
STAMBRIDGE SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS WORKING GROUP

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report updates Members on the recommendations of the Working Group and to determine its future. The investigation of nuisance is a statutory function. However, other monitoring of the site is discretionary.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 In March 2001 Members resolved that a final meeting of the Stambridge Sewage Treatment Works Working Group be held as early as practicable after the next meeting of the Stambridge Sewage Treatment Works Liaison Committee to confirm the completion of the clearance process at the site. This Working Group meeting was held on 4th September 2001.
- 2.2 The recommendations of the Working Group are detailed in the resolutions before Members at the end of this report.

3 FUTURE OF THE WORKING GROUP

- 3.1 The terms of reference for this Working Group are "to consider the various health and safety aspects of the N-Viro process at Stambridge Sewage Treatment Works including the production, storage and transportation and to report to the Transportation and Environmental Services Committee on these."
- 3.2 As the N-Viro product is no longer produced or stored at the site this Working Group no longer has terms of reference. The Protocol for Working Groups requires clear terms of reference to be provided and the period of time for which the Working Group is to continue to exist must also be specified.
- 3.3 Members may wish to note that the Stambridge Sewage Treatment Works Liaison Committee, which three nominated Members attend, will continue to monitor the site.

4 ACTION TO DATE

- 4.1 A statutory noise nuisance has been confirmed. Anglian Water was given a deadline of 10th September 2001 to comment, prior to the pursuit of statutory action. At the time of writing this report Anglian Water have requested a further 3 months in which to consider what action they propose and to meet with officers. This meeting is to take place on 19th September 2001. After this meeting the Head of Housing,

Health & Community Care will determine the appropriate course of action under his existing delegations. This may include the service of formal notice. Remedial works will inevitably take time, possibly between 6 and 12 months.

- 4.2 Despite extensive monitoring during the day, evenings and weekends, no statutory nuisance with respect to odours has, so far, been established. Investigations are continuing with up to 200 diary sheets together with pre-paid envelopes provided by the Council being issued by the Stambridge Parish Council to local residents. This is to coincide with intensive monitoring by officers over the same four-week period.

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 with respect to activities not within the statutory control of the Council, attendance of meetings, etc, diverts resources from other statutory functions.

7 PARISH IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The sewage works is in the parish of Stambridge.

8 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 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.

9 RECOMMENDATION

It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

- (1) That a letter be sent to Anglian Water requesting them to confirm in writing that they will have either removed the pasteurisers from site or dismantled them to ground level by the end of December 2001.
- (2) That a letter be sent to Essex County Council requesting that they undertake further monitoring of traffic movements as controlled by the planning consent granted.

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- (3) That a letter be sent to Anglian Water requesting information about the long-term disposal of sludge from the Works.
- (4) That the Stambridge Sewage Treatment Works Working Group should continue until the end of the current Council year with the following revised terms of reference:

“To consider any matters concerning the Stambridge Sewage Treatment Works which may result in complaints of statutory nuisance, to report such matters to the Transportation & Environmental Services Committee and to make recommendations for appropriate action.” (HHHCC)

G Woolhouse

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