SW Update from Pillhill Pan Parish Forum Meeting 27 June 2024

The Pillhill Pan Parish Forum (PPPF) met Southern Water (SW) on Thursday 27 June 2024 to review progress against our shared objectives of abolishing 1) tanker disruption from our villages and 2) overpumping sewage into the Pillhill Brook. Just a reminder that tankers are needed when SW's water pumping stations can no longer cope with the combined volume of sewage and groundwater (GW) in the sewer pipes. GW gets into the pipes through sewer joints or manhole chambers (public or private). Overpumping is the last resort when tankers cannot take the amount of fluid in the sewer pipes away fast enough to prevent sewage pollution. Thankfully there has been no overpumping in the PPPF catchment since the winter of 2021 and this year tankers left the villages on 3 May when SW completed their relining programme in the northern villages of the catchment.

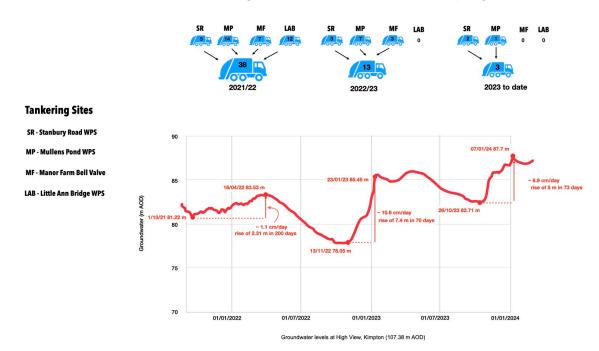
To date SW have relined:

- 2.5 km of private pipework (301 private properties) with a new product called Tubogel
- 2.54 km of public sewer with tradition relining techniques
- 120 manhole chambers

SW have always said that approximately 42% of the sewer network was privately owned and from the above we can see that this is actually more like 50%.

With SW the PPPF have been using the graph shown below to evidence that SW's relining programme has made a difference.

Pan Parish 3 yr Reduction in Tanker Deployment



The Environmental Agency (EA) use a level of 84 m, at their Clanville Gate borehole, as a trigger level over which SW need to prepare to take action against GW infiltration. It is worth noting that GW level was at 90.59 m on 3 May this year when SW removed their tankers, 6.59 m higher than the EA's trigger level!

Of the two major issues raised with SW in March one remains outstanding. This is the constant spilling of the manhole at Manor Farm in Abbotts Ann during GW season. If not tackled swiftly foul water can run down the hill into the village. Although SW committed to focus on a solution and report back to us at our June meeting they failed to do this. The PPPF stated our disappointment and raised the concern that if this issue was not addressed before the next GW season the likely spills would undermine all the good works of the SW Pathfinder. This may be why Keith Herbert, SW Pathfinder Lead, agreed to pick up and run with this action going forward.

SW had also committed to share their draft Asset Management Period (AMP8) for the period 2025 - 30 at the meeting. The AMP test a framework for how water companies manage their assets, deliver services to customers, and invest in infrastructure over a five-year period. They were unable to do this due to Ofwat being in purdah. This is where governments, ministers and civil servants must exercise caution in making any announcements or decisions that might have an effect on the election campaign. This also meant that the EA were unable to attend the PPPF meeting for the same reason. However the good news is that with a tanker costing around £2,500 per day the Pathfinders relining programme has paid for itself within 6 months.

Finally the PPPF were encouraged that Sarah Reghif from Hampshire County Council's Flood and Water Management Team attended and presented at the meeting. It is clear that flooding is a multi-agency issue and the PPPF hope to provide a platform for further dialogue and collaboration on this matter.

Janet Wright

Secretary to the Pan Parish Forum