

Update from Stephen Andrews - Councillor, Kempsford PC

In advance of the meeting on the 26th April, some thoughts on the progress that has been made since your last meeting in November at which you supported the creation of a Multi-Agency Working Group focussing upon Fairford but also including Kempsford given their common interest of the River Coln.

- The WG has formed and has had two meetings. These meetings have allowed concerns to be raised directly to TW, the EA, and the LLFA. Whilst it is felt that those organisations/agencies have gained a better understanding of those concerns, in particular over the near continuous discharge of the Fairford STW into the River Coln, the downstream flow of water from the Coln into the Courtbrook and the flow of that water into Lake 104 those concerns remain to be resolved.
- Kempsford Parish Council remains concerned that this flow, adding to water from other sources, has resulted in a lack of control of the level of Lake 104 and those other lakes downstream which might result in uncontrolled flooding of those downstream lakes – all of which carry the SSSI designation and many of which are now bordered with businesses and expensive properties. This has been exacerbated by the recent placement of pipes connecting the Courtbrook to Lake 103a and between adjacent Lakes by the landowner of Lakes 103/103a/104 without the permission of the appropriate authorities or of adjoining landowners. There is a need to:
 - Stop/reduce the outfall from the Fairford STW;
 - Repair the bank of the River Coln immediately below the Fairford STW outfall to prevent water flowing into Lake 104; and,
 - Introduce a system of control that is approved by the EA, the LLFA and Natural England of the flow of water across the SSSI lakes between the Coln at Fairford and the point at which the Coln enters the Thames.
- Kempsford Parish Council also remains concerned about the continued tankering of foul water from the Kempsford pumping station and the continuing issue of multiple properties being unable to use downstairs toilets because of inundation of the Kempsford sewer network with the risk of contaminated flooding of homes and gardens. Whilst we have been told that there are no problems with the pumps at the Kempsford pumping station no programme of works have been presented for the inspection of the Kempsford sewage network leading to any works that might solve this issue.

The above is a very brief/high level summary which I would be happy to expand upon at the forthcoming meeting.