

## Planning application DM/25/0827

Further development should not be sanctioned prior to water supply issues having been highlighted and possible still being experienced by existing users being resolved. Of the 140 Representation Letters submitted in connection with DM/22/2272, 23 related to water issues, as indicated below.

Date	origin	issue
04.08.22	25 Barry Drive	water already in short supply
14.08.22	13 Greenhill Park	extra strain on supply, restrictions already in place
14.08.22	68 Appledore Gardens	strain on future supply
12.08.22	12 Birch way	water supply infrastructure
09.08.22	Mermaid cottage	water sustainability
24.08.22	18 Birch Way	demand for water
24.08.22	2 Cheney Crescent	water and electrical infrastructure
24.08.22	4 Greenhill Park	cut off and reduced water supply
17.08.22	17 Greenhill Way	insufficient water pressure
30.08.22	8 Greenhill Park	water stressed area, can water supply cope with additional 375 homes
30.08.22	10 Birch Way	water supply already critical
01.09.22	4 Greenhill Park	SEW email urging customers to cut down on water usage
02.09.22	12 Wythwood	lack of water, no provision for new reservoir
02.09.22	30 Fox Hill Village	greater demand for water supply, infrastructure cannot cope
05.09.22	Littlehurst, Birch Avenue	serious problem with both fresh water and sewage in this area
03.09.22	Thacksmead, Fox Hill Village	services inadequate for existing water supply services and sewage processing
03.09.22	2 Scrase Hill Terrace	demand for power, water and other aspects on infrastructure
05.09.22	17 Kendal Court, Southdowns Park	water supply issues
08.03.23	12 Birch Way	increase in water supply
23.03.23	4 Greenhill Park	<i>"Frequently in this area of Haywards Heath we suffer from low water pressure - even in winter due to the lack of resilience in the water supply network (most recently in early March 2023) a fact that is recognised by our local MP".</i>
26.03.23	3 The Oaks, Martin Drive	where are going to get the water from to supply these houses
24.06.23	Wykehurst, 17 Fox Hill Village	we are running out drinking water supply
23.06.23	25 Barry Drive	water supply in the country is stretched

A summary of Representation Letters translated into the following statement in the Report to the Committee which is referred to in the report under infrastructure in paragraph 4.7 thus:

### *"Infrastructure*

- ☐ *Will bring about more pressure on already stretched infrastructure*
- ☐ *Doctors and dentists are already full*
- ☐ *Will increase demands on water supply which cannot be met by South East Water*
- ☐ *Will cause flooding by building over green fields*
- ☐ *Area already suffers power outages"*

Frankly, paragraph 4.7 misrepresents the historical issues experienced by a few local residents who may have been the tip of the iceberg. Mid Sussex, having been made aware of those issues, should have engaged with South East Water in an attempt to find a resolution as defined in the Water Industry Act 1991 under Regulation 78, rather than approving a contentious planning application.

### Regulation 78

*"Local authority functions in relation to undertakers' supplies.*

*(1) It shall be the duty of a local authority to notify any water undertaker of anything appearing to the authority to suggest—*

*(a) that any supply by that undertaker [F1, or by a [F2water supply licensee] using that undertaker's supply system,] of water for domestic or food production purposes to any premises in the area of that authority is, has been or is likely to become unwholesome or (so far as any such premises are concerned) insufficient for domestic purposes;*  
*(b) that the unwholesomeness or insufficiency of any such supply is, was or is likely to be such as to cause a danger to life or health; or*  
*(c) that the duty imposed on that undertaker by virtue of section 68(1)(b) above is being, has been or is likely to be so contravened as to affect any supply of water to premises in that area.*  
*Where a local authority have notified a water undertaker of any such matter as is mentioned in subsection (1) above, it shall be the duty of that authority, if they are not satisfied that all such remedial action as is appropriate will be taken by the undertaker, to inform the Secretary of State about the contents of the notification.*  
*[F3(3) In subsection (1)(a) above, the reference to the water undertaker's supply system shall be construed in accordance with [F4section 17B] above.]”*

Many column inches have been written recently regarding water scarcity within the Southeast, most notable being the CEO of Southern Water requesting customers to use less water. 2025 is already shaping up to be the driest and warmest spring on record, resulting in aquifers being at below their normally expected levels at this time of year due to a lack of rainfall necessitating farmers to irrigate early and the real prospect of droughts looming.

South East Water has only identified that no external infrastructure will be required since the site is adjacent to the existing main. As a result, a development would be unlikely to suffer from reduced water pressure, whereas residents at higher altitudes, such as Birchway, and elsewhere, will continue to be adversely affected from previously reported issues. South East Water repeatedly state in their Water Management Resource Plans that population increase is underestimated due to more houses being built than estimates received from local authorities. That needs to change if we are serious about adapting to using less water per household.

A condition could be applied to the effect that no dwelling is to be occupied until such time that South East Water can confirm that the necessary external infrastructure, such as water storage facilities and treatment plant, is in place to support the needs of existing and new residents in the long term. South East Water has not guaranteed that future developments will be adequately supplied, Gamblemead being a classic example.

Clarification of where the external infrastructure for Hurst Farm (a live planning application) will be routed needs to be sought from South East Water.

[REDACTED]