

SCRUTINY TOPIC SUGGESTION FORM

Suggested topic for review:

Water Management in the Coalville Strategic Growth Area

Please explain why you feel this issue should be reviewed:

Hugglescote and Donington le Heath Parish have hosted two meetings between residents and Severn Trent Water to discuss the state of the River Sence and problems with combined sewage outflows in the area.

The first meeting was attended in person by our MP Amanda Hack. She sent her representative to the second meeting.

Water management and environmental damage are in the Government's spotlight. New regulations are on the way that put considerable pressure on water companies to meet their environmental commitments.

Severn Trent shared information regarding the combined sewage outflows in North West Leicestershire. The River Sence is a 'River Not Achieving Good'. Combined sewage outflows from a site in Donington le Heath, near Kelham Bridge Nature Reserve, are not 'exceptional' but occurring every time it rains. Sewage-stained detritus, including nappies, sanitary towels and wet-wipes, is littering the natural environment.

Severn Trent has admitted that things have not gone as they should and are determined to 'fix it'. They are committed by Water Industry National Environment Plan (WINEP) to meeting their environmental commitments by 2030 and are working up a scheme to be approved (and funded) under WINEP regulations. But that is not entirely straightforward. The sewer extension that was intended to continue from the SE Coalville developments along the Sence Valley is subject to subsidence and compromises the Kelham Bridge Nature Reserve. Modelling alternatives needs to take place over 12 months to take account of all four seasons. But that will not be soon enough for residents when the River Sence needs improvement immediately.

'Quick fixes' are not always the answer and risk pushing the problem up- or downstream. Severn Trent is currently looking for what they call 'no regrets' solutions that they can put in place. These include attenuation tanks and traps to prevent solids making their way out of combined sewage outflows. But traps will not prevent liquid sewage from polluting the Sence.

Residents also want to know how we got into this situation. Severn Trent is not a statutory consultee to planning applications. Developers have a right to connect to the network whether or not it is upgraded. With no ring-fenced funding, improvement schemes have to compete with other priorities.

There are a number of other agencies who have a role in water management who could be asked to explain how this situation arose, what needs to be done to fix it and, crucially, how we can prevent such a situation occurring in the future.

These organisations include:

- The Environment Agency
- The County Highway Authority
- The Lead Local Flood Authority
- The Planning Authority
- The Local Plan Committee

The Scrutiny Committee or Panel would also need to hear evidence from:

- Hugglescote and Donington le Heath Parish Council
- District Councillors
- Local residents
- Local landowners
- Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust.

Severn Trent's Waste Management Plan for the Coalville Strategic Growth Area is likely to be ready to be scrutinised towards the end of 2025.

My contact is Stephanie Cawley stephanie.cawley@severntrent.co.uk 07912 893375

What do you think are the potential benefits/outcomes from undertaking a review of this topic?

- Learning lessons from past mistakes
- Openness and transparency regarding future remedies
- Better strategic planning in the future and in other areas
- Rebuilding trust between the public and our monopoly water company

Do you have any further comments that you wish to make in support of your suggested topic?

The topic (please tick appropriate box):

	Is my suggestion		Was suggested to me by a member of the public
X	Was suggested at a meeting hosted by Hugglescote and Donington le Heath Parish Council and welcomed by officers of Severn Trent		
Name:		Signature:	Date:
Cllr Terri Eynon		T. Eynon	30.1.2025

Please Note: Officers are available to support Members in scoping a topic/completing the scoping form. If required, please contact Democratic Services.

Notes to assist in completing the form

Please explain why you feel the issue should be reviewed:

Why should the topic be reviewed?

How does it link to the Council's priorities?

What are the benefits of the review?

What evidence is there to suggest a review is necessary (e. public concern / media coverage / poorly performing service)?

What are the facts?

Has the topic been looked at before? Why was that not successful?

Attach details if necessary.

What do you think are the potential benefits/outcomes from undertaking a review?

What would you wish the outcome of the review to be?

What would you wish to see happen as a result of any review?

Why do you think the desired outcome is achievable?