

Rt Hon Chris Skidmore MP
Kingswood



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

60 High Street
Hanham
BS15 3DR

Bath and North East Somerset Council
Planning Services
Lewis House
Manvers Street
Bath
BA1 1JG
F.A.O Ms Samantha Mason

1st July 2021

Dear Bath & North East Somerset Council,

Planning Application Reference (BANES): 21/02322/FUL

Address: Sewage Purification Works, Mead Lane, Saltford, Bath And North East Somerset, BS31 3ER

Proposal: Construction of a new private single lane vehicular access road, including a bridge across the River Avon, to Saltford Water Recycling Centre from the A431. The proposal includes landscape planting, flood compensation storage, a new permissive footpath and a wetland scrape (Full Planning Application).

As the Member of Parliament representing the part of South Gloucestershire nearest to this site, I am writing to communicate the views of my constituents.

We are all deeply disappointed that a major project to invest in and upgrade local infrastructure – in this case to both improve the quality of water and handle the increased demand from customers – has been overshadowed in this way.

I have been contacted by many residents of Bitton and Swineford who have expressed their strong feelings on this application. They have stated that this application is the easy option for both Wessex Water and BANES Council given that it simply aims to direct all the impact towards South Gloucestershire, especially in terms of traffic, flood risk and landscape impact. Their views are that this will damage the environment and – by extension - their local quality of life.

On this basis, **I write to object to this application** unless a number of matters are resolved to the satisfaction of Bitton and Swineford residents, namely:

- Robust flood mitigation measures to address the fact that the A431

floods regularly, which is set to worsen as a result of climate change.

Several of my residents are expert in these matters and I would urge that their representations are given the technical weight that they deserve;

- Mature planting as part of a significant 'net gain' for wildlife and ecology to restore the natural screening that we stand to lose should this application be approved. Local flora and fauna are integral to the character of the local area and the local Green Belt and AONB designations
- Comprehensive action to address traffic impact and to improve accessibility and road safety. Local residents are already experiencing increased HGV traffic, noise, vibration and air pollution on a route that is vulnerable to road closures and flooding events, and the proposed traffic from this application (both construction and operation) will only worsen this. This is as a result of the Clean Air Zone and works linked to the closure of Cleveland Bridge in Bath. The cumulative impact of these different interventions must be considered when analysing this application.

I look forward to assurances being received that the representations from my constituents will be seriously considered as part of the determination of this application.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris', with a stylized flourish underneath.

Chris Skidmore MP
Member of Parliament for Kingswood