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4th January 2016

Dear Dominic,

Apologies for the delay in contacting you about the Birmingham Resilience Project and its impact on Romsley Parish, things have been very hectic recently and I'm in the process of catching up with my paperwork.

At your consultation exhibition in Romsley on the 12th November I'm sure you received a great deal of feedback from Romsley residents about the project and will have noted the strength of feeling that the community has with regard to their historic experience of Severn Trent engineering projects and subsequent reinstatement activity.

Since your exhibition I have also had the opportunity to attend a meeting with residents from Day House Bank about the project and its potential impact on them. In general, everyone recognises the importance and criticality of the project for Birmingham and for Severn Trent. However, the residents of Romsley want to ensure that their concerns have been recognised by Severn Trent and its contractors and they are looking for assurance that they will be dealt with appropriately and effectively during both the construction and operational phases of the Birmingham resilience infrastructure.

The community's concerns fall into three broad areas which I have summarised below.

1) The location and design of infrastructure especially with regard to the break pressure tank on Putney Lane, this includes;

- The size of the infrastructure and the subsequent visibility from neighbouring properties.
- The levels of noise, light or other emissions (such as exhaust emissions) emanating from the infrastructure when operational.
- The frequency, size and access route of service vehicles attending the site when it becomes operational.
- The ongoing safety and security of the infrastructure with a particular focus on the flooding risks associated with any form of catastrophic failure.

2) The potential impact of construction works on the Parish and its residents;

- That construction activity is limited to appropriate working windows that minimise noise and other impacts for local residents.
- Appropriate controls on construction vehicles accessing the site so that impact and disruption to the community is minimised, this includes barring access to the main village and Day House Bank for construction vehicles, the introduction of appropriate traffic calming around the entrances to the sites and a formalised traffic management plan for the period of the works.
- Appropriate controls on noise, security lighting and emissions associated with construction.
- That the sites remain secure from children at all times but access to public paths and bridle ways are maintained during the works.

3) Effective reinstatement and recovery of the environment following completion of the project;

- A clear and absolute undertaking to return the environment to its previous condition, particularly around footpaths and the ancient woodlands that may be affected.
- A full and transparent environmental impact assessment.
- That Severn Trent should address the outstanding issues from its previous major works in the Parish.
- That Severn Trent and its contractors should provide a legacy to compensate the community for the disruption the construction project and subsequent operations will cause.

Given our conversations of the 4th November as well as the feedback you will have received during your public consultation meeting on the 12th November, I'm sure that none of the concerns I have summarised above will be particularly surprising to you. However, as I have said the community of Romsley understand the importance of the Birmingham Resilience Project and, given that the concerns of the residents are neither unreasonable nor overly burdensome for Severn Trent and its contractors, I am confident that providing solutions to these matters should be straight forward and will derive many benefits.

Going forward I would like to arrange another meeting between ourselves so that we can discuss and agree an appropriate action plan that will address the concerns of

the residents and agree the best way that we can communicate progress on these matters to residents. In addition, you may recall that in our last meeting I undertook an action to talk to a number of community bodies such as St Kenelm's Primary School, Worcestershire Highways as well as other members of the Parish Council to identify opportunities within the Parish that Severn Trent could become involved in, so it would be useful to also use this meeting to describe these opportunities to you.

Following on from this meeting I would like to invite appropriate representatives from the Severn Trent project team to attend a Parish Council organised Q&A meeting in February or March. This would give residents and Severn Trent a formalised opportunity to raise issues and discuss resolutions. The Parish Council will ensure that this meeting is properly chaired and remains appropriately balanced and I will invite relevant officials and elected members from the District and County councils to ensure they are present and aligned to the meetings outcomes. I also feel this meeting would be a great opportunity to demonstrate the agreed action plan as well as describe some of the ways Severn Trent will support the community going forward.

I look forward to hearing from you in the next 14 days to make the appropriate arrangements to meet with you.

Kind regards

Richard Arrowsmith

Romsley Parish Council Chairperson

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.