

I would like to be able to say that I am in support of this application by Southern Water but due to its track record to date I can only view this application with a degree of scepticism. Southern Water shows no concern whatsoever for the environment. It continues to pollute rivers and our coastline with untreated sewage. Only last week I was reading how Southern Water has been over-pumping untreated sewage into the village pond at East Dean and further downstream into the River Lavant at Charlton rendering it effectively dead. Why does the company continue to do this? I think the council has to ask when viewing this application, can a leopard change its spots and if so, why now?

Other things that make me sceptical about this project are:

-if it is such a wonderful, new innovation in England then why has the company not been singing it from the rooftops, telling the local community all about it and getting them on board? Why have there been no local meetings to explain exactly what is going to happen and all the ecological benefits that will arise from it?

-why has Southern Water dropped fliers into local properties that read as if the application process has already been granted?

The Council has a duty of care for our environment. We live in an ANOB and we want to maintain the beauty of the area and ensure the rivers here are unpolluted. We expect the Council to have thoroughly scrutinised the proposals for this project and to have analysed all the scientific evidence that has been put forward in support of this application. The bottom line is that I do not trust Southern Water and am sceptical of its use of the word "wetlands". There are a lot of questions that need answering. I urge the council to arrange a meeting for local people to be able to ask these questions to representatives from Southern Water .

Another consideration is the proposal for a car parking area on the field. This will totally change the nature of the landscape. No longer will it be rural with concrete and cars on it. It also hints at a visitors centre and a large number of people visiting the site. This needs to be discussed.

I cannot support this application until I have the opportunity to gain more information and I thank the council for making this possible.