

# E-FOCUS



## Your electronic newsletter for Fareham's Western Wards

*Published and promoted by Graham Everdell for Fareham's Western Wards Liberal Democrats,  
all at 75 Collingworth Rise, Park Gate, SO31 1DD*

Hi Friend,

### May 2023 - Supplement

***This is a supplement to our May 2023 E-Focus for the Western Wards, focusing specifically on Southern Water's plan to recycle sewage effluent into drinking water. Please feel free to share with friends and family. If you have received this E-Focus from a friend or family and would like to receive it regularly, email us at [graham.everdell@farehamlibdems.org.uk](mailto:graham.everdell@farehamlibdems.org.uk) using the email address you'd like it sent to, and include your name, address, and the words: Yes please to E-Focus.***

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## Southern Water's Plan to Recycle Sewage Effluent into Drinking Water

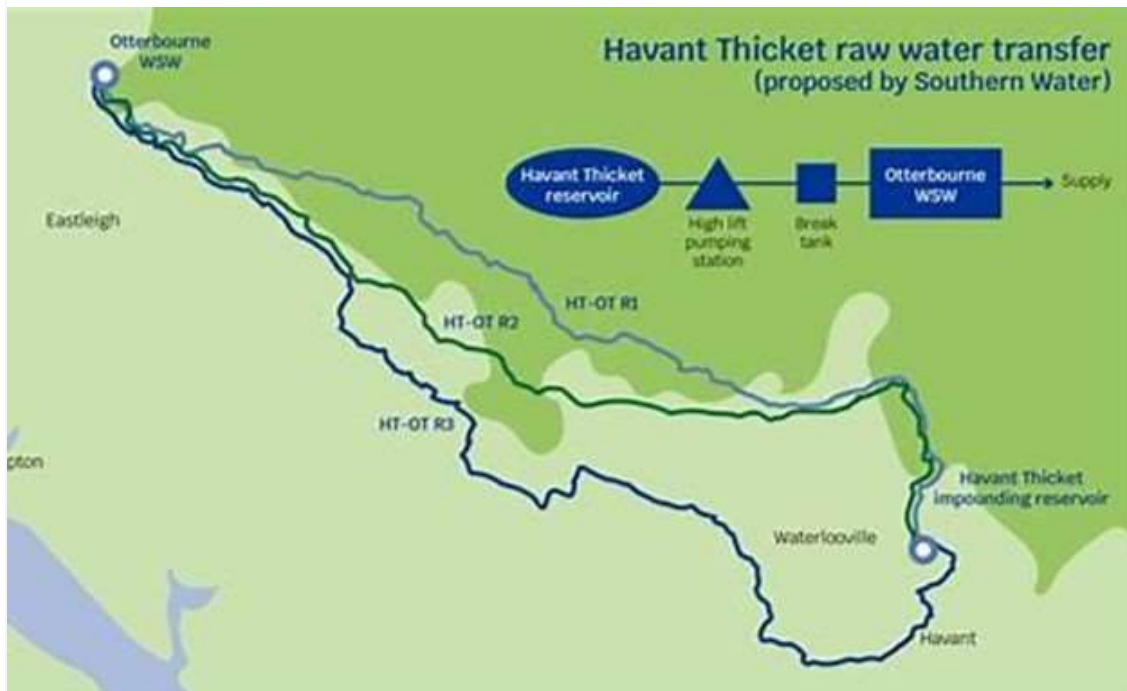
Following the piece headed 'Safe to drink the water' in our Spring Focus, we have been asked to provide more information on Southern Water's proposal to pipe filtered wastewater from Budds Farm into the new Havant Thicket Reservoir, which is expected to open in 2029.



***Budds Farm Sewage Treatment Works in Langstone Harbour***

Southern Water have published their draft Water Resources Management Plan which confirms that they have selected the Budds Farm option for effluent recycling via Havant Thicket Reservoir as their preferred solution for meeting future increasing demand for drinking water in Hampshire. Their proposal is to take the final effluent from the Budds Farm Sewage Treatment Works, undertake additional treatment at a new plant to be built at Broadmarsh in Havant, and then discharge this recycled water into the Havant Thicket Reservoir to mix with the spring water. From the reservoir, it will be pumped to Farlington Water Treatment Works for distribution to Portsmouth Water customers and, via a new 40km pipeline, across Hampshire to Otterbourne Water Treatment Works for distribution to Southern Water customers.

The deadline for making a consultation response to Defra (Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs) regarding the proposal to treat and recycle effluent and use it in our drinking water was Monday the 20th of February. Whilst formal consultations have closed a petition started by Friends of the Earth Havant is still open and can be found on the internet by googling its title 'Stop Plans for Drinking Southern Waters Recycled Sewage', or by using the link later in this E-Focus.



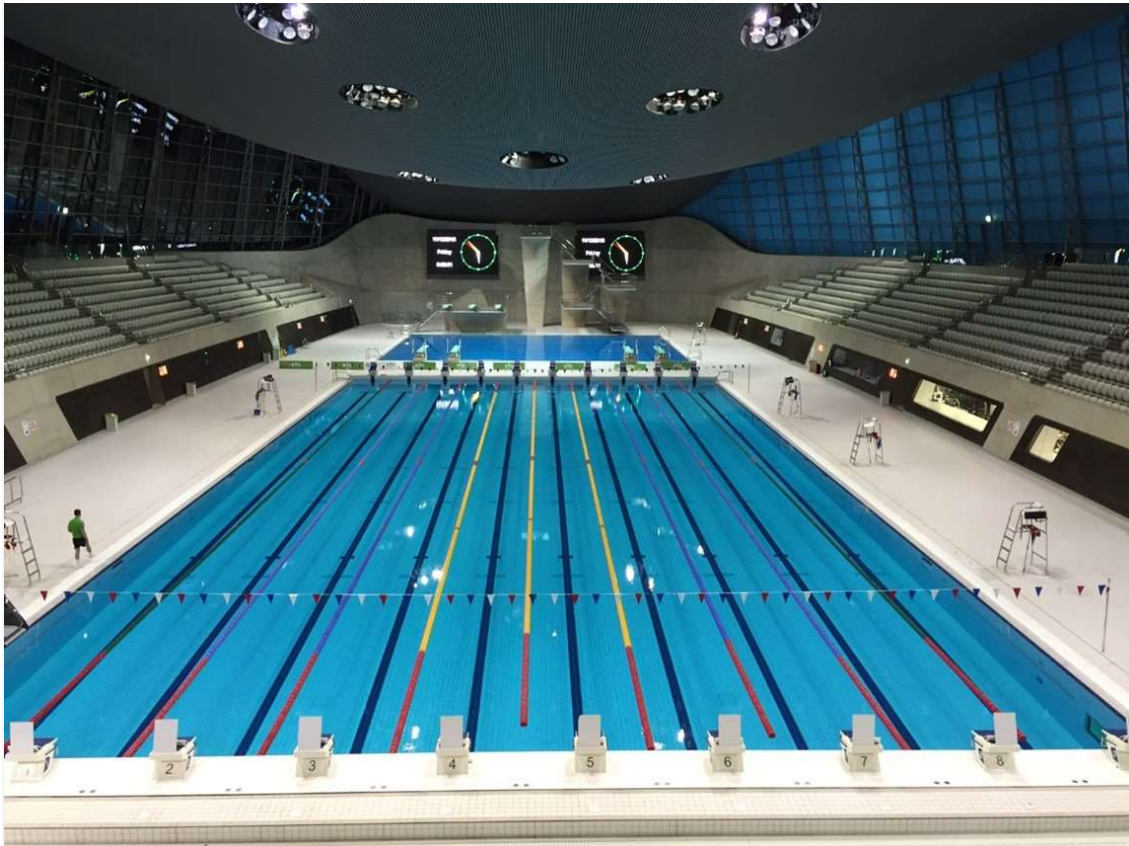
We have seen some of the consultation responses to Defra, which make, amongst others, the following points.

Southern Water has not fully engaged with the local community / its consumers. Effluent recycling should not proceed unless customers are on board and support the proposal. This is not the case for the Budds Farm effluent recycling scheme via Havant Thicket Reservoir. There is a virtually complete lack of awareness of the planned change in the source of drinking water supplies from rivers, springs, and aquifers, to treated recycled effluent.

Southern Water are putting all of their eggs in one basket for Hampshire, by selecting a large effluent recycling scheme. This is a new treatment technology to the UK, where the impacts are poorly understood. The public may not accept drinking water that is created from effluent recycling. It will certainly taste different to the treated spring or river water they are used to. If consumers turn to bottled water in preference to tap water, there are social and financial consequences for society, not to mention the environmental impact and cost of supplying and disposing of plastic bottles. The cost impact of a switch to bottled water for struggling families, the elderly, and the most vulnerable in society could result in people drinking less water, which could have an impact on their health.

Nearly 16% of the water that is currently treated and put into the supply is lost to leaks. The regional plan only proposes to reduce this by half across the region by 2050 (i.e., 8% of existing and new water resources could be lost by wastage, even in 2050). In the Southern Water area 92 million litres per day of treated water is currently lost to leakage. This is equivalent to the contents of approximately 37 Olympic size swimming pools being lost EVERY DAY in the Southern Water Area. By 2050 46 million litres per day, which customers will have paid to extract and treat, could still be lost.

Southern Water are permitted, under the funding guidelines to make a profit from investment in infrastructure such as treatment plant, buildings, pipelines, and pumping stations, but not from maintenance like fixing leaks. Selecting options which do not involve the construction of a lot of infrastructure has no advantage to water company shareholders.



***London 2012 Olympic Aquatic Centre – Southern Water’s leakage losses of treated water are equivalent to the contents of approximately 37 Olympic size swimming pools EVERY DAY.***

There appears to be a desire to make good profits for owners and shareholders, rather than provide an environmentally friendly, cost-effective, solution for customers who will have to pay for all the new treatment plant, pumping stations, and pipelines required as well as the profit element. The Budds Farm effluent recycling scheme via Havant Thicket Reservoir has been selected as the preferred option in Hampshire. It is 40km from where the water is needed, and the construction and operational costs are enormous.

There are alternatives to effluent recycling. Firstly, leaks need to be detected, located, and repaired much more quickly. Transferring surface water via existing waterways can have multiple benefits including to biodiversity and recreation.

Managed aquifer storage schemes work with predicted climate changes, taking excess water in winter and storing it in natural underground confined aquifers that are already

there, where the water will not be subject to evaporation, and where the water can be stored until it is needed in the more frequently predicted dry summers. It should be cheaper and quicker to develop than effluent recycling, as it requires less infrastructure. The aquifer can be topped up in winter and used to augment supplies in the summer reducing the need for river abstraction in the summer and potentially reducing the need for hosepipe bans (temporary use bans).

Climate change will give the region wetter winters and water companies need to work with these changes to collect and store more water across the region. Water companies should be able to take more water in winter when there is excess flow, which they can capture and store for dry summers in underground aquifers. This also has the potential to reduce flood risk by allowing abstraction in the winter.

The water industry, including Southern Water, is committed to net zero operational carbon by 2030. Yet instead of rejecting carbon hungry technologies such as effluent recycling the Southern Water plan has actively selected this option instead of more sustainable solutions. Carbon offsetting should not be relied on when low-impact solutions can be selected.

Multiple environmentally friendly smaller schemes that work with climate change, not against it, could produce the water needed. Southern Water should develop more sustainable new water resources which work with climate change predictions, and should not develop expensive, carbon hungry, energy intensive, infrastructure-based solutions which they are currently proposing to develop. What we need is a truly best value plan for people and the environment, instead of options that feed company profits, and which customers have no choice but to pay. This is not appropriate, especially when we are experiencing a cost-of-living crisis and everyone, including the most vulnerable in our society, have no choice but to pay their water bill.

Customer research is clear that customers favour reducing leakage, demand control measures, and protecting the environment as priorities, with preference for solutions which are seen as more natural. The current plans do not provide a best value plan for customers or the environment.

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## **Petition and More Information on the Plan for us All to Drink Recycled Sewage Effluent**

Remember, while formal consultations have closed, the petition started by Friends of the Earth Havant is still open. Further information can be found at [www.havantmatters.org/water](http://www.havantmatters.org/water) which also includes a link to the petition.





EFFLUENT RECYCLING ▾ TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT OTHER MATTERS ▾ THE WBM BLOG CONTACT FORM

## The Southern Water effluent recycling proposal

Formal consultations closed on Monday, 20 February, however the petition is still open so please click the image below to sign:



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Widespread public opposition to effluent recycling confirmed in Southern Water report

Read more...

MARCH 14, 2023

More than 4000 people sign our petition in just 4 weeks

Read more...

MARCH 10, 2023

The Friends of the Earth Havant petition calls on Defra to delay Southern Water's plan to recycle sewage effluent into drinking water, and demands they properly explore other cheaper, greener, solutions first. If you disagree with the plan to change the source of your drinking water supplies from rivers, springs, and aquifers, to treated recycled effluent we urge you to sign this petition.

[Petition · Stop Plans for Drinking Southern Waters Recycled Sewage · Change.org](#)

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## Stop Plans for Drinking Southern Waters Recycled Sewage



5,059 have signed. Let's get to 7,500!



Mike Swift signed this petition

Robert Morris signed this petition

Thanks to your support this petition has a chance at winning! We only need 2,441 more signatures to reach the next goal - can you help?

Take the next step!



[Friends of the Earth Havant](#) started this petition to DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs)

## Here to Help - Your Focus Team

If we can help with a local issue, or if you'd like to hear more about the local Lib Dems, email us with your contact details to [grahameverdell.libdemsfareham@outlook.com](mailto:grahameverdell.libdemsfareham@outlook.com) or drop a note to Gayathri or Graham.



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Want to help us? Go to [www.farehamlibdems.org.uk/get-involved](http://www.farehamlibdems.org.uk/get-involved)

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Best wishes,

**Gayathri Sathyanath**  
**Graham Everdell**  
Your Western Wards Focus Team  
*Fareham Liberal Democrats*



**Lib Dems for Park Gate and Locks Heath**

**Fareham Liberal Democrats**

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***Remember, 'The Liberal Democrats exist to build and safeguard a fair, free, and open society, in which we seek to balance the fundamental values of liberty, equality, and community, and in which no one shall be enslaved by poverty, ignorance, or conformity.'***

Preamble to the Constitution of the Liberal Democrats