

LITTLE MARLOW PARISH COUNCIL

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Our Ref: 22_148

18th March 2022

Development Planning Department
Thames Water
Maple Lodge STW
Denham Way
Rickmansworth
WD3 9SQ

Dear Sir/Madam,

Ref: Foul Water Treatment capacity at Little Marlow Sewage Treatment Works

I am writing to you on behalf of Little Marlow Parish Council (LMPC) as we share the concerns about the foul water treatment capacity at Thames Waters' Little Marlow Sewage Treatment Works (STW) which have recently been raised with you by Wooburn and Bourne End Parish Council. The Little Marlow (STW) is situated in Little Marlow Parish and we are therefore only too well aware of the numerous pollution incidents over recent years caused by Little Marlow (STW). We have been in regular contact with Thames Water and with the Environment Agency about these incidents.

Like Wooburn & Bourne End Parish Council, we were concerned to read the comments in Thames Water's letter of 21 December 2021 in respect of planning application 21/06215 (Hollands Farm development) for which you are a statutory consultee that **"Thames Water has identified an inability of the existing foul water network infrastructure to accommodate the needs of the development proposal"**. In your subsequent letter dated 17 January 2022, you continued to confirm the overall lack of capacity but commented that you were working with the developer with regards to the Holland Farm Development and that as part of this you had identified capacity for up to 200 homes but not beyond this. The proposed new developments at Slate Farm and Hollands Farm between them are expected to result in 617 new houses which is a significantly higher number than the capacity you have identified. This will obviously have a huge impact on the foul water network and infrastructure and will further seriously overload both regardless of the points made in your letter about the Developer's obligations.

LMPC would also be interested in the answers to the questions posed by Wooburn and Bourne End Parish Council, namely:

- what you assess your base capacity to be to cope for events of 1 in 30 and 1 in 100 year magnitude, with and without climate change allowances particularly in light of the fact that routine maintenance currently can only be carried out during summer months;
- details of the capital projects you have committed to with this and the next AMP cycle, including a rationalisation of this against projected future demand;

- how you are assessing concurrent planning applications both individually and cumulatively as well as the future needs of the area given that development is occurring in a very wide catchment area for foul water treatment at Little Marlow STW.

Thames Water wrote to local Buckinghamshire Councillor, David Watson, on 19 January 2021 in response to a letter from him that **“There are no future plans to upgrade Little Marlow (STW) in relation to growth in this or our next financial period, up to 2030”**. **Has this situation now changed in the light of the Holland Park and Slate Meadow developments? If so, what are the plans? If not, how will Little Marlow (STW) be able to cope with the considerable additional load? Also, what are the plans for on-going maintenance because the parish council understand that the plant has zero spare capacity and cannot shut any tanks at present?**

Little Marlow Parish Councillors would also appreciate an opportunity to have a meeting with you to discuss your response to the issues raised above as well as wider issues relating to the capacity and maintenance of the Little Marlow STW. Little Marlow Parish Council look forward to your response at your earliest convenience.

Yours faithfully,

Jo Murray

Parish Clerk, Little Marlow Parish Council

Copied to:

Wooburn & Bourne End Parish Council: clerk@wooburnparish.gov.uk

Cllr Stuart Wilson, Buckinghamshire Council by email: Stuart.Wilson@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Cllr David Watson, Buckinghamshire Council by email: david.watson@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Cllr David Johncock, Buckinghamshire Council by email: david.johncock@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Cllr Jocelyn Towns, Buckinghamshire Council by e-mail: Jocelyn.Towns@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Joy Morrissey MP by email: joy.morrissey.mp@parliament.uk

David Black, Chief Executive, OFWAT by email: David.Black@ofwat.gov.uk

Sir James Bevan, Chief Executive, Environment Agency by email: james.bevan@environment-agency.gov.uk