

**Update for the Local Strategic Partnership
Bathing Water Quality (Hastings)
January 2015**

Actions since your last meeting:

Sewer and Misconnection Investigations

Southern Water's programme is proceeding at a rapid pace now. The focus is directed at correcting faulty dual manholes (where foul and surface water sewers run side by side), particularly in the former private sewer networks which were adopted in 2011 but are poorly understood.

There are not very many more misconnected households uncovered so far. It may be that most have already been identified and corrected but the search continues.

Southern Water is issuing very optimistic statements that their current programme, if assisted by reasonable weather during the 2015 season, will be sufficient to assure the Hastings will meet the new standard. The EA is more cautious at this stage, although they also detect improving trends, as there is not enough statistical evidence yet.

Alexandra Park

The final phase of Alexandra Park treatment works is scheduled to begin in February and be completed before the start of the 2015 season. This will involve diversion of much of the water flow in the lower park through the ponds with the introduction of 'floating islands' of vegetation for purification. A supplier has been identified and predictions of the purification that can be achieved through the three ponds are very encouraging.

Longer term solutions

An independent assessment of the feasibility of an extended outfall or diversion of the stream into the sewer network is about to be commissioned. These are viewed as the most reliable options for a predictable year on year level of quality, protecting bathing water from the adverse effects of severe weather. This is not, however, an option for 2016.

Current assessment

Both the EA and Southern Water agree that bathing water quality is improving slowly but steadily. Both agree that reasonable weather in 2015 will result in a sufficient or even a good rating for Hastings. It is vital that we complete the purification works in Alexandra Park and that Southern Water complete the 2015 programme to offset the effect of any weather problems this summer.

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