

Issues related to Southern Water raised by IWALC Member Councils

Cowes Town Council

A councillor has been told that oestrogen in the water is affecting the hormone balance in fish (resulting in more females) and there is a possibility that this is also affecting the human food chain. Do you have any information about this?

East Cowes Town Council

The Council is concerned about the discharge of waste water into the sea, especially in storms, and the impact of this on the quality of water on beaches. They appreciate the discussions they have already had with you about this and realise there is no quick or easy solution. However, they wish to register their ongoing concern.

Freshwater Parish Council

The Council has an on-going problem with sewage discharges in the Colwell Bay area.

Havenstreet and Ashey Parish Council

The Council has been trying for five years to resolve the problem of flooding in Church Road. It is frequently flooded by ground water from the cemetery. They have been trying to get Island Roads and the Church to do something about it and have offered to contribute to a solution. However, they have now been told that Southern Water will not allow the water to enter their system at a suitable point, where it will prevent the road flooding.

Lake Parish Council

The Council shares Sandown Town Council's concerns (see below) about the discharge of sewage and/or storm water into Sandown bay.

Nettlestone & Seaview Parish Council

The Council is concerned about damage to the combined sewer outflows at Seagrove Bay and Sandy Cove. Pictures supplied by a resident suggest that these pipes, which carry a combination of sewerage and storm water, are broken in these locations and so releasing a lot of their output too close to the shore. The Council understands that you are investigating this but they are concerned that there are no timescales for fixing it, especially since this is a popular tourist and family orientated stretch of coastline. The Council is collecting more information from residents and will then invite you to a meeting to discuss it in the new year.

Niton and Whitwell Parish Council

There is regular flooding on Church Street and Rectory Road in Niton that occurs whenever the volume of rain is such that the small bore underground pipe cannot

cope. The particular drain is at the edge of the footpath and directly outside the affected properties, where a larger bore pipe meets an older but smaller bore, forcing the effluent up and out onto the footpath and into the adjacent garden and a tributary of the East River Yar. The Parish Council and residents have informed you on many occasions of raw sewage coming up from drains and onto footpaths during/after rainfall in this area. The last occasion was on 2 August 2021. They are concerned about the health implications, especially to school children using the footpath.

You have sent Dyna-Rod in on a number of times but this does not solve the problem. Members of the Council feel that the whole drainage system, installed before the enlargement of the school and preschool, the Puckwell Farm development and the Glen Estate, needs to be replaced.

At the request of the Parish Council, you met residents in mid-August. The sewage chamber was inspected and the problem was identified as surface water entering a part of the system restricted to foul water. You have agreed to locate the point of entry as soon as possible, but have advised this may take some time due to the complexity of the system.

Northwood Parish Council

The Council has three problems in Pallance Road and Wyatts Lane, all of which are longstanding and causing major concern:

- 40 Pallance Road: The toilet backs up and sometimes floods onto his bathroom floor.
- 107 Wyatts lane: Sewage frequently escapes onto the road outside or near the property and residents complain about the smell of sewage at the same location on hot days.
- Scout Hut opposite 56 Wyatts Lane: In the last 18 months there have been several cases of flooding from manhole covers on the pavement outside the Scout hut into the grounds of numbers 58, 60 and 62 Wyatts Lane.

Rookley Parish Council

There are repeated problems with smell and overflowing effluent where the sewer leaves Rookley on the way to Godshill, adjacent to Hunts Yard at Pagham, particularly in summer when the holiday park (now called The Lakes) is fully occupied. The Council have never had a full explanation as to the cause. Is it the inadequate capacity of the sewer, the capacity of intermediate pumping stations, or deliberate slowing down of the rate of flow to help manage the limited ability of the Sandown treatment works? They understand that, if it the last of these, it is a major issue which cannot be resolved overnight - but they would like an honest explanation of the cause.

The Council are also concerned about the new Captiva development at the Blackwater end of the village. They understand that the sewage from this development is expected to flow to the small treatment facility in Highwood lane but have yet to be assured that both the access pipework and the treatment facility itself are capable of dealing with that extra load.

Furthermore, although Rookley is not a 'coastal community', as Island residents, councillors are concerned about the dumping of raw sewage into the sea.

Sandown Town Council

The Council is concerned about the following issues:

- Discharge of sewerage into the bay
- Flooding at Morton Brook, Avenue Road and other locations in Sandown
- Condition of the infrastructure in and serving Sandown
- Proposals for the treatment plant.

These have already been raised at a meeting with you and IW councillors at the Broadway Centre.

Shalfleet Parish Council

The Council has a long-term problem of leaks and breakages in the water mains in Station Road, Ningwood. They have been in correspondence with you about this for a number of years. A letter to you on 11 August 2020 summarises the situation.

The Council is also concerned about sewage issues related to the proposed construction of 70+ houses as an extension to the Burt Close development in Shalfleet. They have been in contact with the developer who apparently cannot progress unless these sewage issues are addressed.

The Council have been in regular contact with you recently and many of the councillors and the clerk visited the Treatment Plant in Shalfleet in August 2021. The visit was interesting but did not answer all the councillors' questions. They have also been in contact with the Environment Agency for copies of discharge permits and licences and have recently gone back to them with a query over storm discharge.

Yarmouth Town Council

The Council are currently awaiting the resolution of an argument between your and the IWC about who is responsible for a landslip along Bouldnor Road, Yarmouth, allegedly caused by a burst water main.

General

We have also received a general question from one councillor, who would like to know when we are going to see a major investment in infrastructure to cater for the likely increase in the number of properties proposed to be built in the current Draft Island Planning Strategy.

December 2021

