Birmingham Resilience Project – Richard Arrowsmith verbal address

The Parish Council has been involved in extensive consultation across our community. We have spoken to dozens of residents individually as well as capturing the views of our residents at a number of Parish Council meetings and our own parish planning forums.

We are also openly and fully documenting and communicating all our actions as well as the actions of others on this matter to our 1600 residents through our newsletters and website.

It is clear that Romsley residents fully understand the importance of providing greater resilience to Birmingham's water supply and thus the need for this project.

However the Parish Council believes that all parties involved in considering this application must recognise that Romsley Parish residents will not be receiving any direct benefits, such as added water resilience, from this project. Yet as a parish we will suffer many months; if not years, of severe construction related disruption and our rural community, inside a green belt area, will have to live with this facility on a permanent basis

Many Romsley residents have been left angry and frustrated at the manner in which critical elements of community consultation were undertaken, especially around the provision of easy to understand information about the size and true operational purpose of the Romsley Break Pressure Tank (BPT).

This only added to the frustrations that many Romsley residents already felt towards Seven Trent following our experiences of the major engineering works they undertook over several months in the centre of the village and the very poor levels of reinstatement that were subsequently experienced.

However I would like to take this opportunity to fully acknowledge that during the past 3 months Severn Trent and its contractors have worked hard to understand and address the concerns of the Romsley community. The Parish Council welcomes the establishment of the community liaison group and the significant changes that have been made to the Romsley Break Pressure Tank design.

In addition Severn Trent have now acknowledged their past reinstatement failings and are working hard with the Parish Council to resolve these.

At this moment the Community of Romsley still has 2 significant areas of concern which we require further assurances over.

The first of these is around the environment and its proper reinstatement after the works are completed. I'm sure this will come as no surprise given our historic experience of Severn Trent works and the rural nature of the Parish we live in.

The second area is that of highways and traffic. We clearly do not have the time to discuss this matter in depth this evening. But the Break Pressure Tank site is located within 100m of a recognised accident black-spot at the junction of Day House Bank and Bromsgrove Road and many of the roads that will be used to access the construction areas are narrow and not at all suitable for HGV or plant vehicles.

We already have significant speeding issues in and around Romsley village where one of our school children was struck by a vehicle and The Parish Council is working to address challenging and disruptive parking issues outside the school and the shops that are affecting the lives of residents and will not be helped by increased volumes of HGV's and construction worker traffic.

We do not want to see these issues made any worse.

Moving forward, we fully recognise the strategic importance of this project for the region and we also acknowledge the significant changes that Severn Trent have made to the BPT design and the environmental mitigations.

As such Romsley Parish Council will be willing to withdraw its objection to this proposal if all the planning conditions suggested by the planning officer are implemented and if a small number of additional elements to these conditions are accepted by the planning committee.

- 1) We fully support the emphasis in the planning conditions on environmental and reinstatement issues.
 - a. But we ask that the planning conditions stipulate that the Parish Council is given full visibility and is formally consulted over the contents of both the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) and Construction Environment Management plan (CEMP) prior to them being signed off.
 - b. We would also like the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) to acknowledge a formal "sign off" role for the Parish Council in the process that confirms reinstatement has been completed appropriately at the end of the works.

2) With regard to highways and traffic issues we again request that the planning conditions stipulate that the Parish Council is given full visibility and is formally consulted over the contents of the Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) before it is signed off.

In addition we request that this Construction Traffic Management Plan

- Must make specific reference and provide specific mitigation to areas of known traffic issue, such as the day house bank, Bromsgrove road accident black spot and the traffic congestion and safety issues experienced in front of the school especially during peak periods.
- We would ask that a clear stipulation is made that requires the Construction Traffic Management Plan must be formally reviewed, with full PC consultation, at 6 month intervals to ensure it remains relevant and addresses the matters that are actually being experienced in the Parish.
- We would also ask that the Construction Traffic Management Plan must contain a clear process, with agreed criteria; that would allow the Parish Council or other authority to ask for appropriate and rapid changes to be made to the CTMP in the event of any significant disruption, accidents or traffic issues occurring in and around the works or involving traffic construction vehicles or workers

Pause >>>>>	>>>>>	******	>>>>>>>	·>>>>>>>>>
1 ausc /////				

3) Finally we would like an additional planning condition to be added that reinforces the need for Severn Trent and its contractors to continue to fully participate in the Community Liaison forum for the fall length of the works and the reinstatement period under the terms and conditions that were agreed in May 2016.