

Staveley with Ings Parish Council

Clerk: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Email: staveleyings.parish@gmail.com

Thursday, 22nd June 2023

Ms Louise Beardmore, Chief Executive
United Utilities
Haweswater House
Lingley Mere Business Park
Lingley Green Avenue
Great Sankey
Warrington
WA5 3LP

Dear Ms Beardmore

Staveley: Clean Water, Clean Streets

I write on behalf of Staveley with Ings Parish Council with regard to its serious concerns about sewage discharge, both on a regular basis into the River Kent from Staveley WwTW and, during heavy and persistent rain, onto village streets from the sewerage system.

Councillors are aware that this is well known to you, as was recently confirmed by the Environment Agency's latest Annual Overflow Report on treatment works' discharges which placed Staveley the fourth worst performer across the whole of the United Utilities (UU) region. This unsatisfactory situation has also been reinforced by our own survey (already available to UU and other partners but not yet openly publicised to the media) demonstrating that between February 2022 and 2023, out of a total of 186 monitoring visits the WwTW was discharging into the River Kent 53% of the time. Our results clearly show that minimal rainfall and subsequent river level rises will consistently result in these regular sewage discharges.

As your officers are aware, Staveley with Ings PC is determined to resolve this unacceptable and long-standing situation. To this end, I am pleased to acknowledge that our Council representatives are working closely and cooperatively with your colleagues and other partner organisations. More recently it has been encouraging to receive feedback of increased activity and engagement with us and particularly, at our most recent meeting, to hear that a commitment has been made on behalf of UU to include investment for improvement in the AMP 8 funding programme starting in 2025. This is clearly good news for which councillors are grateful to your colleagues for this recognition.

However, while not wishing to undermine this verbal promise, I am sure that you will appreciate that it is essential that confirmation of this is now given in writing. In addition and as soon as possible, my Council wishes to receive details of what this might involve so that the local community can be kept fully informed and engaged and have some hope that the current situation is being resolved. This would involve timescale of

work, when available, detailed plans to ensure that the WwTW fully meets the needs of the local community and is no longer subject to the routine and regular discharges.

While this confirmation request applies to the WwTW discharges, Staveley with Ings Council is equally concerned by the related discharge of foul waste on to village streets. It is now reassuring to know that your staff are also working closely with partners to alleviate this but assurance is also sought that appropriate resources will be deployed to ensure that this too is resolved within AMP 8. In this regard it is imperative that flow data is shared by UU to enable our representatives, with their local understanding, to engage fully in support of your staff.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Mrs. June Lee
Clerk to Staveley with Ings Parish Council