

LYDFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Hereby advise you that

SOUTH WEST WATER

will be at Nicholls Hall on 23rd February 2010 at 6.30pm

To discuss the following received by email:

I have recently taken over from Colin Mather, who now has another post within South West Water, as the Project Manager for our Lydford scheme and would like to update the Parish Council on our proposals.

As I am sure you are aware a public exhibition was held last year in order to promote the construction of a new sewage treatment works to serve the village at a site close to the disused Lydford railway viaduct.

Following the exhibition the National Trust gave further consideration to the importance of the likely Iron Age features revealed by our previous archaeological surveys. After lengthy consideration they withdrew their support for this site, and we have therefore had to reconsider our position.

There have been two important developments in relation to the existing site.

Firstly, in conjunction with Western Power, we have identified that at some point in the past a power cable was laid to the site over the Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM). This means that the ground over the cable has already been disturbed along this route. After discussions with English Heritage and the National Trust, carefully tracing the route of the cable and carrying out a trial excavation (supervised by Exeter Archaeology) it has been agreed that the installation of a new cable will cause no further damage to the underlying archaeology of the monument. We have therefore submitted a SAM Consent to re-excavate the existing trench and lay a new power cable, and a duct for any future requirements, to the site.

When we have received the SAM consent, and Western Power have negotiated a wayleave with the National Trust, we will install a power supply to the site. We hope to be able to carry out this work early in the new year.

The provision of a permanent power supply to the site will allow us to operate the existing process units more efficiently and reliably. To achieve this we would install a small control kiosk so that the existing diesel powered sludge pump can be replaced with an electric pump and other minor electrical items can be installed.

Secondly we have been in consultation with the Environment Agency (EA) and it has been agreed that we will use a soakaway as an additional form of treatment. This requires an alteration to the existing Discharge Consent and we expect the revised consent to be issued by the EA shortly. The soakaway has already been constructed so that we can comply with the new consent as soon as it is received.

To further improve the efficiency of the existing process we will install a new flow control chamber adjacent to the existing septic tank. We will also install some handrails on top of the septic tank to comply with modern health and safety standards. The nature of the minor works proposed fall within our Permitted Development rights. We have, however, provided details of the work proposed to Dartmoor National Park Authority.

We believe that with these modifications, which will make the process more efficient and reliable, we can maintain the sewage treatment works on the existing site. When we have carried out the work described above we will further review the performance of the site and if necessary will carry out further minor improvements next year.

Please be assured that we are aware of the sensitivity of any development in Lydford. We would be happy to attend a Parish Council meeting to explain what we believe to be a pragmatic approach to improving the existing sewage treatment works and thus avoiding the disruption caused by constructing a new works and transferring sewage to it.

Regards

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