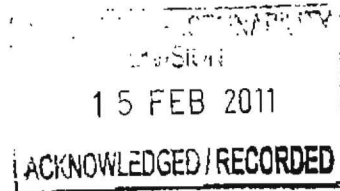


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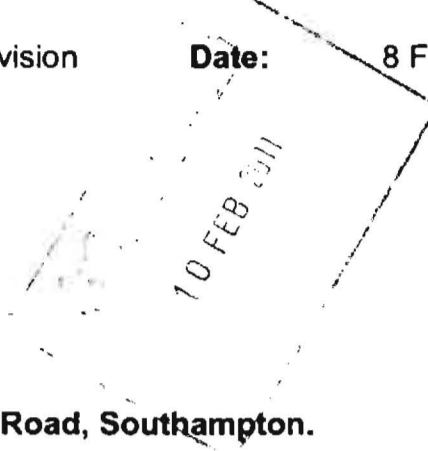


Mr S Lawrence
 Site Development Team Leader
 Southampton City Council
 Civic Centre
 Planning and Sustainability Division
 Civic Centre Road
 SO14 7LS

Our ref:
 Your ref:

Date: 8 February 2011

Dear Mr Lawrence



PLANNING &

10 FEB 2011

SUSTAINABILITY

Land behind 63 Botany Bay Road, Southampton.

At our meeting on the 4 February 2011 we discussed the ways that we can work together to resolve the complaints received about land use at the rear of Botany Bay Road. I hope that you found our meeting helpful and that by putting our position in writing to you would be useful for your future planning and enforcement decisions.

Background

We became aware of this site around 2 years ago when fly tipping was reported to us. Shortly afterwards (in early 2009) the sewer owned by Southern Water collapsed causing pollution of the Weston common stream. At that time we investigated the matter and observed that a large quantity of material had been deposited in the valley behind number 63. As you are aware, it is an offence for a person to deposit controlled waste without a permit from us. Unfortunately it has not been possible to obtain evidence to prove that any named person has committed an offence.

Sewage issues.

The biggest risk to the Weston Common stream is from the damaged sewer and the resultant sewage overflows. Southern Water have maintained over pumping as a temporary solution and are progressing with a permanent solution. This solution is a pumped diversion rather than a gravity solution which would have been our favoured option. I would welcome any support that you can give to Southern Water so this scheme can be implemented as soon as possible.

Tipping issues.

In 2009 we wrote to the landowner informing them that it is an offence for a person to deposit controlled waste without a permit from us and the requirement for them to cease

Environment Agency,
 Romsey District Office, Canal Walk, Romsey, Hampshire. SO51 7LP
 Customer services line: 08708 506 506
 Email: sossd@environment-agency.gov.uk
www.environment-agency.gov.uk



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

any such activities on their site. Since our involvement we have not received any reports of significant tipping.

With regard to the impact on the nearby watercourse there was some encroachment of the material into the watercourse but not to the extent where a risk of flooding has occurred. We consider that the pollution risk from the tipped material is low risk as the material tipped is believed to be largely inert. However we will continue to monitoring the stream to ensure that this is the case.

We do not have sufficient evidence of an offence or evidence of significant environmental impact to require removal of the material. We will however support and assist Southampton City Council in any further enforcement at the site. Should the best long term solution be to leave this material onsite, then based on the evidence we have to date, we consider the risk to be one of an acceptable level. We are also aware that there are stability concerns with land that may require further works to rectify. Should this work be necessary then we would prefer if this were achieved by removal of material or landscaping of the current material. If stabilisation work involves the importation of waste materials then an appropriate permit should be sought prior to commencement of the works. Furthermore, any stabilisation work should be carried out in a way that minimises disturbance and reduce the risk of mobilisation of the material. Prior to any such works we strongly advise that a survey of the material and a environmental risk assessment should be carried out.

We remain concerned over recent allegations that the tipping has started again and will work with you to assist in further enforcement. At the moment we have no evidence to confirm that significant tipping has started, but would welcome reports using our 24-hour incident reporting line on 0800 80 70 60.

I trust that this letter will assist you in your progression with this site and look forward to further updates from you. We will advise you immediately if our sampling indicates any pollution has arisen from this site.

Yours sincerely,



DAWN THEAKER
ENVIRONMENT MANAGER (SOLENT)
Solent and South Downs Area

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