

STAMBRIDGE SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS - PROGRESS REPORT (Min 106/01)

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report gives Members an update of the current actions taking place at the Works.
- 1.2 The active monitoring of the site is a discretionary service for this Council. However, the Council does have Statutory Nuisance powers.

2 NOISE

- 2.1 As previously reported to Members, a noise nuisance was confirmed at the Works affecting the nearest residential property. Acting on information received from Anglian Water Services Limited an abatement notice in respect of noise nuisance was served on AWG plc. This notice was served under the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and required AWG plc to abate the nuisance within 180 days.
- 2.2 AWG plc subsequently appealed against the notice on the basis that they had no interest in the Works. After further correspondence with Anglian Water and AWG plc, to establish which element of their organisation would accept notice, a further notice was served on Anglian Water Services Ltd on the 23rd November 2001. This requires abatement of the noise nuisance within 120 days. The original appeal has been withdrawn. At the time of writing this report it is unknown if Anglian Water intend to appeal against the provisions of the new notice.

3 ODOURS

- 3.1 Members had been previously advised that investigations into odour complaints were to continue with an intensive four-week monitoring by Officers and up to 200 diary sheets being distributed by the Parish Council to local residents. The Parish Council and "Sludgewartch, the Action Group" expressed concern about the format of the diary sheets. As this caused a delay while the Council's position was explained, the opportunity to monitor before the onset of winter was lost.
- 3.2 At the Stambridge Sewage Works Liaison Committee on the 19th November 2001 Anglian Water advised that they intended to undertake trials to improve odour controls at the Works. They also stated that they were to provide a pre-scrubber to the existing Odorguard. These trials are currently taking place and the pre-scrubber is to be fitted in January 2002. Due to an internal defect the

Odorguard was shut down on the 19th November 2001 and was brought back into use on the 7th December 2001.

- 3.3 In view of the trials being undertaken by Anglian Water, the Parish Council and "Sludgewart, the Action Group" have agreed that the Works are not monitored at this time. If during these trials there are complaints of an increase in severity of odour problem, these will be investigated.
- 3.4 On completion of the trials and any proposed works, should further problems be reported by residents, the Parish Council have advised they will liaise with Officers with respect to monitoring.

4 OTHER MATTERS

- 4.1 Anglian Water is hoping to complete the removal of the redundant N-Viro plant from the site in the next few weeks.
- 4.2 Anglian Water have confirmed that the sludge derived from the Works is still going to landfill but is to be taken to their Tilbury works for lime treatment for agricultural use in the near future.

5 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The processing of sludge is a matter of local and national concern.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The monitoring of the site, attendance at meetings etc, diverts resources from other statutory functions of the Council.

7 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Non compliance with an abatement notice served under the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 is a criminal offence. A person served with an abatement notice may appeal to the Magistrates Court. In respect of an offence, a company will have a defence if they prove that the best practicable means were used to prevent or counteract the effects of the nuisance.

8 PARISH IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The sewage works is in the Parish of Stambridge.

9 RECOMMENDATION

9.1 It is proposed that the Sub-Committee **RECOMMENDS**

That the contents of this report are noted.

G Woolhouse

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Background Papers:

None

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