

Southern Water

## WaterWise Teaching Resource



Down the drain

Group profile

**Local Council**

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### The Interest Groups

- Water company
- Local council
- Local residents
- Tourist board
- Environmental pressure group
- DEFRA

**You represent the Local Council**

### The new works

There are plans to build a new multimillion-pound wastewater treatment works and sludge recycling centre on a brownfield site outside Richardford. The new works will treat wastewater from Richardford and all the surrounding towns including Pountney, Filmore, Gull Sands, Saltmouth, Hartmouth and Darton. Treated wastewater will be pumped to Darton and discharged into the sea there, through the long sea outfall. Outfalls at Gull Sands and Saltdown will be converted to storm overflows. The treatment works at Darton, Filmore and Hartmouth will be converted to pumping stations.

### The Local Council's Position

*'As official representatives of local people, we will treat any planning application made to us as fairly as possible. It is our duty to encourage local businesses such as the Water Company while at the same time taking advice from Government bodies such as the DEFRA and listening to residents' views'. **Councillor Barbara Mullins***

### Your responsibilities

- You give permission for new buildings to be built in the local area.
- You represent local residents who have voted you onto the council.
- You must work for the good of the community.
- You must abide by the law.
- You must think about the needs of the other Interest Groups, and listen to what businesses, pressure groups and local people have to say.

### What do you have to do?

1. You have to carry out some research to find out about the duties of the local Council.
2. You have to prepare some information, such as newspaper articles, leaflets or posters, about the Council and its views towards the new building.
3. You have to prepare for an open meeting. At the meeting you will tell the others the Council's views about the new wastewater works and sludge recycling centre at Richardford. You may have reasons for and against building the works at Richardford. You must decide whether you think the Council will agree to the plans and support the Water Company.
4. You have to prepare to answer questions about the Council's reasons in an open debate.



**There are lots of resources to help you:**

- This Profile Sheet
- The Fact Sheets will give you some background information and some facts and figures. This will help you understand how many people use the Water Services and what they use them for.
- The Subjective Literature is a collection of newspaper reports and ideas for promotional leaflets and posters. You can use these as they are. You can also write some of your own.
- Clip Art is available to help you illustrate your presentations.
- Web Links

**Getting started**

Make sure everyone in the group has a job to do:

- Preparing speeches
- Writing newspaper items
- Designing posters
- Designing leaflets
- Finding out information.

Think carefully about what you want to say in your speech, newspaper or leaflet. You must be able to back up what you say with reasons or facts. You must be consistent - make sure your group members do not contradict each other.

**Getting your ideas together**

For the open meeting you will need a spokesperson or a small group of people to make a speech or present your case. They can use some of the information you have prepared.

**You need to stress that the role of the Council is to consider the plans.  
You should inform the public that a new wastewater works is needed.  
(Will you agree that it should be at Richardford?)**

During the second part of the debate any member of any group can ask questions. On behalf of the Local Council, you must be ready to answer any concerns raised.

**You must be aware of the problems others might face.**

Here are some ideas for getting started. Look at the list of points in the table.

What can you add to the list?



**There are plans for a new wastewater treatment works and sludge recycling centre just outside Richardford. What are the.....**

group profile

Advantages?	Problems?
<p>The present works is old. It needs updating. There is no room to expand the old works to modernise it. A new works is the only alternative.</p> <p>We welcome this multimillion-pound scheme. It is a major investment in our local area.</p> <p>We are keen to see wastewater treated as efficiently as possible and recognise the need for a new plant. Geographically, Richardford is a good location for meeting local needs.</p> <p>We hope that improved and up to date facilities will mean lower costs for the public.</p> <p>The new works means that there will be more jobs for local residents. The new works means there will be more jobs for the local construction industry.</p> <p>We are happy to see plans for restoring the local countryside to its natural state when pipes are laid. We are also pleased that the Water Company will plant trees and shrubs near the new works to enhance the environment.</p> <p>It seems reasonable to make Darton the main location of the long sea outfall, so that the existing outfalls at Saltdown and Gull Sands are used only as storm overflows.</p>	<p>The new works will be built near the present industrial estate. We are concerned that the local landscape will be altered and that industry is encroaching upon the countryside.</p> <p>New buildings don't always fit in with the local landscape.</p> <p>Local roads will be affected by construction traffic during the building of the new works.</p> <p>The Councillors are concerned about the effects on local residents. There is an election coming up and we need to keep them happy.</p>
<p>Local Councils need to comply with UK and European standards.</p> <p>European and UK law lays down minimum standards of treatment for wastewater and these are reviewed periodically. The proposed improvements will meet these standards and improve the quality of wastewater entering the sea.</p> <p>We have received an environmental statement from the Water Company.</p> <p>We will insist that the new works is monitored by the Environment Agency.</p> <p>We are pleased that there are planning guidelines for odour control as it has caused problems in the past.</p>	
<p>We want to see cleaner seas and improved air quality in our area.</p>	<p>Traffic to and from the construction site may cause some noise problems. We need to protect local residents as much as possible from this.</p>
<p>Organic bioproducts (sewage sludge) will be recycled to agriculture to help local farmers. Gas from the process will be used as a source of power for the works. This helps conserve natural resources.</p>	<p>Sewage entering the sea affects the sea quality unless it is treated properly. We will ask for the sea quality to be monitored and checked regularly.</p>