

Committee: FULL COUNCIL

Date: 21 June 2022

Title: Wessex Water Sewerage Overflow Update

Purpose of Report

For members to note and consider a response to the proposal from Wessex Water to carry out works in the Wharf Lane Car Park

Recommendation:

Members to note the report

Report:

1. At the Full Council Meeting on the 15 February 2022 a report was considered regarding a proposal from Wessex water to locate a Sewerage Overflow facility in Ilminster. **Appendix 20A**
2. As a result “Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to agree to allow Wessex Water to site a sewerage overspill tank on the recreation ground and to delegate authority to officers to negotiate and oversee the project.

Proposer Cllr Swann **Seconded** Cllr Taylor

3. Following the meeting a phone conversation took place between myself and the Project manager from Wessex Water, Paul Delves in which he explained there was a need to carry out some further Hydraulic testing of the two proposed sites.
4. Nothing further was heard until the 8 June in which Mr Delves emailed to say that a decision had been made to install a “hydro-slide chamber” outside Greenfylde School and that their preferred site for the storage tank should be in the Wharf Lane carpark owned and run by South Somerset District Council (SSDC).
5. Both myself and Ian Case from SSDC wrote to Mr Delves expressing concern and asking that either he or one of his team come along to this meeting on the 21 June. Despite repeated requests they have refused at the point of authoring this report to send any one along.
6. I spoke with the head of Greenfylde School, Claire Oaten and she was unaware of the proposals and not surprisingly was not at all happy at the idea.

Her concerns were in fact similar to my own and were communicated to Mr Delves in an email on the 9 June. Members have received copies of the email communication but I am attaching them once again in **Appendix 20B**.

7. In my email on the 9 June I asked a number of questions of Wessex Water to which I have so far received no responses. I will ask for responses ahead of the meeting once again but understand that Mr Delves is on leave until the 20 June 2022. The question asked were:
 1. *Has Greenfylde School been contacted with regards:*
 - a. *The “Hydro-slide Chamber outside the school gates” and the issues surrounding its installation.*
 - b. *What consideration has been given to the fact that the school provides “After-school” and “Breakfast” clubs as part of their wrap around educational responsibilities from 7-45 am and 5-30 pm. This provision means there are parents dropping off and picking up in darkness during the Winter hours.*
 - c. *The carpark has a 15 min drop off and pick up period for parents whose children attend the school, how is this to be catered for bearing in mind that Wharf Lane is a dead end.*
 - d. *The safeguarding of 250 students at the start and end of the day is paramount, what provisions are being made for them?*
 - e. *Students from Greenfylde are also educated at the sister site Swanmead and there are regular foot movements between the two sites.*
 - f. *The impact of noise and other environmental issues on the daily lessons that take place both inside and outside the school?*
 - g. *Staff have permits to park in the carpark, what measures will be taken to ensure they have somewhere safe that they can park bearing in mind that they often arrive before dawn and leave after dusk.*
 2. *As a town Ilminster is struggling to emerge economically from the Covid Pandemic and any loss of car parking in the town will have a negative impact on business recovery.*
 3. *Immediately in the vicinity of the site are 32 “extra-care” housing units that will be severely affected by the works in the carpark.*
 4. *Whilst not the direct concern for the Town Council, the loss of income to SSDC will not be insignificant.*
8. There is a request to have a meeting in July with Wessex Water which I will acquiesce to and provide feedback as to its outcome.
9. Also attached to this report are **Appendices 20C and 20D** which detail the two proposals that were put forward.
10. Members have already delegated authority to officers in this matter but it will be helpful if we could have a clear understanding of what your concerns are. These can be emailed to me over the next week and your comments from this meeting will also be taken to the meeting.

**Mark Tredwin
Town clerk
June 2022**