comments in 2/8/21 minutes	Ongoing	6/21/21

					AMK has supplied updated email addresses 2/8/21 Email sent asking for confirmation TW confirmed completion 6/12/21		
7	TW A Scott	To pass along M Overall's comments regarding containment barriers	2/8/21		as per comments in 2/8/21 minutes email sent asking for update 8/9/21 TW confirmed receipt and stated M Overall had been in discussion with Rachael Followell-Mattin outside of the meeting and would keep him updated. Email of 6/12/21 Follow up with M Overall	Ongoing	6/12/21
8	TW D Collyer	To confirm the formal TW process for informing local stakeholders after a site incident	2/8/21		as per comments in 2/8/21 minutes email sent asking for update 8/9/21 Answered as per statement in email of 6/12/21	Complete	6/12/21
9	TW A Scott	To provide contact details of the Thames Water Price Review Group	2/8/21		email sent asking for update 8/9/21	Ongoing	08/9/21

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