Notes from meeting with Severn Trent Water

Date & Time: 8th May 2024 10.30am

Location: Stretton Village Hall

Attendees: Gareth Mead, River Rangers Manager

Morgan Brown, Project Manager Cllr Jonathon Bennett – Rugby Borough Council Mrs Jenny Wilkinson – Liberal Democrats Parliamentary Candidate Cllr Paul Gordon – Stretton on Dunsmore Parish Council Chairman Cllr Warwick Dipple – Stretton on Dunsmore Parish Councillor Cllr Sarah Gambling – Stretton on Dunsmore Parish Councillor Mrs Helen Stewart - Stretton on Dunsmore Parish Clerk

The meeting opened with introductions around the table. Cllr Gordon thanked Mr Mead and Mr Brown for taking the time to meet with the Parish Council.

Cllr Gordon reiterated the concerns that the Parish Council has raised in its previous communication with STW customer services.

Mr Brown and Mr Mead gave an overview of the <u>current situation</u>: Foul water follows the line of fall throughout the village and gathers in a foul sewer along Brookside which feeds the pumping station behind the Shoulder of Mutton. From there it enters an underground chamber at the pumping station. There are in fact two chambers knocked through. The original and one added sometime in the seventies.

Twin submerged pumps sit it the chamber. A primary (duty) pump and a secondary (standby). The pumps are rated to pump 15 litres a second (l/s) and are fairly modern.

They pump the effluent via a 90mm diameter asbestos pipe to the junction of Plott Lane and Freeboard lane where it joins a gravity sewer flowing down to Ryton water treatment works. In times of rain surface water infiltrates the sewer and adds to the quantity waiting to be pumped. Effectively more is coming in that going out so eventually the chamber fills and spills occur.

Immediate mitigation is to pump out the chamber frequently to keep it empty. That is currently being undertaken by tankers and costing STW around £50,000 a month as well as access costs. Further mitigation (such as preventing surface water ingress) will be pursued over the next few months.

The problem:

The current pipe is old and undersized. The pump usually manages about 9l/s and has hit a maximum of 12l/s. (It is more efficient when the tank is full, and it has a positive head). It has been determined that this is because the significant lift it must create and the small size of the pipe constricting the flow. The pumps themselves are fine. The chamber is adequate but could reasonably be bigger. There is a second plan to replace it with a single larger chamber at some point in the future.

The solution:

STW Ltd are spending £500K on a project to replace the 90mm rising main with a 150mm PVC pipe. The new one will be installed on a slightly different route from the old and the old one will be abandoned. It is anticipated that this main will allow the pump to pump the rated capacity of 15l/s with ease. If necessary, both pumps can be used in tandem to further increase the throughput.

The new main is 1.3km long and will be installed by mechanical mole with a pit being dug every 100m or so. Work will start at the beginning of June and be complete by the beginning of August. The delay has been negotiating access to the land in question. Mr Brown has been liaising directly with 5 different landowners to reach a point where the planned works can now go ahead. He has also ensured that multiple repairs to damage to the ground and fencing around the pumping station that were caused by the tankers. He will continue to this.

The STW representatives present were not from the local area and were not aware of the Taylor Wimpey development. However, they were clear that it would make no difference if they did. STW will not invest in extra capacity for what might happen. There was a general discussion about surface water drainage and examples of attenuation ponds. They will only respond to approved plans and definite start dates.

Actions:

Mr Mead will send a screenshot of the sewage system to the Parish Clerk for the Parish Council's information and record.

Mr Brown will send an update which can be shared by the Parish Council with the wider community so they can be informed of the plans to upgrade the rising main and pumping station.

Mr Brown will also share his contact details with the Parish Clerk.

The two documents were shared by STW with the Parish Council are inserted below.



