South West Water

Peninsula House, Rydon Lane, Exeter, EX2 7HR
T: 0344 346 2020 Minicom: 0800 1699965
www.southwestwater.co.uk

Date: 13th February 2025

Confidential
Chetna Jones
Deputy Town Clerk – Exmouth Town Council
Town Hall
St Andrews Road
Exmouth
EX8 1AW

Dear Chetna

Thank you for your letter dated 12th February 2025. It appears that comprehensive information was not provided during your Flooding and Water Quality meetings. Additionally, it is noted that Hazel was not able to attend the last meeting, although Jenny was present to provide an update from an operational perspective.

Maer Road Rising Main Permanent Works

As you are aware, the works to replace the Maer Road rising main have been divided into two phases to facilitate the rapid delivery of the first phase and the removal of temporary equipment.

Phase 1 involved the replacement of the upper sections of the rising main (B to C on the attached plan), rerouting it around the future STW upgrade while accommodating future tree screening for the upgraded site. The diverted section is depicted in blue along with the proposed tree screening. The orange section indicates the pipe lining under the STW boundary and access road, which contains numerous services. The liner is specially designed to provide abrasion resistance. The segment of pipe from the end of this lining to the STW tanks is made of steel and was constructed in 1995 when the storm tanks were built. No work is proposed for this pipe.

The Phase 1 work is now complete, and the pipe is operational.

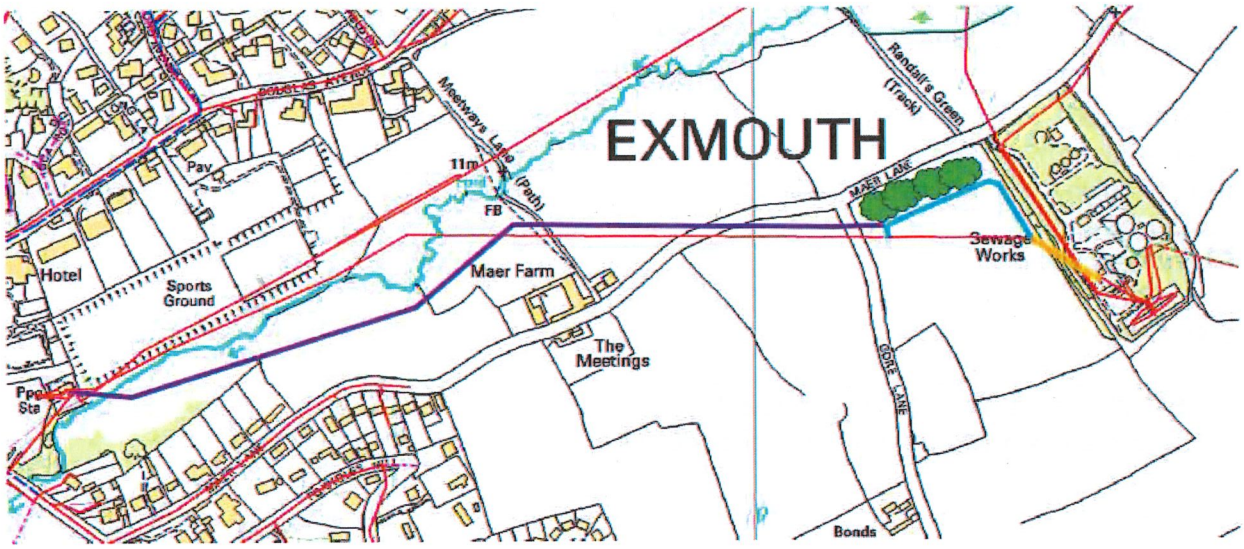
Phase 2 involves the replacement of the spun iron rising main from the pumping station to the top field (A to B) to connect with the replacement section from Phase 1. This is represented in purple with an indicative route. The current schedule aims to commence on-site work in Spring 2025, with the duration currently at 15 weeks.

The pipework for Phases 1 and 2, shown in purple and blue, will consist of 900 OD HPPE pipes to closely match the existing internal diameter and enable the newly purchased pumps to achieve their design flow rates.

Maer Rocks Outfall

We are currently modelling the flooding at The Maer to determine necessary improvements to reduce flooding. I have attached a recent presentation provided to ESCAPE. The modelling shows

that with the new pump regime at Maer Road (pumping 700 l/s continuously), flooding is reduced to once in 9 years. Further improvements, including the use of the second outfall pipe, could reduce this to once in 18 years, and we will evaluate whether this is cost-effective alongside other priorities.



Proposed Maer Road rising main replacement. Phase 1: blue diversion and orange lining, Phase 2: purple replacement – indicative route

The second outfall pipe offers an opportunity to increase capacity without causing disruption to the community. If we decide to use this pipe, it will likely need extending to the same discharge point for the reasons you mentioned. This consideration would also need to be addressed in the permitting process for this outfall.

Growth

The hydraulic modelling undertaken for the Exmouth Strategy and the design of the STW upgrade has considered a 2055 design horizon, which includes population growth based on all known development from the local plans. The emerging East Devon/Exmouth local plan covers growth until 2040, and we have been assessing the sites included in the local plan, responding to a consultation in June 24. Individual developments are also evaluated to ensure sufficient network capacity. Our proposals are designed to accommodate future population growth.

As previously discussed by Hazel, alongside the improvements, we continue to survey the surface water system to identify areas where additional inflow and infiltration may affect the combined sewer, especially during the winter.

Please let us know if you have any questions regarding the information provided.

Yours sincerely

Richard Price
Managing Director, Wastewater Services
On behalf of South West Water Ltd