

## **To All Partners: Staveley ‘Clean Water, Clean Streets’: Update 1**

Following the initial meeting in early March in which many of you were involved, Staveley with Ings Parish Council wish to keep partner organisations and representatives informed of progress on the proposals identified. While it is understood that not all of you can be directly involved there are a variety of ways in which different organisations can support our aspirations – all have a part to play. Keeping you up to date with progress through these occasional updates is integral to this. (I promise to keep them short and readable!)

Action and plans so far:

The links between catchment consultation, such as ‘Becks to Bay’ and the ‘Kent Working Group’ were recognised from the start in our discussions. As a specific locality project we are determined to ensure good communication and liaison – there is a role for both. The Parish Council will ensure that local community concerns are fully considered and resolved through the benefits of locality working.

It has identified three inter-related areas of concern around which a plan of action should be built. These are:

- Staveley WwTW
- The infrastructure of the combined sewerage system and ingress of surface and ground water
- River water quality, environmental and bio-diversity pollution

The recent EA publication of national overflows from WwTW clearly confirms the seriousness of the problem both for Staveley, more widely for Cumbria and particularly for small, rural communities. Out of almost 2200 recordings from WwTW sites across the whole of the United Utilities area, Staveley was fourth worst in terms of so called ‘storm’ spills, totalling 301 in 2022. Indeed Cumbrian sites occupied four of the bottom five places – all serving small, rural communities. Numerous rural sites across Cumbria were performing poorly. This reinforces the Parish Council’s concern that a serious rurality deficit exists, which this project has the potential to address.

The LLFA has been working with the Parish Council on the issues identified for some time. This Core Group will now be tasked with the development of the proposed plan of action. It should include United Utilities and Westmorland & Furness Council representation and expanded to include the Environment Agency. As required, other partners may be encouraged to join the group for specific discussions. In due course, it will report back to the meeting of partners.

It is proposed that the Group’s main activities would be:

- To receive reports from participants and take necessary action
- Gather and analyse information
- Track and maintain progress
- Prepare a detailed, joint action plan – both short-term to make an initial impact and long-term to resolve the identified problems
- Report back to the inaugural group

A preliminary meeting has taken place to define the tasks and more detailed discussion on current work will follow later this month. Amongst other considerations this will include:

- Action by the LLFA to track the village sewerage network and in particular to identify and quantify ground and surface water ingress.

- Action by UU to monitor foul water flow within the network and a report on the capacity problems evident at the WwTW
- Results of the year-long monitoring programme of discharges into the River Kent from the WwTW, including a call for the re-definition of so called 'storm overflows.'

Arthur Council (on behalf of Staveley with Ings Parish Council)

Update 1: 5.5.23