

Committee Manager: Carrie O'Connor (Ext 37614)

20 October 2016

ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE WORKING GROUP

A meeting of the Environment & Leisure Working Group will be held in Committee Room 1 (the Pink Room) at the Arun Civic Centre, Maltravers Road, Littlehampton on **Tuesday 1 November 2016 at 6.00 pm** and you are requested to attend.

Members: Councillors; Hitchins (Chairman), English (Vice-Chairman), Mrs Bence, Bicknell, Brooks, L. Brown, Buckland, Cates, Mrs Daniells, Dingemans, Maconachie, Mrs Maconachie, Mrs Neno, Northeast, Oliver-Redgate, Mrs Porter, Purchase, Reynolds, Dr Walsh, Warren, Wells and Wheal

A G E N D A

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members and Officers are reminded to make any declaration of personal and/or prejudicial/pecuniary interests that they may have in relation to items on this agenda.

You should declare your interest by stating:

- a) the item you have the interest in
- b) whether it is a personal interest and the nature of the interest
- c) whether it is also a prejudicial/pecuniary interest

You then need to re-declare your interest and the nature of the interest at the commencement of the item or when the interest becomes apparent.

3 MINUTES

to approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 6 September 2016 (attached).

4 ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA THAT THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MEETING IS OF THE OPINION SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A MATTER OF URGENCY BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

5 UPDATE ON LITTLEHAMPTON LEISURE CENTRE

This report provides an update on the current progress with the leisure centre project, including the planning public consultation.

6 STRATEGIC VISION FOR PUBLIC CONVENIENCES IN ARUN

The purpose of this report is to update Members of the Environmental Services & Leisure Working Group with the results of Parish of the recent Parish and Town Council consultation regarding public conveniences and identify the options for the future of public conveniences which will be contained within the Cabinet report on 14 November 2016.

A copy of the responses received is available in the Members' Room or can be obtained on request from the Committee Manager or accessed via the following link <http://www.arun.gov.uk/download.cfm?doc=docm93jjjm4n9643.pdf&ver=9516>

7 SHORT TERM POLLUTION EVENT FORECASTING AT BATHING WATERS

Members are asked to note the work of the Council in relation to pollution forecasting which is provided at two of Arun's six designated bathing waters, along with associated signage which was introduced in May of this year. The aim of the forecasting is to protect public health by allowing people to make informed choices about when to enter the sea.

‘Subject to Approval at the Next Working Group Meeting’

ENVIRONMENTAL & LEISURE WORKING GROUP

6 September 2016 at 6.00 p.m.

Present: - Councillors Hitchins (Chairman), English (Vice-Chairman), Bicknell, L.Brown, Mrs Maconachie, Maconachie, Mrs Neno, Northeast, Oliver-Redgate, Mrs Porter, Purchase, Dr Walsh, Warren and Wheal.

[The following Councillors were absent from the meeting during consideration of the matters referred to at the Minutes referred to:- Councillor English, Minutes 11 to 15; and Councillor Mrs Neo and Dr Walsh, Minutes 16 to 18.]

Councillor Wotherspoon was also present for part of the meeting.

11. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Buckland, Cates, Mrs Daniells, Dingemans, Reynolds, and Wells, together with the Cabinet Member for Leisure & Amenities.

12. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Monitoring Officer has advised Members of interim arrangements to follow when making declarations of interest. They have been advised that for the reasons explained below, they should make their declarations on the same basis as the former Code of Conduct using the descriptions of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.

Reasons

- The Council has adopted the government’s example for a new local code of conduct, but new policies and procedures relating to the new local code are yet to be considered and adopted.
- Members have not yet been trained on the provisions of the new local code of conduct.
- The definition of Pecuniary Interests is narrower than the definition of Prejudicial Interests, so by declaring a matter as a Prejudicial Interest, that will cover the requirement to declare a Pecuniary Interest in the same matter.

Where a Member declares a “Prejudicial Interest” this will, in the interest of clarity for the public, be recorded in the Minutes as a Prejudicial and Pecuniary Interest.

‘Subject to Approval at the Next Working Group Meeting’

13. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 28 June 2016 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

14. SAFER ARUN PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REVIEW 2015-16

Prior to presenting this report, the Community Safety Manager introduced Acting Chief Inspector Mark Clothier and Emily King from West Sussex County Council to the meeting, who were in attendance to answer any questions Members might have.

The Community Safety Manager supplemented her written report with a visual presentation which highlighted the key activities and achievements of the Safer Arun Partnership (SAP) during the period 2015/16. The following strategic priorities had been agreed in the Partnership Plan as:-

- Tackle and reduce anti-social behaviour
- Street Communities
- Arun Think Family Programme
- Improving Public Confidence

She was particularly pleased to advise that a Memorandum of Understanding had been agreed with the Chichester and Arun Community Safety Partnership, the first to agree joint working in West Sussex. The agreement articulated the commitment and expectations to seek joint strategic responses to shared priorities and aimed to identify opportunities to pool funding in response to shared issues to promote sustainable outcomes and ensure best value for money.

The Working Group then participated in a question and answer session with the Community Safety Manager, Acting Chief Inspector Mark Clothier and Emily King which covered a range of issues relating to

- ✓ Crime figures
- ✓ Domestic Violence
- ✓ Littlehampton Men’s Shed Project
- ✓ Young single homeless

On behalf of the Working Group, the Chairman thanked the Community Safety Manager for a very good report and thanked Mark Clothier and Emily King for their attendance at the meeting.

The Working Group then

RECOMMEND TO CABINET – That

(1) the work of the Safer Arun Partnership be endorsed and the importance of partnership working in contributing to

‘Subject to Approval at the Next Working Group Meeting’

reducing anti-social behaviour and addressing Street Community issues is recognised;

(2) the need for all Arun District Council services to contribute to delivering the Think Family programme through the flexible use of resources and close working with external partners and internal services;

(3) recognition is given to the work of the Safer Arun Partnership in contributing to the delivery of the Council’s strategic priority “supporting you if you need help”; and

(4) the Council’s contribution to overall working of the Safer Arun Partnership(SAP) and achieving SAPs strategic priorities will be considered as part the Council’s Vision and restructuring process.

15. BOGNOR REGIS VISITOR INFORMATION POINT

The Tourism Business Development Officer was pleased to advise Members that the Bognor Regis Visitor Information Point was working well with the operation partner, Johnstone Press at the Bognor Regis Observer office. Alternative ways of providing information were being provided and new additions were constantly being investigated to ensure information was accessible to visitors and residents alike when the Information Point was closed, due to the Observer staff’s contracted hours.

In the course of a brief discussion, the Tourism Business Development Officer was informed of a concern that a public convenience was closed during the peak period in Bognor Regis and it was suggested that details of all such facilities should be advertised so that visitors could locate alternative sites. She thanked the Member for raising the matter and stated she would investigate the possibility of providing a list in the window of the Information Point. It was also confirmed that the information was also available in the Sussex by the Sea Visitor Guides which were on display outside the Visitor Information Point at all times.

Following some further general comments, the Tourism Development Officer was thanked for her update.

16. LITTLEHAMPTON LEISURE CENTRE

The Principal Landscape Officer provided the Working Group with a power point presentation to update Members on the progress of the project to provide Littlehampton with a new leisure centre. She was able to advise that the site surveys undertaken now provided more certainty with respect to the position, shape and layout of the new building; informed construction methodology and materials; and identified requirements for the planning application. Drawings of the outline designs were shown and the timetable highlighted to indicate that a report would be considered by Cabinet on 17

‘Subject to Approval at the Next Working Group Meeting’

October 2016, with submission of a planning application week commencing 24 October 2016. The public planning consultation would take place from 3 to 10 October 2016 and Members were reminded of the letter that had been sent out to all Members of the Council inviting their contribution to the process.

In the course of discussion, queries were raised as to why Members had not been provided with the drawings sooner to enable them to make more informed comments and advice was given that they had only been received that afternoon. In addition, they were still very much in embryonic form and it was anticipated that there might well be further changes following feedback from the user group meetings and the public consultation. It was agreed that a copy of the drawings, presentation and letter would be circulated to Members following the meeting. In addition, Councillor Northeast requested a copy of the findings of the underground survey.

Members participated in general debate and questions were asked and responded to at the meeting relating to funding; capacity of the pool for an expanding local population; public input to the final design of the building; and the timetable.

The Director of Environmental Services advised that officers were working to an incredibly tight timescale which, if not met, would result in the centre not being built due to significant financial issues.

The Chairman thanked the Principal Landscape Officer for her presentation and update.

17. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES STRATEGY UPDATE

(During the course of discussion on this matter, Councillors English, Purchase and Warren declared a personal interest as members of their respective Parish Councils.)

The Greenspace & Cleansing Contract & Development Manager provided the Working Group with a verbal update on the meetings he had held with Parish and Town Councils with regard to the Public Conveniences Strategy so that their comments/views/suggestions could be fed into the decision making process.

Each Town and Parish had been provided with a response template and assisting information specific to the public conveniences within their respective Parish, as well as context in terms of the Council's 2020 Vision programme and level of savings required by 2020. The Councils were requested to assess the options available to them prior to sending an official response to Arun by the end of September 2016. They were also invited to gauge local public opinion and feed this back through the response process. Any ideas around any options and innovative approaches would be welcomed and, once official responses had been received, that information would be built into the future report on the matter.

‘Subject to Approval at the Next Working Group Meeting’

Members then participated in a full debate. Concern was expressed that the Parishes and Towns had still not been provided with more detailed financial information to assist them in coming to an informed decision. However, the Greenspace & Cleansing Contract & Development Manager was able to advise that he had presented the most up to date and accurate financial figures at the meetings - he had gone through costs and responded to questions and was of the view that they were satisfied with what had been provided. It was agreed that the costings would again be sent out to members of the Working Group with updated information and costings, as requested by the Chairman.

A question was asked with regard to a community facility option and a response given that that would not be investigated further until it was known which public conveniences might be closing following the consultation with the Towns and Parishes.

The Chairman stated that that no-one wanted to see any public conveniences closed and that the Towns and Parishes had to prioritise the needs of their residents and assess whether they could assist with funding to keep facilities open. Unfortunately, in the present economic climate and with the need for the District Council to find £4m savings, it was not going to be possible to fund everything and difficult decisions would need to be taken. All options would be explored to keep as many public conveniences open as possible.

It was anticipated that, subject to responses being received back from the Parishes, a report would be presented to the meeting of Cabinet on 14 November 2016, with the Working Group being able to make comment at its next meeting on 1 November 2016.

The Chairman thanked the Greenspace & Cleansing Contract & Development Manager for his update.

(The meeting concluded at 8.20 pm)

ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE WORKING GROUP – 1ST NOVEMBER 2016

Information Paper

Subject : Update on Littlehampton Leisure Centre

Report by : Rachel Alderson

Report date: October 2016

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides an update on the current progress with the leisure centre project, including the planning public consultation.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 At the Environment and Leisure Working Group Meeting held on 6th September Members were given a presentation outlining the site investigations recently undertaken and the process for stakeholder engagement, which included early drafts of plans to be discussed at the forthcoming User Group Meetings.

2.0 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

2.1 During early September the project team met with regular hirers of the current leisure centre which included sports clubs and user groups. These User Group Meetings provided an opportunity for the project team to discuss the new plans and gain a greater understanding of the hirer's requirements which may have an impact on the design. All comments received were reviewed by the project team.

2.2 The Planning Public Consultation took place during the period 3rd – 10th October 2016 with staffed exhibitions on 3rd, 6th and 8th October. Information was also available on the Council's website during this period. This enabled the wider public to view the plans and comment on the new leisure centre. All Members were invited to attend an exhibition and view the designs ahead of the consultation period.

2.3 Meetings have been held with Freedom Leisure, Sport England and the Amateur Swimming Association (ASA). These have assisted with understanding the future needs of the operator and potential funding requirements. Letters of support for the new facility have also been received from Triathlon England, Exercise Movement and Dance Partnership and Badminton England.

3.0 PLANNING PUBLIC CONSULTATION

- 3.1 The consultation was well attended and 474 completed questionnaires were received. 97% of respondents agreed with the principle of replacing the existing centre with a modern, fit for purpose facility. 90% of people supported the proposals displayed at the consultation, either fully or generally supported with some concerns. A summary of the statistics results is attached to this report in Appendix 1. A copy of the full consultation report can be found on the Arun District Council website.
- 3.2 In collating the results of the consultation the project team identified the top 5 issues raised by the public in their comments. The table below lists these issues against the response from the project team:

Issues Raised	Project Team Response
Request to include sauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not part of approved facilities mix • To be a provisional item in tender process
Request for additional spectator seating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Viewing area has been increased to accommodate seating for 56 (previously 20), plus 2 accessible spaces • Additional viewing space available in café • Potential for temporary seating for galas
Request for splash park type facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not part of approved facility mix • Would significantly increase building size and build cost
Request for 50m pool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not part of agreed facilities mix • Would significantly increase building size and build cost • Would impact on running cost and pool temperature • Other 50m pools located within 70 minutes travel time (ASA defined catchment area) for competition pools
Concern over impact on trees in Ruby Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building positioned as far south as possible to minimise impact • Planning requirement to mitigate for tree removal

- 3.3 Other commonly raised issues were:

Issue Raised	Project Team Response
Comments regarding the arrangement of changing rooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed village style changing rooms provides a variety of cubicle sizes and group change rooms to accommodate different needs • Overall shower provision will increase from 24 to 42
Capacity of new centre to meet future demand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity reached through use of Sport England calculator

Inclusion of additional facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not part of approved facilities mix • Would significantly increase building size and build cost • Detailed Feasibility Study evaluated local demand for particular activities
Future capacity of car park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking requirements forms part of the transport assessment linked to the planning application

4.0 OUTLINE DESIGNS

4.1 The layout plans for the new leisure centre incorporate the approved facilities mix (Decision Notice C/034/161115) and benefit from views to the seafront and Mewsbrook Park. The plans were amended following the planning public consultation and presented at Cabinet on 17th October 2016. Cabinet approved that the outline design be signed off prior to the submission of the planning application (Decision Notice C/019/171016). In project terms these plans are considered to be the 'frozen design' and any changes in layout during the detail design phase will incur additional cost.

5.0 SPORT ENGLAND APPLICATION

5.1 The project team has met with Sport England to discuss the project and clarify the process for funding applications. Sport England has formally invited ADC to submit an Expression of Interest. Cabinet resolved that a grant application be submitted to Sport England for funding towards the leisure centre, should the Council be invited to do so, subject to the scheme meeting the requirements of the grant criteria (Decision Notice C/019/171016).

6.0 NEXT STEPS

5.1 It is anticipated that the planning application will be submitted w/c 24th October 2016 for consideration by the Development Control Committee on 1st February 2017. During this period the project team will be working on the detail designs for the building to feed into the tender process. It is expected that early enabling works to prepare the site will be undertaken in Spring 2017 with the main construction phase commencing Summer 2017.

Background Papers:

[Leisure and Cultural Strategy 2013 - 28](#)

[Full Council 15 May 2013, Final Resolution, Minute 522, Strategy 1, Stage 2](#)

[Leisure, Tourism & Infrastructure Working Group](#) (30 June 2014)

[Cabinet Report \(21 July 2014\) – A New Leisure Centre for Littlehampton](#)

[Detailed Feasibility Study 2015](#)

[Cabinet Report \(16 November 2015\) - Capital Prioritisation Programme](#)

[Cabinet Report \(8 February 2016\) – A New Leisure Centre in Littlehampton](#)

[Environmental Services & Community Development Working Group \(28 June 2016\)](#)
[Environment & Leisure Working Group \(6 September 2016\)](#)
[Cabinet Report \(17 October 2016\) – Littlehampton Leisure Centre Project Update](#)

Contact: Rachel Alderson, Principal Landscape & Project Officer
Ext. 37946



Littlehampton Leisure Centre Proposals

Please give us your views

Thank you for taking the time to look at our exhibition boards.

Your views on the proposals are very important. We would be grateful if you could take a couple of minutes to fill in this questionnaire with any comments you may have.

Your responses will remain anonymous at all times and allow a range of views to be expressed.

Q1 About you [please tick all that apply]:

Local resident.....	419 (89%)	Leisure centre staff.....	10 (2%)
Existing leisure centre user.....	330 (70%)	Other [please write in below].....	16 (3%)
	16 (100%)		

Q2 What is your age?

Under 16	27 (6%)	45 - 59.....	124 (27%)
16 - 29.....	35 (7%)	60+.....	162 (35%)
30 - 44.....	119 (25%)		

Q3 Are you....?

Male	187 (41%)	Female	266 (59%)
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Q4 What is your postcode?

459 (100%)

Q5 In principle, do you support the replacement of the existing Littlehampton Swimming and Sports Centre with a modern, environmentally friendly, fit for purpose leisure centre?

Yes.....	442 (97%)	No	16 (3%)
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Q6 Do you support the principles you have seen at either the exhibition or online today?

Yes, I fully support the proposals	209 (45%)	No, I don't support the proposals [please comment below].....	36 (8%)
Yes, I generally support the proposals but have some concerns [please comment below].....	207 (45%)	I don't know / don't mind.....	10 (2%)
Comments: 256 (100%)			

Littlehampton Littlehampton Swimming & Sports Centre Survey

Q7 Do you think that the proposals will allow the new leisure centre to have a better link with Mewsbrook Park?

Yes, as currently shown291 (64%) No, the proposals don't support better links [please comment below].....24 (5%)
 Yes, with refinements [please comment below]32 (7%) I don't know / don't mind.....105 (23%)
 Comments: 74 (100%)

Q8 How frequently do you use the existing centre, and how frequently would you use the proposed new centre? [for this question, please assume the cost of using the new centre would be similar to using the existing centre]

	Frequently - Once a week or more	Less frequently - Less than once a week but more often than once a month	Infrequently - Between once a month and 4 times a year	Very infrequently - No more than 3 times a year	Never
The existing centre	330 (73%)	46 (10%)	29 (6%)	26 (6%)	23 (5%)
The proposed new centre	319 (80%)	43 (11%)	21 (5%)	6 (2%)	9 (2%)

Q9 Are there any barriers to you using the existing centre? [please tick all that apply and provide any comments you may have in the box below]:

Lack of public transport links.....35 (14%) No sports I like are offered.....27 (11%)
 Transport problems10 (4%) No suitable activities/equipment (please state below what you would like to see).....20 (8%)
 Location of centre.....6 (2%) Already do enough.....23 (9%)
 Parking issues.....36 (15%) Not enough time.....30 (12%)
 Disabled access.....14 (6%) Poor experience with existing centre25 (10%)
 Use other leisure centre(s).....28 (12%) Other reason49 (20%)
 Lack of facilities.....63 (26%)
 Comments: 171 (100%)

Q10 Do you think the proposed new centre would be a valuable asset to the community of Littlehampton?

Yes.....410 (90%) Don't know.....25 (5%)
 No.....20 (4%)

Littlehampton Littlehampton Swimming & Sports Centre Survey

Q11 If you have any further comments, please detail them below:

235 (100%)

Please post your completed questionnaire in the box provided, or return to:**Economic Regeneration, Arun District Council, Arun Civic Centre, Maltravers Road,
Littlehampton, West Sussex BN17 5LF to reach us by 10am on Monday 10th October 2016**

ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENTAL & LEISURE DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP –
1st NOVEMBER 2016

Information Paper

Subject : Strategic Vision for Public Conveniences in Arun

Report by : Oliver Handson, Greenspace & Cleansing Contract and Development Manager

Report date : 1st November 2016

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to update Members of the Environmental Services & Leisure Working Group with the results of Parish of the recent Parish and Town Council consultation regarding public conveniences and identify the options for the future of public conveniences which will be contained within the Cabinet report on November 14th.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The provision of public conveniences by Arun District Council is currently undertaken with no strategic vision for the service and does not align with the Council's current priorities or work towards a 2020 Vision
- 1.2 It is entirely appropriate to review this current provision in the context of the Council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy and requirement to save £4 million revenue annually.
- 1.3 Reducing the number of public conveniences was identified in the 2020 Vision report and was agreed by Full Council on 13th January 2016 as a project to take forward through further feasibility work.
- 1.4 The Council's Corporate Priorities and 2020 Vision objectives which underpin the need to review the public convenience service and determine a new strategic direction are as follows;
 - The need to balance our budget and reduce costs
 - Offer an improved customer experience
 - Provide the best possible services we can afford

2.0 Background

- 2.1 On the 25th July (with the exception of recommendations 1-4 which were agreed) Cabinet agreed to note the additional recommendations of the Environmental Service & Leisure Working Group meeting of the 28th June. Cabinet requested a further report be taken to Cabinet following discussions with the town and parish councils which were to be based on the remainder of the original report recommendations.
- 2.2 The Council's Greenspace & Cleansing Manager then set up initial meetings with parish & town councils. These first stage meetings generally involved the clerk, chair of the council and chair of the relevant committee. The financial information relating to each convenience was explained and discussed at the meetings. A full breakdown of this information is shown in section 5 of this report.
- 2.3 A verbal update on these meetings was provided to the September meeting of the Environmental Services & Leisure Working Group.
- 2.4 Discussion with parish & town councils was always on the basis that should a parish wish to secure local provision, this would be done through a full repairing lease arrangement at a peppercorn rent. As part of their considerations they were also able to decide whether or not they wanted to gauge public opinion to support their decision making.
- 2.5 All parishes & towns were encouraged to seek clarification over any of the information or financial figures provided to enable them to be in receipt of everything required to debate this at their relevant committees. Finally all parishes & towns have also been encouraged throughout this process to identify any alternative options they would like considered, whether this be alternatives for local provision or other funding ideas/opportunities for the assets in question.

2.6 Parish & Town Council Consultation

<u>Parish: Aldwick</u>	<u>Original recommendation</u>	<u>Summary of Parish Council response</u>
<u>Site:</u> AVISFORD PARK	Close	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not prepared to take on running of facilities • Loss of facilities affect use of open space & associated benefits • Costs unreliable & unaffordable • Concerned at lack of public consultation • No other alternative options put forward

<p>Site WEST MEADS</p>	<p>Close & retain for use with associated sports pitch/pavilion booking only</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not prepared to take on running of facilities • Loss of facilities affect use of open space & associated benefits • Costs unreliable & unaffordable • Concerned at lack of public consultation • No other alternative options put forward
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<u>Town: Arundel</u>	<u>Original recommendation</u>	<u>Summary of Town Council response</u>
<p>Site: CROWN YARD</p>	<p>Explore potential for commercial development with retained but reduced public convenience</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preferred solution would be the retention of the current toilets fully refurbished however we are prepared to support ADC in their exploration of shared premises on the proviso that we are included in all decision making and should a shared option be decided upon that we are able to influence the type of business.

<u>Town: Bognor Regis</u>	<u>Original recommendation</u>	<u>Summary of Town Council response</u>
<p>Site: LONDON ROAD</p>	<p>Close</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not prepared to take on running of facilities • The Town Council are happy for fewer toilets if they are to be replaced with upgraded individual, fully furnished cubicles. • The Town Council believe that the original need for London Road conveniences to service the visiting coaches is no longer required. The coach park is rarely used and the facilities within the park (Hotham) should be sufficient

<u>Parish: Felpham</u>	<u>Original recommendation</u>	<u>Summary of Parish Council response</u>
<u>Site:</u> Snooks Corner	Close	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not prepared to take on running of facilities • Would require unacceptable increase in Parish precept • Capital cost implications unclear • Explore alternatives i.e. providing local café's subsidy for making facilities public
<u>Site:</u> BLAKES ROAD	Seasonal opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not support this facility going to seasonal opening • Prom is used all year round • Could Parish contribute towards costs of keeping open all year round?

<u>Parish: Ferring</u>	<u>Original recommendation</u>	<u>Summary of Parish Council response</u>
<u>Site:</u> FERRING VILLAGE GREEN	Close	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disappointed at lack of consultation • Disagree with scoring matrix • Facility provides much needed amenity • Recent partnership investment in site (play area refurb) • Do not believe there is a viable opportunity for commercial development
<u>Site:</u> FERRING RIFE	Close	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disappointed at lack of consultation • Disagree with scoring matrix • Facility provides much needed amenity • Bluebird café does not provide a viable alternative • Demolition costs high

<u>Town: Littlehampton</u>	<u>Original recommendation</u>	<u>Summary of Town Council response</u>
<u>Site:</u> NORTH ST WICK	Close	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with local businesses to provide alternative provision in this locality

Site: WEST BEACH	Seasonal opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work more closely with Café in close proximity to increase opening hours
Site: NORFOLK GARDENS	Seasonal opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work more closely with Café in close proximity to increase opening hours • Consider incorporating Mewsbrook Park toilets within new Leisure Centre complex

<u>Parish:</u> <u>Middleton</u>	<u>Original recommendation</u>	<u>Summary of Parish Council response</u>
Site: SHRUBBS FIELD	Close	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not prepared to take on running of facilities • Would involve unacceptable increase to Parish precept • Disagree with scoring matrix in that Shrubbs should score higher for use, transport and shopping • Parish have made initial enquiries as to alternative local options including local shops, scouts hall, doctors, however none are willing to allow public use • Would like more time/opportunity to discuss options with ADC

<u>Parish: Pagham</u>	<u>Original recommendation</u>	<u>Summary of Parish Council response</u>
Site: SANDY ROAD	Seasonal opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perceive no real insurmountable problem. If the Sandy Road toilet can be maintained during the peak tourism period, as proposed, then that essential facility will continue to serve a summer visitor influx • It might be unfortunate for those few winter visitors, but the difficult financial pressures upon all of us will continue to force difficult and controversial decisions upon government and local Authorities at all levels

- 2.7 Whilst the breakdown of management costs of running public conveniences were questioned by some parishes, it remains the case that the costs of running such facilities will fluctuate year to year, therefore requiring a flexible and proactive approach to running such facilities which parishes do not feel they are in a position to deliver. A full revised and annotated cost table is provided in section 5 of this report to aid members understanding of the cost implications. These are actual and accurate figures for the last full financial year.
- 2.8 Following the responses from parish & town councils various options have been proposed for Cabinet to consider. Whilst no parishes are prepared to take on direct responsibility for these assets, officers have considered the concerns raised by the parishes & towns in its final recommendations.
- 2.9 The recommendations in general allow further time to explore alternative options in those areas where concern has been raised about future provision prior to final decisions being taken.
- 2.10 Whilst Mewbrook Park public conveniences were not considered as part of the initial review, the opportunity to incorporate publicly accessible toilets as part of the new Leisure Centre build will generate further efficiencies and ultimately an enhancement of current provision. This is supported by the Town Council and the delivery of this will be explored with the Council's leisure provider so a final decision can be made at a later date.
- 2.11 Copies of the responses from parishes & towns and public letters can be viewed via the link in the Appendix 1 of this report.
- 2.12 Parish Contributions
The proposed phasing out of parish contributions from 2018/19 following further feasibility work and final decisions being taken is suggested as a consistent way forward. Parish & town councils will then be able to utilise these funds locally for other priority initiatives

3.0 Proposal

- 3.1 Following the views expressed by Members of The Working Group at the meeting in September and in response to the general views expressed by the parishes & towns through the formal response process, it is proposed the recommendations to Cabinet which will then go to Full Council will be laid out as follows;
- 1) *Note that no Town or Parish Council is willing to take on direct provision of local public conveniences*
 - 2) *Agree that the following public conveniences move to the following seasonal opening hours from 1st October 2016 plus opening for special events:*
 - *Blakes Road, Felpham (Easter only then 1st May – 30th September)*
 - *West Beach, Climping (Easter only then 1st May – 30th September)*
 - *Sandy Road, Pagham (Easter only then 1st May – 30th September)*

- *Norfolk Gardens, Littlehampton (Easter only then 1st May – 30th September)*
- 3) *Agree that the Council monitor the impact of the above seasonal opening over the course of the first closure period and review arrangements if considered necessary after that period*
 - 4) *Agree that the Council explores the potential for a commercial development to include the retention and management of a smaller public convenience facility at:*
 - *Crown Yard Car Park, Arundel*
 - *Ferring Village Green, Ferring*
 - 5) *Agree that within the next 12 months, officers will explore the feasibility of a Community Toilet Scheme as detailed in this report, within close proximity to and as an alternative provision option for;*
 - *Snooks Corner, Felpham*
 - *Shrubbs Field, Middleton*
 - *Ferring Rife, Ferring*
 - *North Street, Wick*
 - *Avisford Park, Aldwick*
 - *London Road, Bognor*
 - *West Meads, Aldwick*
 - 6) *Agree that in relation to recommendation 5); where the opportunity to sign a local business or provider up to the scheme exists, to give delegated authority to the Property & Estates Manager offer an annual grant of up to £500 to enter into a formal agreement with those businesses*
 - 7) *Agree that in addition to recommendation 5) the Council explores any other viable alternatives put forward by the Parish & Town Councils for those conveniences identified in 5)*
 - 8) *Note the potential for relocating the Mewsbrook Park toilets within the new Littlehampton Leisure Centre complex which is supported by Littlehampton Town Council and will be explored in due course*
 - 9) *Note that a further report will be presented to Cabinet in Autumn 2017 seeking a final decision on the future of those facilities identified in 4, 5, & 8) following completion of the feasibility work*
 - 10) *The closure of the East Preston public conveniences currently leased to East Preston Parish Council in the event of surrender or non-renewal of the current lease arrangements by the Parish Council, then exploring alternative uses for the site in line with the Asset Management Strategy*
 - 11) *Agree that Parish contributions will be phased out from financial year 2018/19*

4.0 Community Toilet Scheme

- 4.1 The scheme comprises the establishment of a partnership between Council and local businesses who open up their toilet facilities to the general public free of charge. The objective is to improve the provision of safe, hygienic and accessible toilet facilities .
- 4.2 The scheme would be actively managed by the Council to ensure that it ideally encompasses a good geographical spread of facilities, as well as high standards of toilet provision and maintenance, with access being available throughout the day and into the evening where possible.
- 4.3 The Council pay businesses a grant on an annual basis for opening up the toilet facilities to the general public. The amount being dependent on the standard, type and number of facilities offered and also opening hours. The grant received from the Council would be intended to pay for any extra costs incurred by offering the facilities to the general public.
- 4.4 Although the Council would expect toilets to be publicly available, businesses would be entitled to expect the same standards of behaviour from customers who would normally access business facilities. If someone caused trouble, businesses would be entitled to ask them to leave and in extreme cases bar them from entry.

5.0 Cost Table of facilities and contributions from Parish Councils 2015/16

SITE	Utilities	Business rates	Contractual	Repairs	Total Costs	Parish Contributions	5 year Capital cost	5 year revenue
Arundel: Mill Road	£1,119	£0(1)	£10,432	£1,320	£12,871	£0(6)	n/a	£64,355
Arundel: Crown Yard Car Park	£2,824	£6,278(2)	£10,432	£1,032	£20,566		£54,750	£102,830
Bognor Regis: Bedford Street	£1,391	£3,120	£10,432	£1,563	£16,506	£30,000	n/a	£82,530
Bognor Regis: Esplanade	£1,602	£4,320	£10,432	£724	£17,078		£111,000	£85,390
Bognor Regis: Foreshore Station(3)	-	-	£10,432	£0	£10,432		n/a	£52,160
Bognor Regis: Waterloo Square	£4,431	£4,368	£10,432	£4,530	£23,761		£100,000	£118,805
Bognor Regis: London Road	£2,412	£3,504	£10,432	£2,512	£18,860		£54,750	£94,300
Bognor Regis: Regis Centre	£2,736	£0(4)	£10,432	£1,574	£14,742		n/a	£73,710
Bognor Regis: Hotham Park	£476	£3,630(5)	£10,432	£504	£15,042		n/a	£75,210
Felpham: Snooks Corner	£1,209	£1,368	£10,432	£1,021	£14,030		£7,070	£42,250
Felpham: Blakes/Culver Road	£2,265	£5,566(5)	£10,432	£959	£19,222	n/a		£96,110
Aldwick: West Park	£685	£3,872(5)	£10,432	£579	£15,568	£7,300	n/a	£77,840
Aldwick: West Meads	£1,627	£2,120	£10,432	£552	£14,731		£29,750	£73,655
Aldwick: Avisford Park	£1,243	£2,057(5)	£10,432	£1,355	£15,087		£48,500	£75,435
Middleton on Sea: Shrubbs Field	£1,745	£2,473	£10,432	£409	£15,059	£2,980	£36,000	£75,295
Ferring: Ferring Street	£699	£2,129(5)	£10,432	£299	£13,559	£4,990	£36,000	£67,795
Ferring: Ferring Rife	£1,522	£460	£10,432	£757	£13,171		£42,250	£65,855
Pagham: Sandy Road	£2,880	£1,068	£10,432	£808	£15,188	£0	n/a	£75,940
Lton: Norfolk Gardens	£3,295	£4,501(5)	£6,789*	£818	£15,403	£0	n/a	£77,015
Lton: Coastguards	£9,951	£8,250	£6,789*	£887	£25,877		n/a	£129,385
Lton: Mewbrook Park	£3,056	£3,072	£6,789*	£1,832	£14,749		n/a	£73,745
Lton: North Street Wick	£868	£885	£6,789*	£679	£9,221		£48,500	£46,105
Lton: St Martins Car Park	£5,937	£1,656	£6,789*	£6,631	£21,013		n/a	£105,065
Lton: West Beach	£357	£1,392	£6,789*	£9,812	£18,350		n/a	£91,750
TOTAL	£54,330	£66,089	£228,510	£41,157	£390,086		-£52,340	£603,750

Utilities Based on last full year costs 2015/16, includes the following costs; Electric, Water, Sewage & where applicable Insurance costs.

Business Rates determined by valuation office on ratable value. Possibility of applying for relief from 2018

Contractual costs are **fixed tendered costs** associated with the Council's Combined Cleansing Service Contract. This covers all opening, closing and cleaning operations for public conveniences as detailed in the contract specification. The costs are the same for each facility regardless of size.

Annual repair costs – this figure is the cost of repairs over the last full financial year 2015/16. These costs may vary from year to year depending on wear and tear, vandalism.

ADC total costs is the total of the 4 previous columns.

Parish Contributions is the current annual contribution paid to Arun by the respective Parish & Town Councils. This figure will represent a saving to Parishes should members decide in future to cease all contributions.

Est 5 year capital cost is the current estimated costs provided by Property & Estates likely to be incurred undertaking the necessary refurbishment works in the next 5 years to sustain the convenience to a reasonable standard. This cost has only been provided for those sites where alternative options are being considered and not those already agreed as a priority as this has the potential to provide a saving to the authority.

NB – In above cost table utilities costs and rates shown separately, whereas original report showed them combined. Original cost table based on 14/15 figures. Table above updated based on 2015/16 figures. Seasonal fluctuations in utilities costs are the norm.

- (1) Costs associated with facility revised from original report table, as business rates not applicable due to Museum lease and exemption.
- (2) Rates increased from original report table as portion of rates not originally included charged to Car Parks
- (3) Costs covered under Foreshore Station costs, toilets not separately metered or subject to rates
- (4) Rates not applicable due to Arun Arts lease and exemption
- (5) Recent audit (following original report) picked up all these properties and business rates now due following assessment from valuation office
- (6) Arundel Town Council advised this contribution is in abeyance

*denotes conveniences added to the contract after commencement at a new set negotiated cost at that point in time

Appendix 1)

Official responses from Parish & Town Councils & letters received from residents/local interest groups can be viewed at the link below

<http://www.arun.gov.uk/download.cfm?doc=docm93jjjm4n9643.pdf&ver=9516>

ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES & LEISURE WORKING GROUP – 01 NOVEMBER 2016

Information Paper

Subject : Short Term Pollution Event Forecasting at Bathing Waters

Report by : Nathaniel Slade, Environmental Health Manager

Report date : 17 October 2016

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Members are asked to note the work of the Council in relation to pollution forecasting which is provided at two of Arun's six designated bathing waters, along with associated signage which was introduced in May of this year. The aim of the forecasting is to protect public health by allowing people to make informed choices about when to enter the sea.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In England, the Environment Agency has responsibility for designating and regulating water quality at bathing waters in order to discharge the UK's responsibilities under the EU bathing water directive.
- 1.2 Water quality at designated bathing water sites in England is assessed by the Environment Agency. From May to September, weekly assessments measure current water quality, and at a number of sites daily pollution risk forecasts are issued. Each bathing water is classified as excellent, good, sufficient or poor based on measurements taken over a period of four years.
- 1.3 The water quality measurements are of two indicators of microbiological water quality (E.Coli and Intestinal enterococci). These organisms are indicators of faecal contamination. The sources of contamination vary from bathing water to bathing water but include point sources such as consented discharge points (e.g. storm water discharges from Southern Water, septic tank discharges etc.), unconsented point sources (e.g. when a sewage works breaks down resulting in discharges of sewerage, illegal connections of foul water to surface water drains etc), and diffuse sources e.g. run off from agricultural land).

- 1.4 Before 2016 the bathing water quality classification was made on the previous year's results. From 2016 the averaging period was extended to four years. In addition, the thresholds were changed to so that a bathing water which was classified as "excellent" in 2015 may only be classified as "good" in 2016.
- 1.5 The six bathing waters designated in Arun are, from west to east, Pagham, Bognor Regis (Aldwick), Bognor Regis East, Felpham, Middleton-on-Sea and Littlehampton. The two main tourist beaches are considered to be Bognor Regis East and Littlehampton.
- 1.6 The Environment Agency sample the water 20 times throughout the bathing water season. In Arun, the Council's Environmental Health Service coordinates bathing water matters, working with the Foreshores Team and others. Arun publish the bathing water sampling results which are received approximately a week after the samples are taken.
- 1.7 Surfers Against Sewage are a water quality lobby group for frequent sea users, some of whom experience gastro-intestinal illness after ingesting seawater. They have long argued for proactive forecasting of the bathing water quality, rather than reporting retrospectively on what the quality of the water a week or more in the past.
- 1.8 The Environment Agency has responded by undertaking statistical analysis of the link between rainfall and water quality. At those bathing waters where there is a strong link it has introduced forecasting of short term pollution events. These are calculated and issued each day based on the actual and forecast levels of rainfall in the catchment which affects the bathing water. This information is published on the Environment Agency's website each morning and there is a third party mobile phone application which can alert regular users of those bathing waters that there have been high levels of pollution forecast for that day.
- 1.9 In Arun, the two bathing water where this forecast information is available are Bognor Regis (Aldwick) and Felpham (See Appendices 1 and 2 for a profile of each bathing water). In addition to the information available online, in May of this year the Council also introduced a sign at each location to make the information more readily available (see Appendix 3 for photographs of the signs in situ). This was considered especially useful to less frequent bathing water users who do not know that this information is available online.
- 1.10 The aim of the scheme and the signs is to protect public health by allowing residents and visitors to make informed choices about when to enter the sea. In addition, if signage is erected when Environment Agency staff take their samples during a forecast pollution event, and the signage on display, the results of that sample can be excluded from the dataset which is used to calculate the four year average which determines the overall classification. This improves the likelihood of these bathing waters reaching the excellent classification.

- 1.11 The Council is aware of the health and economic benefits of having high quality bathing water in the district. This is why it has been liaising with Southern Water over the last year to identify opportunities to make improvements. The Council is supporting Southern Water in its bathing water enhancement programme. That programme involves selecting 7 bathing waters from a short list of 21 across Southern Water's area. The selected bathing waters will then receive a share of the £31 million Southern Water fund to implement measures to improve the bathing water quality classification in those areas to "excellent". Three of Arun's bathing waters are amongst the 21 short listed; Bognor Regis (Aldwick), Felpham and Middleton-on-Sea. The production of the pollution forecast signage which the Council has erected was funded by Southern Water as a consequence of this ongoing relationship.
- 1.12 The content of the signs is largely prescribed by the Environment Agency. It must contain permanently displayed information as well as information about the specific forecast pollution event which is added and removed by way of a removable panel by Foreshores staff.

Background Papers:

Appendix 1: Bathing Water Profile for Felpham

Appendix 2: Bathing Water Profile for Bognor Regis (Aldwick)

Appendix 3: Photos of Signage in Situ

Contact: Nat Slade, Environmental Health Manager extn: 37683

Appendix 1: Environment Agency's

2016 Bathing Water Profile for Felpham

West Sussex, England



Current water quality classification is Good, based on samples taken from 2012 through to 2015.

About

The bathing water is situated on the south coast in West Sussex, adjacent to the town of Felpham. The bathing water is predominantly a groyned, shingle beach but with sand and rock pools exposed at low water. A footpath sits above the beach. The Aldingborne Rife crosses the beach at the western end of the bathing water.

Here you can see the recent results from water quality assessments under the Bathing Water Directive. For historical measurements: <http://environment.data.gov.uk/bwq/profiles/data-samples.html?site=ukj2402-15650>

Water quality

Daily pollution forecast	No current prediction
Samples taken	weekly, May 1st 2016 — Sep 30th 2016
Most recent sample	was taken 24 days ago Sep 20th 2016 11:30
2015 classification	★★★ good
2014 classification	★★★ good
2013 classification	★★★ good
2012 classification	★★★ good

Catchment description

The bathing water is situated in a low lying area. The natural drainage (hydrological) catchment surrounding the bathing water is approximately 9000 hectares. This includes the catchment of the Aldingbourne Rife that drains most of the wider surrounding area which is predominantly rural (arable and managed grassland). There are several surface water outfalls onto the beach which drain the urban area immediately behind the bathing water.

Pollution risk forecasts

This bathing water is subject to short term pollution. Short term pollution is caused when heavy rainfall washes faecal material into the sea from livestock, sewage and urban drainage via rivers and streams. At this site the risk of encountering reduced water quality increases after rainfall and typically returns to normal after 1-3 days. The Environment Agency makes daily pollution risk forecasts based on rainfall patterns and will issue a pollution risk warning if heavy rainfall occurs to enable bathers to avoid periods of increased risk. The Environment Agency works to reduce the sources of this pollution through pollution prevention measures, work with agriculture and

water companies. 10 warnings advising against swimming due to an increase risk of short term pollution were issued in 2015 for Felpham bathing water. These warnings were issued because of the effects of heavy rain on the water quality.

Investigations statement

In 2000, bacteriological tracer surveys showed that the bathing water can be affected by contaminated flows from the Aldingbourne Rife. The contaminated surface water drainage system into the Rife was subsequently investigated.

Visible pollution

Environment Agency samplers make observations of litter present on the beach at every visit, this includes assessments of sewage debris, litter and tar. At Felpham for the four year (2012-2015) assessment period where data is available, sewage debris was not noted at this site. Litter was not assessed as being sufficient to be objectionable, but was observed as being present on 2% of visits. Tarry residue was not noted at this site.

Pollution management

It is the Environment Agency role to drive improvement of water quality at bathing waters that are at risk of failing European standards. It is natural for water to run off the land to the sea. Water quality at a bathing water is dependent upon the type and area of land (the catchment) draining to the water and the activities undertaken in that catchment.

Streams and rivers

The Aldingbourne Rife inputs into the western end of the bathing water. Water quality is likely to be reduced in the adjacent area where the Rife enters the sea.

Working with water companies

History

Prior to 2001, treated sewage was discharged from Bognor long sea outfall (4.5 km from the bathing water). In 2001, flows from Bognor Long Sea Outfall were diverted to a new sewage treatment works at Ford for further treatment and then discharged out of Littlehampton Long Sea Outfall (10km from the bathing water). The Bognor outfall was retained solely for storm discharges. In 1998 and 2003, improvements were made to several storm overflows that discharge into the surface water system. In 2000 maintenance of the foul sewer system was undertaken and some misconnections identified and repaired.

Sewage treatment works outfalls

Discharges from sewage treatment works have improved substantially in England since the 1980s.

There are two treated sewage treatment works outfalls that discharge into the Aldingbourne Rife. Lidsey sewage treatment works is 5km upstream from the bathing water and Tangmere sewage treatment works is 9km upstream. Both are designed to protect bathing water quality.

Emergency or storm overflows

The majority of sewers in England are “combined sewers” and carry both sewage and surface water from roofs and drains. A storm overflow operates during heavy rainfall when the sewerage system becomes overwhelmed by the amount of surface water. The overflow prevents sewage from backing up pipes and flooding properties and gardens. An emergency overflow will only operate infrequently, for example due to pump failure or blockage in the sewerage system.

Within the vicinity of the beach there are 2 surface water outfalls. Reduced water quality may persist in the area adjacent to the outfalls for some time after rainfall has occurred. There are further surface water drains over a km to the east and west of the bathing water. There are several storm overflows that discharge into the Aldingbourne Rife. Discharges occur when heavy rainfall overwhelms the sewerage system but are designed not to affect bathing water compliance.

Working with local authorities

Heavy rain falling on pavements and roads often flows into surface water drains or highway drains, ending up in local rivers and ultimately the sea. The quality of bathing water may be adversely affected as a result of such events.

Misconnections

Modern sewerage systems have two separate systems, one takes foul sewage to sewage treatment, the other takes rainwater run-off through surface water drains to rivers, lakes and the sea. Misconnections occur when waste water pipes are plumbed into surface water drains instead of the foul water sewerage system. This can give rise to pollution when the waste water is discharged directly to the environment through the surface water drain. For example, a washing machine or toilet may be incorrectly plumbed so that it discharges to the surface drain rather than the foul sewage drain.

Appendix 2: Environment Agency's

2016 Bathing Water Profile for Bognor Regis (Aldwick)

West Sussex, England



**Good bathing
water quality**
★ ★ ★
★ ★
★
—

Current water quality classification is Good, based on samples taken from 2012 through to 2015.

About

The bathing water is a resort beach on the south coast in West Sussex, adjacent to the town of Bognor Regis. The beach is predominantly shingle with some sand exposed at low tide. A promenade sits above much of the beach and there is a pier to the east.

Here you can see the recent results from water quality assessments under the Bathing Water Directive. For historical measurements: <http://environment.data.gov.uk/bwq/profiles/data-samples.html?site=ukj2402-15700>

Water quality

Daily pollution forecast	No current prediction
Samples taken	weekly, May 1st 2016 — Sep 30th 2016
Most recent sample	was taken 24 days ago Sep 20th 2016 12:10
2015 classification	★ ★ ★ good
2014 classification	★ ★ ★ good p
2013 classification	★ ★ ★ good p
2012 classification	★ ★ ★ good p

Catchment description

The bathing water is situated in a low lying area. There are no streams within the vicinity of the beach but there are several surface water outfalls which drain the urban area immediately behind the bathing water. The natural drainage (hydrological) catchment into the bathing water is approximately 230 hectares. The entrance to Pagham Harbour is situated 5 km to the southwest. The wider surrounding area is predominantly rural (arable and managed grassland) and most streams and drainage in this area either enters into the harbour or flows eastwards towards the Aldingbourne Rife 2.5km away.

Pollution risk forecasts

This bathing water is subject to short term pollution. Short term pollution is caused when heavy rainfall washes faecal material into the sea from livestock, sewage and urban drainage via rivers and streams. At this site the risk of encountering reduced water quality increases after rainfall and typically returns to normal after 1-3 days. The Environment Agency makes daily pollution risk forecasts based on rainfall patterns and will issue a pollution risk warning if heavy rainfall occurs

to enable bathers to avoid periods of increased risk. The Environment Agency works to reduce the sources of this pollution through pollution prevention measures, work with agriculture and water companies. 11 warnings advising against swimming due to an increase risk of short term pollution were issued in 2015 for Bognor Regis (Aldwick) bathing water. These warnings were issued because of the effects of heavy rain on the water quality.

Investigations statement

Over the last several years, the Environment Agency have investigated the surface water system that drains to the beach. The surface water drainage is suspected of being a significant source of contamination to the bathing water. The investigations have involved sampling the numerous surface water outfalls to the beach during wet weather events. Some of the samples were analysed using a DNA identification technique that helps to show whether sources of pollution are human or animal. This helped us to identify and resolve misconnections to the foul sewerage system.

Visible pollution

Environment Agency samplers make observations of litter present on the beach at every visit, this includes assessments of sewage debris, litter and tar. At Bognor Regis (Aldwick) for the four year (2012-2015) assessment period where data is available, sewage debris was not noted at this site. Litter was not assessed as being sufficient to be objectionable, but was observed as being present on 8% of visits. Tarry residue was not noted at this site.

Pollution management

It is the Environment Agency role to drive improvement of water quality at bathing waters that are at risk of failing European standards. It is natural for water to run off the land to the sea. Water quality at a bathing water is dependent upon the type and area of land (the catchment) draining to the water and the activities undertaken in that catchment.

Streams and rivers

None

Working with water companies

History

Prior to 2001, treated sewage was discharged from Bognor long sea outfall (3 km from the bathing water). In 2001, flows from Bognor Long Sea Outfall were diverted to a new sewage treatment works at Ford for treatment and then discharged out of Littlehampton Long Sea Outfall (12km from the bathing water). The Bognor outfall was retained solely for storm discharges. In 1998, improvements were made to several storm overflows that discharge into the surface water system. Currently, Southern Water are involved in a programme of investigation and modelling to try to quantify, and identify causes of contamination to the surface water system that drains rainfall to the beach in Bognor Regis. The final aim of the project is to implement solutions to eliminate or reduce these contamination problems.

Sewage treatment works outfalls

Discharges from sewage treatment works have improved substantially in England since the 1980s.

Emergency or storm overflows

The majority of sewers in England are “combined sewers” and carry both sewage and surface water from roofs and drains. A storm overflow operates during heavy rainfall when the sewerage system becomes overwhelmed by the amount of surface water. The overflow prevents sewage from backing up pipes and flooding properties and gardens. An emergency overflow will only operate infrequently, for example due to pump failure or blockage in the sewerage system.

Within the vicinity of the beach there are 4 surface water outfalls namely Dark Lane, Silverston Avenue, Nyewood Lane and Victoria Road South. Reduced water quality may persist in the area adjacent to the outfalls for some time after rainfall has occurred. There are also 4 storm overflows (Aldwick Avenue storm overflow, Silverston Avenue storm overflow, Marine Drive storm overflow and Victoria Road storm overflow). Three of these storm overflows discharge into the surface water drains and one discharges out of a separate outfall to the beach. Discharges occur when heavy rainfall overwhelms the sewerage system but are designed not to affect bathing water compliance. There are further surface water drains and storm overflows over a km away to the east and west. This bathing water is included in the Surfers Against Sewage “Safer Seas Service”. This service can alert you to Combined Storm Sewer Overflow discharges via a phone App and in addition, it includes the Environment Agency Pollution Risk Forecast warnings. Further details of the service can be found at - <http://www.sas.org.uk/safer-seas-service/>

Working with local authorities

Heavy rain falling on pavements and roads often flows into surface water drains or highway drains, ending up in local rivers and ultimately the sea. The quality of bathing water may be adversely affected as a result of such events.

Misconnections

Modern sewerage systems have two separate systems, one takes foul sewage to sewage treatment, the other takes rainwater run-off through surface water drains to rivers, lakes and the sea. Misconnections occur when waste water pipes are plumbed into surface water drains instead of the foul water sewerage system. This can give rise to pollution when the waste water is discharged directly to the environment through the surface water drain. For example, a washing machine or toilet may be incorrectly plumbed so that it discharges to the surface drain rather than the foul sewage drain.

Appendix 3: Short Term Pollution Event Signage



In situ alongside existing bathing water signage:



