



Martin Hoff
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1 August 2019

Dear *Mr. Hoff*

COUNCIL SCRUTINY OF DECISION TO WITHDRAW THE STORM RELIEF SEWER AS PART OF THE COUNTERS CREEK FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME

I am writing to you in my capacity as Chair of the Environment Select Committee (formerly the Public Realm Scrutiny Committee) which at its last meeting on 23 July, considered an item on the new plans for the Counters Creek Flood Alleviation Scheme. As you will be aware, local authorities have a mandatory responsibility to scrutinise local flood risk and plans to mitigate this. Therefore, on 23 July 2019, The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea's Public Realm Scrutiny Committee held an extraordinary meeting to scrutinise Thames Water's decision to no longer build the storm relief sewer.

The meeting was attended by five senior Thames Water employees, a representative from Mott MacDonald along with council officers. Borough residents attended as well, some of whom had been affected by flooding, and contributed to the discussion.

At the Scrutiny Committee meeting concerns were expressed that Thames Water's alternative measures to a storm relief sewer could prove insufficiently effective in preventing future severe weather events from adversely affecting RBKC residents, business and visitors. The Scrutiny Committee made the following recommendations:

1. It asked Thames Water to provide more information on the SuDS they are implementing upstream in other boroughs;
2. It supported the SuDS approach and wanted to see Thames Water redouble its efforts to roll out such schemes in the Counters Creek catchment areas;
3. It welcomed Thames Waters' readiness to share the Independent Advisory Group report's findings and the WSP, the multinational consultants' findings;
4. It looked forward to Thames Water's sharing information on the scale of the risk in RBKC and in which streets this risk was greatest so that ward councillors could be informed;

5. ^{was} It requested that Thames Water provided data of a technical nature on the levels of water pressure the FLIPS and non-return valve systems could cope with in several storm events (1 in 30yrs, 1 in 40yrs, 1 in 50yrs events);
6. It recognised that loss of permeable surfaces in the borough had an impact on water run-off and wanted it to be addressed further in the future Local Plan. It requested confirmation for Thames Water's endorsement that large areas of permeable surfaces were vital to flood mitigation;
7. It supported the lobbying of central government for changes in requirements in planning law to safeguard permeable surfaces, and
8. It wanted the Council's new Greening Supplementary Planning Document to promote good practice in planning applications to minimise future flood risk.

We look forward to your response to these recommendations.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Malcolm Spalding". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent dot above the 'i' in "Spalding".

Councillor Malcolm Spalding
Chair of the Environment Select Committee (Formerly Public Realm Scrutiny
Committee)
RB Kensington and Chelsea