



Growth and Development Scrutiny Group

Wednesday, 21 September 2022

Sewerage Infrastructure and Discharge within Rushcliffe

Report of the Director – Neighbourhoods

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. A scrutiny matrix was submitted by Councillors Barney, Brennan, Clarke, Combellack, Dickman, and Upton to propose the topic of sewerage infrastructure and discharge be scrutinised by Councillors.
- 1.2. Due to the subject matter of this item, officers of the Council have identified external speakers from Severn Trent Water and the Environment Agency to attend the meeting and begin to address the key lines of enquiry identified. This is a covering report to outline to members of the Group the areas of focus for scrutiny.

2. Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that the Growth and Development Scrutiny Group:

- a) review the key lines of enquiry contained within the scrutiny matrix and ask questions of the expert speakers focussed on these areas
- b) determine if any further areas, related to sewerage infrastructure and discharge, should be brought back to a future meeting of this committee.

3. Supporting Information

- 3.1. The scrutiny matrix submitted raised a number of key lines of enquiry covering a wide-ranging number of issues. Subject to presentations and discussions at the meeting in September it may be determined that a further future item relating to a more discreet area of work is required.
- 3.2. The scrutiny matrix specified that Councillors would like to understand the situation in Rushcliffe regarding sewage infrastructure and any unlawful discharges. It is acknowledged that this is a national problem, but a clearer idea of the situation in Rushcliffe is sought and how this could be affecting the environment, humans and wildlife locally.
- 3.3. Research provided alongside the matrix showed that there were 101 incidents in Radcliffe on Trent recorded in 2020 and problems in other villages. The councillors report that there have been concerns with the infrastructure in:

- Nevile Ward affecting Hickling and Kinoulton.
- East Leake
- Ruddington
- Sutton Bonington
- Normanton on Soar.

There is acknowledgement that there may be problems elsewhere from other local Rushcliffe pumping stations; however, no other areas are specifically referred to in the matrix.

- 3.4. Residents need to be reassured that sewage is fully treated before any discharge to water courses; therefore' a better understanding of the sewage system and controls within the Borough would be helpful and how the situation can be addressed.

Planning process and controls

- 3.5. The matrix also highlighted that when new housing is permitted, planning and building regulations can impose measures where appropriate, to ensure the treatment and discharge of sewerage is carried out effectively but there was a question about whether this sufficiently addresses the added demand placed on existing infrastructure, which may be very old. There was a suggestion that the Borough Council may wish to lobby or enhance our liaison with other agencies e.g. STWA and the County Council to further ensure we are protecting the residents of Rushcliffe.
- 3.6. The matrix sought to provide some possible solutions, this included:
- additional planning controls
 - improved consultee responses to planning applications regarding sewage infrastructure
 - to lobby government for amended legislation
 - amendments to existing policies.
 - stronger conditions on planning approvals
 - more rigorous enforcement procedures
 - consideration of apportioning s106 monies to improvement of sewage infrastructure.

4. Risks and Uncertainties

- 4.1. Whilst it is not the responsibility of the Borough Council to rectify issues with sewerage discharge and infrastructure it is important that there is an understanding of the current situation in Rushcliffe. This will enable the Council to take any further action it can to support other organisations to protect local communities and wildlife.

5. Implications

5.1. **Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

5.2. **Legal Implications**

There are no legal implications associated with this report.

5.3. **Equalities Implications**

There are no equalities implications associated with this report.

5.4. **Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Implications**

There are no crime and disorder implications associated with this report.

6. **Link to Corporate Priorities**

Quality of Life	Having the right infrastructure in place for our local communities and businesses is important to support their quality of life.
Efficient Services	
Sustainable Growth	The Borough is accommodating a lot of housing growth and this has an impact on the capacity of all infrastructure. It is important to ensure the right processes and solutions are in place to respond to this growth.
The Environment	

7. **Recommendations**

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For more information contact:	Dave Banks Director of Neighbourhoods Tel: 0115 9148438 dbanks@rushcliffe.gov.uk
Background papers available for Inspection:	
List of appendices:	