Exmouth Town Council

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Mr Richard Price
Managing Director – Wastewater Service
Pennon Group
Peninsula House
Rydon Lane
Exeter
EX2 7HR

Dear Richard,

I am writing to you on behalf of Exmouth Town Council to put on record its concerns for the phase two work in the Maer Valley and how robust this will prove.

We have received a number of updates from South West Water staff on the work. It was mentioned that not all the rising mains will be replaced, and that lining the pipes may be an adequate alternative. We understand modelling work is being carried out. It is appreciated that South West Water are the experts in judging what needs replacing, but this matter is still of concern to Exmouth as, and I'm sure you will agree, the last thing anyone wants is another major spill during the peak summer season.

The reputational damage caused to Exmouth as a holiday destination, last year in particular, was devastating and we do not want this repeated. As the owners of the "Visit Exmouth" brand the Town Council feel sufficiently concerned about this issue and would like to see that every precaution is taken to avoid any further spills onto our beautiful beach.

Furthermore, there is a proposal to use the second overflow pipe to discharge sewage when Maer Road pumping station is unable to cope. This pipe discharges straight on to Maer Rocks. The dye tests carried out last year proved how the dye collected around the rocks and was swept along the shoreline before completely disappearing. Sewage discharge collecting like this is unacceptable in any circumstance but particularly given the proximity of popular bathing waters. Exmouth Town Council urges South West Water to reconsider the use of this second overflow pipe.

Finally, may I express one other of the Council's concerns.

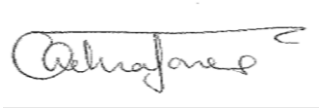
With major development proposals being considered in the emerging Local Plan, the amount of sewage is only going to increase. Exmouth Town Council asks that South West Water gives us assurances that its Strategic and Action plans for Maer Road pumping station and Maer Lane STW, will have more than sufficient capacity to cope with the growing population and changes in weather conditions caused by climate change predictions.

We look forward to your response.

If you would like further information or to speak with me please feel free to call on 01395 276167.

We look forward to your response.

Yours Sincerely



Chetna Jones
Deputy Town Clerk
On behalf of Exmouth Town Council