

From: RAPID
Subject: FW: Strategic regional water resource solutions: Accelerated gate two draft decision for Havant Thicket raw water transfer - Response

From: [redacted]
Sent: 12 April 2022 17:38
To: RAPID <RAPID@ofwat.gov.uk>
Subject: Strategic regional water resource solutions: Accelerated gate two draft decision for Havant Thicket raw water transfer - Response

Dear Ofwat,

Introduction

I do not support the funding of option B4 the scheme to pump recycled water into Havant thicket and neither do support the funding of option D2 that details the construction of a 35 pipe from the Havant thicket to Otterbourne. These proposals should be refused and before any more money is spent determining the viability, but instead this effort should focus on finding more sustainable solutions to source our water supply.

Justification

- Foremost SW do not appear to promote a clear understanding of the environmental impact these proposals will ultimately inflict. Any by- product of this planned recycling process will be discharged into the already sensitive Solent that remains under pressure from various effluent discharges. Southern Water have already incurred a multi-million pound fine and clearly this is a "quick win" to avert other heavier fines from the national water regulator. Record breaking storm overflow discharges will not be solved with the solution that Southern Water are proposing at Budds Farm Treatment Plant (BFTP)! It is not increasing the capacity of BFTP, merely trying to disguise how the pumping of treated effluent will be transferred to the new Havant Thicket Reservoir designed to catch the chalk spring water sources.
- Despite the Discharge Alerting scheme that SW have introduced, it is not reducing the amount and frequency of raw sewage dumping into the natural harbour at Langstone and inevitably, into the Solent;
- Do you really trust SW to implement and oversee the "clean water" strategy that the people who will visit and wish to engage in "fresh water" activities at the Havant Thicket reservoir?
- Public consultation has been very lacking with only 203 people being involved in Portsmouth Water's survey out a significant serviced population. Questionnaires sent out by the 3rd Party have not been acknowledged once returned and there has been absolutely nil follow up information. Clearly, there is very little interaction with the community and they seem to be deliberately left in the dark;
- Having talked to many people in my community their expectation is a reservoir that will bring water activities along with community benefits. Who is going to break the news to them that the Havant Thicket reservoir will not be fit for their long awaited water sports and community centre because it is filled with treated effluent?;
- Pumping water and sewage in and out of the new proposed recycling plant, over a distance of 35 kmls for 70years will be expensive. Water is heavy and takes enormous amounts of expensive energy to move it;
- Treating the effluence uses the same chemical processes as desalination and this was rejected as it was not environmentally friendly enough and not in line with new guidelines.
- It will completely change the whole nature of the Havant thicket reservoir which was sold to us all as being fed and filled by the clean chalk fed spring water of Bedhampton. Having had planning permission passed they now seek to fill the reservoir with the partially recycled water pumped in from the new recycling plant.

- It will totally scupper any plans that the ecologists had for creating a unique environment for wildlife and a pleasant recreational zone. The water will have algal blooms that will smell and drastically limit the amount of wildlife that can viably live in it.
- It will also have an effect on downstream water as the poorer water quality will be discharged into the Solent via the streams below the reservoir.
- Not only that but the wildlife haven that local people were promised in mitigation for the loss of part of the Staunton country park will now be a giant effluence holding bay.

OFWAT need to focus on water companies proposing more sustainable solutions to our future water supply.

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