

## **Mr Roy Seabrook, Southbourne Neighbourhood Development Committee**

### 1. HEADROOM

Headroom availability has been significantly increased recently by averaging data over seven years instead of four years. Is this formula averaging over seven years a nationally applied formula over the whole of the UK or is it only applied in some areas?

### 2. DISCHARGE NOTIFICATION

- a. I take children canoeing and sailing regularly on Chichester harbour throughout the year. There are inevitable delays in notification to harbour users when notification of untreated or primary treated foul water discharges into the harbour are routed through the Harbour Master. In practice, users are invariably notified well after the event, if at all. The Water Authority should notify all harbour users directly using an email list updated annually by the Harbour Master to avoid these delays.
- b. There seem to be discrepancies between discharge notifications to the Chichester Harbour Master and the records held by the Environment Agency, e.g. the E.A. have no record of the 346-hour discharge from the EMO Old Works (Thorney) on 15/16 December 2013. Is there an explanation?

## **Mr Simon Oakley, Tangmere Ward Member**

1. As Members will be aware, under various sections of various Acts, Southern Water can enter into Agreements with developers to provide foul sewer connections. These arrangements effectively by-pass the planning process, regardless of whether a Condition is applied to a permission either requiring approval of foul water disposal arrangements or the installation of a particular arrangement. In effect Southern Water and Developers can do as they like (subject only to (non public) EA permitting processes) outside of any public scrutiny.

An example of this is Shopwyke Lakes where Southern Water has agreed to put 199 houses worth of sewage down a pipe that previously (in response to an application for a separate site) they said couldn't take an additional 50 houses worth, with no requirement to publically explain why or how. This agreement only came to light when contractors surveying the route of the new foul sewer put markings on the road toward a pumping station that wasn't indicated as supposed to receive any of Shopwyke Lakes foul sewage in the original Outline Application's information.

2. For over 2 days Southern Water allowed a significant flow of foul sewage to discharge out of a manhole in Tangmere while it "attended an incident". Despite this surcharge draining into (and hence contaminating) the highway surface water drainage system, Southern Water apparently declined to explain to WSCC Highways, or those who initially reported it, why this discharge occurred.
3. It took Southern Water about a month to replace a broken up inspection cover in a Highway verge in Tangmere, and then only after repeated chase ups via WSCC Highways. Fortunately the Parish Council's piece of plywood covering the

hole remained in place for the duration. It turned out that Southern Water did not have any cover for the employee who dealt with such defects within the Highway while he was absent so the requests for action fell on deaf ears.

4. At another location in Tangmere during significant rainfall events, foul sewage regularly covered and ponded over a pavement, the extent again being limited by the foul flow draining into the Highway's surface water drainage system. It was only after I raised the possibility that Southern Water was committing an offence under the 1980 Highways Act that they investigated the cause. This turned out to be that the pump settings in the adjacent pumping station (associated with item 1 above) were wrong and that there was an uncharted foul sewer in the vicinity.

I'm sure other Members have their tales to tell about Southern Water, but it seems to me that, like with many other public service bodies, current regulatory arrangements somewhat limit local public accountability. It also seems that Southern Water isn't investing enough in maintaining and supporting its existing infrastructure and services.

### **Henry Potter, Boxgrove Ward Member**

I have a question regarding the adequacy of the increase in the capacity proposed for Easthampnett WWTW. We were told many months ago that the capacity would be increased to accommodate 3,000 additional homes and be completed by 2019. This increased capacity is already almost swallowed up by The Lakes, Stane Street/Madgwick Lane, Roman Walk (the Hanging Basket Nursery), more proposed housing at Old Place Farm, the development to east of Meadow Way Tangmere, the site of the old Hangers again Tangmere and of course the Strategic Site to the west of Tangmere, 1,500 new homes alone, 22 new homes here in Boxgrove plus in the meantime all the little windfall sites that appear almost from nowhere. What are their plans for 13 years time I ask?