

From:
Subject:

RAPID
FW: Havant Thicket Reservoir Public Consultation - plans for an effluent recycling scheme.

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted]
Sent: 26 March 2022 08:11
To: RAPID <RAPID@ofwat.gov.uk>
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Havant Thicket Reservoir Public Consultation - plans for an effluent recycling scheme.

To whom it may concern.

Residents of Rowlands Castle have been alerted by our Parish Council to the public consultation being run by Ofwat in which a back up option B4 would involve using the Havant Thicket Reservoir in the recycling of effluent from Budds Farm.

I have attempted to read the complex technical submissions and reports posted by Southern Water and Ofwat, and fear they lack a simple summary suited to a layman's understanding. As public consultation documents I found them unhelpful, so the Parish Council's response will likely be more informed than mine. However I wish to object in the strongest possible terms to this proposal.

I live close to the site of the new reservoir and have engaged with and been supportive of the Havant Thicket Reservoir proposal as it gained final regulatory approval. At no time, to the best of my knowledge, was there ever any suggestion that this major new facility might be used as a sewage treatment plant, no matter how far "downstream" in the process that might be. Had this been mentioned (and it must self-evidently have been in Southern Water's contemplation at the time) I am convinced that the public, parish, Havant Borough and Hampshire County Council's responses would have been very different. Portsmouth Water's up to now very effective public engagement campaign, including frequent Facebook posts, has also been silent on this subject.

The Rowlands Castle Parish Council advise that they have only recently heard about this consultation and they have concerns about the proposal, the environmental impacts that this scheme would have and the suitability of effluent recycling via Havant Thicket Reservoir as an option for providing drinking water. It also understands that this option is not in line with government or water company policy on achieving net zero carbon at a time of climate emergency. I wholeheartedly agree with those concerns and stand firmly against this proposal.

Yours faithfully,

[redacted]
[redacted]

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