

## **Latest update from the Parish Council Sewage Task Group (27.8.21)**

(Heading numbers refer to the original report)

11.1 The Parish Council approved the moratorium at its meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2021. It agreed the criteria for applying the moratorium on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2021. Separately, at the same meeting, the Council recommended the refusal of the Crookfield 3 planning application on several grounds including those relating to sewage discharge.

11.2 At its meeting (26.7.21) the Council agreed to make public its concerns and issued a press statement on 30.7.21. This was coordinated with a similar statement by SENS. As a result the problems have received extensive media coverage both locally and nationally. The press release also resulted in contact being established with several neighbouring councils experiencing similar problems. At the 26.7.21 meeting Council also agreed to circulate details of the problem and subsequent planning moratorium to residents after the summer break.

11.3 No resolution was offered by UU at a further meeting held with the Task Group on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2021. The alternative suggestions (see 7.3 on original report) were rejected as making the discharge worse. The possibility of including Staveley in a future project (post-March 2022) involving the use of Dynamic Network Management (DNM) to monitor what is happening, particularly during heavy rain, across the combined system was mooted but not confirmed. (Note: While this would provide improved information about what was happening within the village combined system, it would not resolve the agreed problem of constriction under the River Kent.)

The discussion raised a number of questions on which further information was requested. This was received on 12.8.21 but disappointingly, it added little new information and largely referred us to other agencies.

11.4 A visit by UU to inspect the flood plain manholes with the Task Group took place on 6.8.21. As a result UU has promised to complete various works to the manhole covers and build up vulnerable infiltration points to prevent water pushing back into the underground pipes. Sandbags offered by UU in the event of an emergency will also be delivered.

11.5 A further EIR request to UU has been submitted (23.8.21) to seek additional information, so far not forthcoming both either from our direct meetings or follow up requests. The EIR request covers a number of issues, including those relating to the WWTW capacity and overflows. The full version is set out below. A response is awaited.

11.6 The Parish Council has purchased a sample kit to test water quality. A sample collected on 5.8.21 at the outlet pipe of the WWTW clearly confirmed the presence of e-coli/coliform bacteria. Those taken a few metres up and downstream were negative. The river level, as measured by the Bowston gauge, at the time was 0.11 metres. Details of the outcome have been sent to Natural England. A response is still awaited.

11.7 Separately, a useful discussion has taken place with Natural England and further consultations promised after they have conferred with EA.

11.8 A visit to the parish by SLDC councillors and officers to discuss Community Plan priorities, which would include consideration of the sewage issues, is being arranged

11.9 Contact has been made with EA officers responsible for the Kent and Gowan Flood Management plans and promise made of further discussions to consider coordination with UU on

the resolution of sewage discharge. An initial response, setting out the current position, has now been received, which the Task Group will consider.

11.10 Contact has been made with M.P. Tim Farron and a discussion arranged for 10.9.21