

Received 23/04/23

Dear Ofwat

Ilkley Clean River Group supports the plans for Ilkley within the Accelerated Infrastructure, and has been consulted by Yorkshire Water in the submission of the plans.

1. Impact on Bathing Status

We have one overriding concern. The plan provided is intended to reduce Storm OVERflows to 10 a year, and 1 in bathing season (currently the SO at Ilkley STW runs at circa 140 days of the year), which is a significant reduction. It is expected that this will deliver 'good' Bathing Status.

However, despite the Accelerator timetable, it is unlikely that this reduction will be achieved for 2026 which is when our Bathing Status is reviewed and if 'good' isn't achieved it will be taken away from us.

We would want assurance that there will be flexibility from Defra in reviewing the BS timetable for Ilkley, extending the review to give the proposed infrastructure time to provide the improvements in water quality.

2. Who Pays

We do want assurance that the proposed infrastructure costs will be borne by the water company, not passed onto the bill payer. Water companies have assured Ofwat that they were able to deliver their contractual requirements including maintaining the infrastructure, in all years to date. Given that this has not been the case, and at the same time water companies have paid both dividends and Director bonuses, we do not expect to pay twice, (and have previously been assured by David Black that this is the case - the consumer will not be asked to pay twice).

Many thanks

