

OPEN LETTER TO KEMI BADENOCH MP

Takeley Wastewater Treatment Works – Sewage Discharges

Dear Mrs Badenoch,

We are writing on behalf of Takeley Street Action Group (TSAG), representing over 650 Uttlesford residents and voters, regarding sewage discharges from Takeley Wastewater Treatment Works (TWwTW).

The latest 12-month data at TWwTW records 71 discharges containing untreated sewage, totalling 424 hours and 45 minutes directly into Pincey Brook. This is despite the prolonged dry conditions and drought over recent months, which are likely to have significantly reduced the number and duration of discharges that would otherwise have occurred.

We recently saw the action being taken by neighbouring Labour MP Josh Dean following a sewage discharge from Stansted WwTW into the River Stort in Bishop's Stortford lasting over 8½ hours.

Having previously raised sewage pollution in Parliament and with Ministers, and after receiving no response to requests for a joint visit with Thames Water and the Environment Agency, Mr Dean has now written directly to the Chief Executive of Thames Water confirming that he will attend Stansted WwTW himself to demand a full explanation.

[\[View Josh Dean MP's letter\]](#)*

This is directly relevant to TSAG because the proposed 67-acre Land North of Taylors Farm 'mega-shed' proposal (UTT/25/2786/OP), in Takeley, proposes to discharge its foul water to TWwTW posing a serious risk to Pincey Brook and potentially to a SSSI (Hatfield Forest).

This conflicts with the strategic site allocation (development template) in the newly adopted Uttlesford Local Plan and the Developers website, which categorically states "*Wastewater should be discharged to the Bishops Stortford Waste Water Treatment Works to avoid the need for additional mitigation to ensure the Good Ecological Status of watercourses linked to the Takeley Wastewater Treatment Works*". This implies that Uttlesford and the Developer are already conscious that there are issues sending wastewater to Takeley.

With TWwTW already recording significant levels of raw sewage discharge to Pincey Brook, we are naturally concerned about further pressure being placed upon it, particularly as it is earmarked to accept further Local Plan allocations consisting of 1500 houses, a new school and another warehouse development. It demonstrably cannot cope now, let alone after all the planned development.

Thames Water's own website states that it does not expect TWwTW to meet all Government targets for storm overflows until 2045–2050.

Whilst this falls within the Government's national timetable, it is morally wrong to expect residents to suffer a significant increase to what is already an unacceptable level of untreated sewage discharge into Pincey Brook, for potentially another two decades.

We therefore request that as our Member of Parliament you raise this as a matter of urgency directly with both Thames Water and the Environment Agency and ask what action can be taken to prevent this level of untreated sewage discharge both on a national and local level.

We are aware that the current Prime Minister is proposing to nationalise infrastructure, but that is a long-term unfunded policy statement. Our concerns are urgent and should be treated as such and addressed now.

Our neighbouring Labour MP Josh Dean is prepared to attend his local wastewater treatment works himself to demand answers. We are asking you to take this same action to support your constituents – and voters - in Takeley.

We look forward to your response, which will be shared with our members.

Kind regards,

Takeley Street Action Group

Representing residents of Takeley and neighbouring towns and villages.

* <https://www.facebook.com/joshdeanmp/posts/the-sewage-pollution-we-saw-in-the-river-stort-this-weekend-is-completely-unacce/1708681447931180/>