
REPLACEMENT SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT – WENTWORTH TRAVELLER SITE

Committee: Asset Development Committee

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[R85]

1.0 ISSUE

1.1 To consider the replacement of the sewage treatment plant at Wentworth Traveller site.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 Members are requested to approve the replacement of the sewage treatment plant at Wentworth Travellers site.

3.0 BACKGROUND/ OPTIONS

3.1 Report from Fenland District Council

Fenland District Council (FDC) were asked to undertake a visual site inspection and provide a recommendation on the poor performing Sewage Treatment Works (STW) which serves the Wentworth Traveller's Site, near Witchford, Ely.

The plant and STW site, in general, was found to be in poor condition and showed little sign of effective maintenance. A package plant of this type can expect to have a design life of around 25 years or more with appropriate maintenance. This particular plant is in the order of 30 years old.

The replacement of the treatment plant with appropriate and proven equipment would provide a long term solution to the effluent treatment from the site and reduce the operational risk, so long as supported by effective maintenance. Notwithstanding the least risk option of replacement, it may be possible to instigate a package of measures, if supported by effective maintenance, which is likely would bring the plant back into compliant operation.

This option must obviously be considered against the current age and likely future life expectancy of the existing plant. 'No action' is not considered an option if the risk of pollution from the plant is to be avoided. Without appropriate investment and the adoption of an effective maintenance regime the risk of prosecution will continue to exist.

3.2 Report from Dalrod

Both of the septic tanks located on site are being pushed up from the original seating's and splitting due to ground water and waste water pressures, where the splits occur ground water will ingress into the tank and fill prematurely, probably requiring a clean and flush on a far more regular basis, also the cracking or splits will also allow egress of "dirty water" into the ground creating pollution into the water course.

The treatment plant has been assessed and is deemed too small for the loading from the current residents on site, which is creating the plant to move, slowly, but movement has

been detected. It is also noted that the discharge pumps currently have issues; at the moment only one pump is working and the other burnt out; due to the circumstances this was put on hold, but should be replaced to eliminate complete failure.

Due to the issues, mentioned above, the connections from the treatment plant, septic tanks etc are all mis-aligned and "dirty water" is discharging into the culvert and thereafter routing into the ditch polluting the water course. If the Environment Agency were to do an inspection they would probably serve notice against the Council, which may force works be carried out or force closure of the site.

3.3 Report from Housing & Community Safety Manager

Wentworth is an extremely settled site with no movement for many years and no expected movement anticipated. All residents are consistent rent payers and we carry no rent arrears on this site.

If this site was to close 9 families, many of them extended families would need to be re-housed. As you are aware we have no other available plots or sites in this district, keeping these families in the area they have been for many many years within their culture and lifestyle would be near on impossible.

If we had to temporarily accommodate these families it would be at a considerable cost to this authority and due to the size of some of these families providing suitable social housing would be difficult and long process.

4.0 ARGUMENTS/CONCLUSIONS

4.1 The sewage treatment plant needs to be replaced to avoid prosecution from the Environmental Agency for polluting water courses.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/ EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

5.1 The approximate replacement costs £110,000 - £120,000 have been included in the maintenance schedule for 2016/17 asset management maintenance programme.

5.2 There will be additional ongoing maintenance costs related to the new treatment plant, this is due to the new septic tanks being placed above ground and requiring extra emptying due to the capacity of the tanks.

5.3 A verbal estimate to construct a lay by for the additional maintenance servicing has been received for £21,000; this is in addition to the replacement cost.

5.4 There will be fees incurred of approximately £1,000 to apply to the Environment Agency for a licence to discharge consent.

5.5 Equality Impact Assessment (INRA) not required.

6.0 APPENDICES

6.1 Appendix 1 – Wentworth Traveller site STW report

Background Documents

Location
Room 021
The Grange, Ely

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