

CHILBOLTON PARISH COUNCIL
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Mr. Lawrence Gosden , Chief Executive Officer
Southern Water Services Limited,
Southern House, Yeoman Road,
Worthing, West Sussex
BN13 3NX

07 February 2024

RE: Southern Water pump-house and pipework in Chilbolton

Dear Mr. Gosden,

I am writing to advise you regarding a matter which I believe you would wish to know about. This is of the utmost importance to this village and in need of urgent consideration.

It concerns the Southern Water pump-house and pipework in Chilbolton. The Pump-house is immediately adjacent to the Abbot's Mitre public house in the middle of the village. The pump-house is unfortunately sited very close to a natural spring. Village street has along its length, springs. The combination of the recent torrential, persistent rainfall has led to the water table rising to an unprecedented level, and the springs bursting, flooding the pump-house and overwhelming the sewers. Southern Water responded very quickly, for which we are most grateful, and we have now had tankers in the village on a 24/7 basis since well before Christmas. The water table levels required to permit Southern Water to implement their Infiltration Reduction Plans were reached in October but have only recently been agreed by Southern Water and we are currently waiting for the necessary equipment to arrive to permit implementation to begin.

We are well aware of the scale of the current flooding issue in Hampshire, and the challenge this must present to Southern Water. We are also well aware of the plight of other villages in the area, and are not seeking to prioritise Chilbolton. We do, however, feel that when you are discussing the remedial needs of the Chilbolton pump-house and associated pipes in a budgetary framework you should do so in the clear understanding that it is currently dealing with sewage from both Chilbolton and Wherwell. Both villages have seen considerable building development over the last 25 years and the existing pump-house and pipework is clearly no longer 'fit for purpose'. We sympathise with your financial constraints but when your financial experts come to evaluate the cost of tankering they will in all probability be led to the conclusion that the time has come to look at the need either for new pipe and a pump-house, to meet the combined needs of the two villages, or a reconfiguring of the Wherwell pipeline, with its own pump-house, to enable the Wherwell sewage to be treated independently.

Please acknowledge receipt of this letter.

Kind Regards,

Mandy Denyer, Parish Council Clerk

Cc: Caroline Nokes MP and HCC Cllr David Drew