

Response to Rapid consultation to TW Reservoir consultation.

It is disappointing that we have had to wait for a report with less redacted information. The delay and consequent compression of the meaningful consultation period has done little to persuade that the process is both open and transparent or that the arguments put forward by TW is fairly balanced. Regrettably, there remain large gaps in the evidence namely:

1. Data and methodology around Carbon output impact of construction and final build are completely inadequate. Since the last Reservoir application, this has become a central issue and must surely be understood before any green light could be given to the project – not least because of the threat to any carbon neutral ambitions of both OCC and VWHDC.
2. Latest information suggests Recreation benefits now much reduced/negligible.
3. Flood risk data is too thin to be scrutinised effectively.

4. Severn Thames transfer option too conveniently overlooked/postponed.
5. Flooding – that there could be a reduction in flood risk must be highly questionable and is not properly justified.

More local potential impacts which need more consideration include:

1. The huge impact during construction and the final build on local villages.
2. Algal growth and damage to water quality.
3. Noise, light pollution and local transport dislocation.
4. Threat to local biodiversity and natural environment
5. Perhaps the most important omission for local people -an understanding and appreciation of the amount of development that has gone on in the immediate area in Steventon, Drayton, Marcham and Sutton Courtenay. The immediate area is now under extreme stress which would be exacerbated by the reservoir. Any possible mitigation benefits could not possibly outweigh the negative local impact.

In conclusion, as was the case at the last public enquiry, the case for need is far from made. Too much

of the TW case remains arguably superficial, biased and inconsistent.

Is it not now time to put this costly idea to bed and look to cheaper, quicker and less environmentally damaging solutions to our water challenges? The Severn Thames Transfer model would satisfy all the above and therefore needs to be properly assessed.

 Cllr

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