

Welborne Plan

Position Statement: Wastewater Conveyance and Treatment

**Fareham Borough Council
Southern Water
Albion Water
Environment Agency**

October 2014

CD-25

Position Statement on Wastewater Conveyance and Treatment

This position statement sets out the current positions of Southern Water, Albion Water and the Environment Agency with regards to the provision of potential wastewater conveyancing and treatment solutions for Welborne. The purpose of this statement is to support the position of the Welborne Plan at the forthcoming examination hearing sessions.

Fareham Borough Council has been informed of the respective positions of the relevant organisations through dialogue and additional evidence documentation.

Southern Water

Susan Solbra
Regional Planning Manager

Agreement via email 01-Oct-2014

Albion Water

David Knaggs
Chief Executive

Agreement via email 30-Sept-2014

Environment Agency

Laura Lax
Senior Planning Advisor

Agreement via email 03-Oct-2014

Introduction

1. The purpose of this statement is to inform the Inspector and other parties about the options for, and current position of, wastewater infrastructure provision for Welborne.
2. This statement builds upon dialogue and correspondence with Albion Water, Southern Water and the Environment Agency that has been undertaken throughout the preparation of the Welborne Plan, through representations by all three parties on the Regulation 19 Publication Plan and from the following documents:
 - EV56: *Welborne Plan - Waste Water Treatment Position Statement*. Environment Agency. (19 September 2014).
 - EV57: *Welborne Infrastructure - Delivering Water Services: Preliminary Infrastructure Assessment*. Albion Water. (August 2014).
 - EV59: *Welborne Wastewater Infrastructure: An Initial Infrastructure Assessment*. Albion Water. (September 2014).
 - EV58: *Provision of Wastewater Services: Statement from Southern Water*. Southern Water. (September 2014).

Background

3. The Welborne Plan identifies two possible options for dealing with wastewater from Welborne; provided by Southern Water and Albion Water.
4. Southern Water is the incumbent sewerage provider for the area, meaning that Southern Water has a statutory duty to serve Welborne, unless the site promoters chose to use an alternative provider.
5. Albion Water operates a sewage treatment works at Knowle, adjacent to Welborne which provides sewage treatment facilities to around 750 houses.

Southern Water

6. Southern Water operates Peel Common Wastewater Treatment Works (WTW) which is located approximately 5km south from the centre of Welborne. In their October 2011 and September 2014 position statements, Southern Water has confirmed that Peel Common WTW has sufficient headroom in the environmental permit to meet the additional demands for wastewater treatment that arise from Welborne, as well as from other planned developments in the area. Should any future upgrades to plant capacity be required for Peel Common WTW as a result of development in the area, including that at Welborne, then these upgrades would be directly funded by Southern Water and developer contributions would not be sought.
7. Southern Water has confirmed that the sewerage network in the Welborne area has insufficient capacity to transport the anticipated flows from Welborne to Peel Common WTW. However, during the initial years of development some additional limited capacity in the network could potentially be obtained through local upsizing works. This would ensure that the delivery of housing and

employment in the first few years would not be prevented or slowed whilst waiting for the completion of a long-term drainage solution. The exact capacity that is available is currently being investigated by Fareham Borough Council through a Section 98 Water Industry Act 1991 application with Southern Water. At this point there is no indication that the capacity could not be provided to meet the anticipated delivery of housing and employment development as set out in the Welborne Plan.

8. Two potential engineering options to provide new long-term sewerage network capacity from Welborne to Peel Common WTW have been identified by Southern Water. Although the long-term solutions are being investigated further by Fareham Borough Council through a Section 98 Water Industry Act 1991 application, Southern Water has not identified any major 'show stopper' constraints or concerns that would prevent delivery of the long-term solution.
9. The broad long-term options that have been identified consist of either upsizing the existing sewerage network through the Fareham urban area, or alternatively through the construction of a new sewerage network directly from Welborne to Peel Common WTW through open land to the west of Fareham. Both options represent a distance of approximately 5-10km. The precise engineering configuration and route of the infrastructure is being investigated further by Fareham Borough Council through a Section 98 Water Industry Act 1991 application; however both options would require the pumping of all sewage.
10. Southern Water has confirmed that any upgrade of the sewerage network or provision of new sewerage infrastructure with Southern Water will need to be funded partly through developer contributions and partly by Southern Water. The cost of infrastructure and as such the level of developer contribution sought by Southern Water will take account of the future income that Southern Water will receive from new customers at Welborne.

Albion Water

11. Albion Water operates a small Sewage Treatment Works (STW) at Knowle, located approximately 1.25km west from the centre of Welborne. Albion Water has confirmed that their current sewage treatment infrastructure at Knowle, which serves approximately 750 dwellings at Knowle, has the capacity to serve up to 500 new houses at Welborne (up to end of 2018/19) through connection to the Ravenswood [gravity] Sewer by 2015/16 and through minor off-site sewer repairs by the end of 2016/17 (c. £35k). Sufficient capacity at Knowle STW is available to serve a further 300 homes (800 in total) through the modification and reintroduction of redundant secondary treatment plant at Knowle STW (c. £500k) by the end of 2017/18.
12. In order for Knowle STW to serve more than the initial 800 houses, a new parallel sewerage treatment plant would be required to be constructed and be available from 2020/21 (c. 4.25m). A further significant infrastructure upgrade to the existing STW will then be further required by the end of 2026/27, in order to provide the required capacity to serve the whole of Welborne (c. £5.75m). At this point there is no indication that the capacity could not be provided to meet

the anticipated delivery of housing and employment development as set out in the Welborne Plan.

13. Albion Water has assumed that the initial phases of housing will be wholly served by connection to the existing Ravenswood gravity sewer (situated 250m west of Welborne). However, the southern portion of Welborne cannot be served in this way and would require sewerage via pumping. This is likely to require the installation of two pumping stations, potentially in the employment areas in the south of Welborne. It is understood that both the sewerage network to the southern portion of the site and the first pumping station could be completed by the end of 2018/19.
14. Albion Water do not believe that there will be any increase in sludge tanker movements until 2018, when they may rise by one tanker a week until 2020 and by a further one tanker per week from 2024. These additional tanker movements will however be offset by the substantial reduction in traffic movements associated with the termination of certain Albion land use operations from 2016.
15. It is understood from Albion Water that to this date, no detailed discussions have taken place between Albion Water and the Environment Agency regarding the potential of Knowle STW serving the entirety of Welborne. However it is understood that the value of returning water to the River Meon (subject to meeting stringent standards on water quality, biodiversity and hydrology) as opposed to the sea, was recognised as a matter of principle.
16. Albion Water have indicated that the initial upgrade works required at the Knowle STW, on land in their ownership, would not require planning permission to be granted and could be undertaken under the site's permitted development rights. However, in order to gain further clarification on all potential upgrade measures, Albion Water is currently preparing pre-application documents for submission to Hampshire County Council in order to facilitate the further discussion of these matters.
17. Albion Water has indicated that the most sustainable and resilient approach for Welborne might be achieved through an option that involves both Southern Water and Albion Water providing wastewater services. Such an option could be designed to maximise the carbon savings of gravity compared with pumped drainage. An initial discussion between Southern Water and Albion Water concluded that there was merit in considering the potential benefits of a collaborative approach.

Environment Agency

18. The two solutions that have been proposed in the Welborne Plan for Waste Water Disposal by Southern Water and Albion Water would both, as a first principle, need to ensure that there is no deterioration to the quality of the receiving water bodies. Both companies have existing permits to discharge from Peel Common (Southern Water) and Knowle Village (Albion Water) respectively. It is for the water companies to demonstrate that they can accommodate the proposed growth and that any additional discharge that

arises from the growth at Welborne can be accommodated within their existing permits or in a revised permit, which would require further investigations and is not guaranteed.

19. From the additional information provided by Albion Water (preliminary infrastructure assessments August and September 2014) it appears that the proposal put forward would require additional permitted discharge. Furthermore Albion would need to prove that its treatment upgrades would not cause a reduction in the status of the receiving water body (River Meon). If the Albion Water option is to be pursued, then early discussion with the Environment Agency through the pre-permitting process is essential.

Delivery

20. This statement demonstrates that the two potential wastewater solutions for Welborne as identified in the Welborne Plan, could be feasible wastewater solutions for Welborne which are deliverable within the housing and employment trajectories specified in the Welborne Plan. It is however recognised that further investigation work will need to be undertaken in order to facilitate the decision on which option will be used/chosen.
21. The decision on which wastewater solution is chosen, whether it is a combination of the options or indeed whether a solution is provided through a new onsite waste water treatment works, will be a commercial choice by the principal landowners.
22. Any future planning application for development at Welborne in accordance with the Welborne Plan would need to demonstrate that the final wastewater solution meets the requirements of policy WEL37 and of the Environment Agency.