

Southern Water

## WaterWise Teaching Resource



Down the drain

Group profile

**Local Residents**

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## Down the drain

# Local Residents

group profile

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### The Interest Groups

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

**You represent the Local Residents**

### 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 Resident's Position

*'Although there may be more jobs, we are worried about the effects on our children's health, the noise from construction traffic, and about losing money on our houses.'*

**Joe Moore, local resident**

### Your responsibilities

- You are responsible for yourself, your family and your home.
- You care about the needs of your family, friends and neighbours.
- You worry about what's happening in your local community and how it affects you.
- You may think about the needs of the other Interest Groups, if they reflect your views.

### What do you have to do?

1. You have to carry out some research to find out about the needs, rights and duties of residents (UK citizens).
2. You have to prepare some information such as newspaper articles, leaflets or posters, on behalf of Local Residents and state their views towards the new building.
3. You have to prepare for an open meeting. At the meeting you will tell the others the Residents' view of the new wastewater works and sludge recycling centre at Richardford. You may have reasons for and against building the works at Richardford.
4. You have to prepare to answer questions about the Local Residents' 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 the disadvantages (or advantages) of having a new wastewater works at Richardford for local residents.  
You decide which ones to stress.**

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

**You must be aware of advantages or disadvantages others might stress.**

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>We need more local jobs. The new works may mean more jobs for our families and us.</p> <p>The new works means there will be more jobs for the local construction industry. That will please builders' firms throughout the area.</p> <p>We need something doing with our wastewater system. There are always bits of rubbish washed up on the beach. It's not nice when you go to play there with the kids.</p>	<p>We believe the new works will be big and unsightly and smelly.</p> <p>Having a sewage works nearby will affect property prices.</p> <p>Our water bills will rise to pay for it all.</p> <p>Local roads will be busier and dustier as construction traffic goes to and from the building site. We have heard there may be up to 75 lorries in and out every day.</p> <p>Traffic to and from the construction site will cause a lot of noise and disturbance.</p>
<p>Cleaner seawater will also make the sea a more pleasant place to swim in.</p>	<p>There will be damage to and loss of local paths where we like to go walking with our families.</p> <p>There will be permanent loss of nearby countryside.</p> <p>Local wildlife will be affected, especially the badger. (Local Badger Watch Society representative)</p> <p>Badgers are a hindrance to us, so good riddance - we think they pass TB onto our cattle. (local farmers)</p>
	<p>As it is closer to our homes, the new works is bound to increase the chance of pollution. This is bad for the health of all of us but especially for young children and old people.</p> <p>A rumour has it that the long-term aim is to re-use wastewater for non-drinking purposes. They call it grey water but does it contain germs?</p> <p>We are worried about the health risks to the sea where we swim.</p>
	<p>We've heard there'll be sewage spread on the land, more foul gas pumped into the air and more treated sewage dumped in the sea. Where's it going to end?</p> <p>Is this stuff safe to be spread on the land where crops are grown and where animals are feeding? What are the long-term effects? Will it be safe for us to eat this food?</p> <p>Sewage spread on land will make the air smell awful and encourage flies.</p>