

Toby Willison
Director of Environment & Corporate Affairs
Southern Water
Southern House
Yeoman Road
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Friday 13th August 2021

Dear Toby

You may well have listened in to Chichester District Council's "All Member Session" on Thursday July 29th. If not it can be watched here: <https://chichester.nuclast.live/frontend/meeting/4105153> .

We enclose for your interest amendments placed before Councillors by the Liberal Democrat Group at the meeting.

These amendments were supported by all Opposition Party members and one Independent Group member (another was unavoidably absent). They only failed to be passed by Council on the casting vote of the Chair of the Council.

We believe these amendments were positive, pragmatic and non partisan.

We particularly draw your attention to:

- 2.7 That a Statement of Common Ground between Chichester District Council, the Environment Agency (EA) and Southern Water (SW) is urgently published that clearly and unambiguously states the challenges and issues surrounding the limitations and restrictions affecting Waste water Treatment Works (WwTWs) operated by Southern Water in the District.
- 2.8 That the EA be urgently requested to formally recognise the need for development to be phased so that it aligns with infrastructure provision. Consequently the Council will liaise with the EA, Natural England and SW to agree a phased programme of WwTW capacity enhancements. This programme will assist in determining the location and phasing of future housing provision in the Local Plan Review. Furthermore, the Council, SW and EA will jointly prepare Position Statements for all WWTWs with insufficient headroom capacity at 2025, to ensure that decisions made prior to the adoption of the LPR will reflect the predicted cumulative effect of future development proposals.

It is of the utmost importance and urgency that Southern Water, the Environment Agency and Chichester District Council work together to agree a District wide Statement of Common Ground that transparently faces and addresses the challenges affecting the District. It really needs to define the limitations in terms of funding WwTW improvements in a timely manner. It is not acceptable for Southern Water to keep repeating the mantra of "we have to be able to connect" when quite clearly you have challenges which your current capital spending plans and business plans simply cannot surmount.

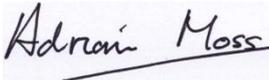
The Position Statement for Apuldram (Chichester) Waste water Treatment Works clearly defines that there is very limited capacity and that new larger scale development cannot be connected. Position Statements prepared in a similar vein are required by the end of August for all WWTWs with insufficient headroom capacity at 2025.

With robust Position Statements it will be possible for Chichester District Council to refuse speculative planning applications that risk the environment and harbour. Together we can ensure that future permissions are granted in line with a strategy of upgrades agreed with Southern Water.

Our call to Southern Water, the Environment Agency, and Natural England is to provide Chichester District Council with the robust evidence that enables us to refuse speculative planning applications and to deliver a credible, evidence-based new Local Plan by summer 2022.

With your support and evidence we can pause these speculative planning applications, which are now pouring in and that will so damage the harbour, the coastal strip and the environment. We need you to help us protect the National Asset of the Harbour AONB, which is our joint responsibility to the whole nation.

Yours Sincerely



Adrian Moss

Leader of the Opposition

Group Leader Liberal Democrats

CC: Press, OFWAT, Environment Agency, Chichester Harbour Trust, Chichester Conservancy