

Minutes of meeting with SWW (South West Water) representatives 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024, 11.00 a.m.

at Methodist Hall, Shaldon.

Present: Representing SWW

[redacted] community engagement officer (replacing  
Director of external liaison [redacted])

Parish Councillors: Danielle Westlake (Chair); Jo Cumbley; Lucy Bufton; Claire Stoyale

Matters discussed:

- ***The current state of the sewage infrastructure in Shaldon*** - how do the CSOs operate and what is the current capacity of the system?

SWW are possibly investing to improve the infrastructure at Shaldon. A SOAP (Storm overflow action plan) covering all of Devon is being considered at present by the government. SWW are waiting for a response from ministers and then hope to be able to implement the plan within the next few months.

Although the Waterfit site indicates that there will be a £300,000 investment in equipment and software at local pumping stations by 2025 which will benefit Shaldon beach, SWW were unable to confirm this, as there may simply be a feasibility study ongoing. SWW would confirm in writing the present situation as regards this investment.

- ***The proposed changes to the Waterfit website*** - how do these affect the way in which the water quality on Shaldon Beach is represented to water users?

Details of all further CSO (Combined Storm Overflows) will shortly be added to the Waterfit site, in addition to those few already there, and the traffic light system will also be extended to these to show which of the CSO are working and whether any spills are occurring, in real time.

- ***How will the SWW five-year Business Plan improve the quality of the water on Shaldon beach?***

[redacted] was unable to say definitively whether Shaldon would get priority for further investment by SWW over this issue. However, because we have both bathing and shellfish areas, we do have a higher priority than others inland.

[redacted] agreed to SPC's request that they be consulted by SWW with regards to future investment to improve water quality and noted that we had already applied to be included in the "Your Beach, Your Say" consultation.

- ***What plans are there to upgrade the pipe work for mains water within Shaldon and Ringmore to deal with the number of leaks that occur?***

There are no plans to upgrade pipe work, just to fix and repair leaks as they happen.

It was agreed that SPC would be sent the following written information by SWW following the meeting:

- Schematic maps of sewage pipes in the Teign Estuary from Shaldon to Buckland, showing flows of sewage.
- A redacted version of the SWW response to the Environmental Information Request in relation to the pollution incident on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of July 2023, once this has been completed.
- Diagrams of the internal works of the pumping station in order that SPC understand more of the operations.
- Confirmation of the present infrastructure investment plans benefitting Shaldon Beach

SPC asked for a tour of the Shaldon pump station and it might be possible, but SWW said that they may be able to hold a public awareness event for Teignmouth and Shaldon and they would inform SPC of the date were it to happen.