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24<sup>th</sup> January 2016

Dear Dominic,

Thank you for your recent e-mail. I think it would be a really good to meet again in the next few weeks to discuss progressing these issues in more detail and I can currently make arrangements to meet on the following dates.

- Wednesday 3rd February, all day.
- Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February, all day.
- Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February, all day.
- Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February, all day.
- Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February, all day.

In addition I will look to organise a special council meeting on March 14<sup>th</sup> 2016 to undertake the Q&A session. I think this will be a really valuable session for both the community and yourselves. Ideally I think you should deliver a short presentation about key issues at this meeting as a precursor to the Q&A session. Perhaps we can discuss the most appropriate areas to cover when we next meet. I will invite our District Councillor Margaret Sherry; who is also the leader of Bromsgrove District Council, as well as Rachel Jenkins, who is our Worcestershire County Councillor to these sessions. They are both fully aware of the potential impact of the project on Romsley residents and the subsequent concerns being raised, so it will be good for them to participate in the session and hear all the viewpoints as well as the Severn Trent commitments and assurances.

In addition, I will also invite Emma Anning the Senior Development Control Officer for the District Council who is responsible for the Birmingham Resilience Project to our future meetings. I know you are having an ongoing dialogue with her and I have also been talking to her about the requirements and assurances that the Romsley community are looking for. I believe she understands and recognises that these requirements and assurances are legitimate and reasonable and I'm confident that by ensuring all relevant parties are given the opportunity to participate in future discussions we can ensure that the needs of Romsley parishioners and Severn Trent can be fully met.

With regard to your consultation sessions and the outputs you have obtained I think that given we have both been involved professionally in these types of exercises I do not have to overstate to you the inherent problems associated with these types of sessions and the results thereby obtained. 61 people represent less than 10% of the Romsley population and I know that a number of residents were frustrated that it was held in the day time during the working week so it was really difficult for them to attend because of work commitments. An added frustration for many residents, especially those from Day House Bank, was that they failed to receive any notification in the post or by other means that the event was taking place.

In addition, I might also observe that critical elements of the project had not been widely publicised in the community prior to your sessions taking place. Details around key issues such as the break pressure tank's design / location or the specific details of the construction phase (where the majority of disruption will be generated) were not transparent to all those being affected. As you know it is only when this type of information about a project becomes visible and its impacts thereby become truly real to people does it attract their full attention. Perhaps going forward the Parish Council can assist with your communications and ensure people have a full understanding of the project and its impact. We issue a newsletter to all residents twice a year and I'm more than happy to insert relevant information for the community during the project. We also have notice boards and a web site that may also be of use and I'm happy to work with you to create a definitive mailing list of residents.

The final point I would raise is that there is a genuine recognition in our community that this project is very important to this region and as such we cannot simply say no. However, our community will not benefit directly from the project, yet our residents and our environment will suffer significant disruption for an extended period. Our rural community will be left with a large, semi-industrial facility that is visible and will require frequent servicing by road in the years to come. Often individuals struggle to make their view points' heard in these types of projects but as a statutory consultee the Parish Council is well positioned to capture and present all the community view points. We will present these in a balanced way to the planning authorities to ensure the project is delivered in a way that minimises the impact on our Parish, guarantees appropriate reinstatement and ensures that the community is compensated appropriately for the long term. All of which I know Severn Trent and its contractors will be keen to fulfil for the benefits of its own reputation.

I look forward to seeing you in February and working together to resolve the community's concerns.

Kind regards,

Richard

Richard Arrowsmith,  
Romsley Parish Council Chair

*CC. Rachel Jenkins – County Councillor for Clent Hills.  
CC. M Sherry – Bromsgrove District Councillor for Belbroughton & Romsley.  
CC. C Allen-Jones – Bromsgrove District Councillor for Belbroughton & Romsley.  
CC. Ruth Bamford – Head of Planning & Regeneration for Bromsgrove District Council.  
CC. Emma Anning – Senior Development Control Officer for Wyre Forest District Council.*