

Ms Bev Smith
Chief Executive
North West Leicestershire District Council
Council Offices
Coalville
Leicestershire
LE67 3FJ

Date: 16 November 2020

Dear Ms Smith

River Mease Special Area of Conservation

The Environment Agency last wrote to you on January 9th 2020 concerning the above conservation site and the proposal to pump effluent out of the catchment. We are now in a position to provide you with an update on progress.

Included with this letter is a copy of a statement signed by ourselves, Natural England and Severn Trent Water Limited indicating our joint intention to move forward with pumping effluent out of the catchment, but to extend the deadline for delivery until 2027.

We can confirm that the Environment Agency has commissioned Jeremy Benn and Associates to undertake intensive flow monitoring in the river, commencing this month for a period of 12 months. This is in order to develop a more comprehensive understanding of flow behaviour on which to base our impact assessment of the proposal. We are doing everything possible to complete this work by 2023, to enable time for construction to take place before the 2027 deadline.

We understand the decision to extend the deadline is not ideal, particularly from a local authority standpoint and accept that it has taken longer than everyone would have wished to commence this monitoring that is essential to enable the proposal to progress. Concerns over water quality and flow have been raised and explored and whereas the concept of pump out is deceptively simple, the implications of it are inherently complex.

The need to understand flow behaviour and its implications are very much at the forefront of the Programme Boards thinking and work has begun on addressing this issue.

As mentioned in our previous letter representatives from North West Leicestershire District Council continue to be kept up to date with developments relating to this through the existing channels we have in place: the Programme Board, and Technical Working Group.

We hope that collectively, we can work together during the investigation, design and implementation of any solutions to agree the short term measures needed to ensure a successful outcome. We would be keen to discuss further with you a future strategy that addresses the challenges of local plan provision and environmental capacity.

If you wish to discuss any elements of this letter please do contact either of us and we will be happy to arrange a time to do so,

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Adam Lines".

Adam Lines
Area Environment Manager West Midlands

Email: Enquiries_WestMids@environment-agency.gov.uk

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