
Sent: 06 April 2026 09:07
To: Planning
Subject: Planning Application: DC/26/0366 Land North West of Southwater (Berkeley Homes)
Attachments: BG Sewage Photo Sheet.pdf
Categories: Comments Received

6 Finians Field
Barns Green
Horsham
West Sussex
RH13 0PW

07th April 2026

From a Member of the Public and Resident of Barns Green for over 50 Years

To the Planning Officer,

Objection: Application DC/26/0366 Land North West of Southwater (Berkeley Homes)

I object very strongly to this planning application for the following reasons below:

A – Proposed Foul Sewage Treatment Transfer to the Existing Barns Green Sewage Treatment Plant

I refer to the Southern Water letter ref: DSA000012586 dated 12th July 2022 which is included in Annex H within the 'Environmental Statement Volume II Appendix 13.1 – Flood Risk Assessment and Outline Drainage Strategy' which forms part of this planning application.

In this letter Southern Water state that *'The nearest point where capacity is currently available is at Barns Green WTW which is located approximately 2 km Southwest of the proposed development site.'* This statement is clearly ludicrous given that the potential foul sewage flows from this proposed development (DC/26/0366) the Dry Weather Flow (DWF) is likely to be around 330,000 litres per day (330 m3 per day). The existing Barns Green Sewage Treatment plant only currently has an EA discharge consented Dry Weather Flow (DWF) of 227 m3 per day into Parsons Brook.

As demonstrated under our objections to the proposed planning application DC/25/2057 in Barns Green itself our calculations indicate that the potential Dry Weather Flow (DWF) from existing connections to the sewer network already exceeds the current EA consented discharge volume of 227,000 litres per day by in excess of 18%.

It is worth noting that over the past few years the storm water spills of screened but untreated sewage into the Parsons Brook from the Barns Green treatment plant have been increasing. In 2021 there were 40 spills for a total of 252 hours, in 2022 there were 43 spills for a total of 410 hours and in 2023 there were 63 spills for a total of 569 hours. The latest data from the Rivers Trust confirms that in 2024 there were 60 spills for a total of 503 hours into Parsons Brook.

The above are documented and recorded spills of screened raw sewage but this particular plant also has a history of frequent undocumented and unrecorded unscreened raw sewage discharges into Parsons Brook over many years (see attached BG Sewage Photo Sheet).

Parsons Brook is a tributary of the River Adur, and the Barns Green sewage treatment plant is located within the Adur West Water Body Catchment, which already has a 'poor ecological status', apparently due in large part to pollution from sewage discharges.

The existing Barns Green sewage treatment plant is already underperforming, badly maintained and monitored and is clearly unable to handle the existing potential foul sewage flows from existing connections to the sewer network in Barns Green.

The plant certainly does not have any capacity to accept any further foul sewage from any other local developments.

It is worth noting that the existing foul sewage from Southwater is treated at the Horsham Sewage Treatment Plant which currently has a EA discharge consented Dry Weather Flow (DWF) of 16,500 m3 per day into the River Arun.

The foul sewage from the proposed new development (DC/26/0366) would need to be pumped anyway so why can it not be treated at the main Horsham Sewage Treatment plant where the estimated foul sewage flows from this proposed development would equate to just 2% of the current EA discharge consent for that plant?

B – Potable Water Supply

The additional potable water requirement for 1,000 households plus the various other facilities is likely to exceed 396,000 litres per day (396 tonnes). Southwater is in a designated water-stressed zone suffering Water Scarcity. The 2025 drought, (the hottest summer on record with preceding extreme dryness), demonstrated the fragility of local water supply. Southern Water cannot be relied upon to provide a sustainable supply. Its historical criminal convictions, ongoing investment disputes, and high leakage rates leave serious doubts over its capacity to serve an additional 1,000 households. Water usage forecasts for this development assume unrealistic conservation levels.

C – Additional Vehicles and Traffic from the Proposed Development

Based on a minimum of 1.4 vehicles per household plus the associated service and delivery vehicles the number of additional vehicles in this local area is likely to be at least 1500 which is going to have a serious impact on the local country lanes and traffic movements.

I would be grateful if the full contents of this email together with the attachments could be placed before the Planning Committee.

Yours faithfully,

[Redacted Signature]

[Redacted Name]

[Redacted Address]

**Images of Some Typical and Frequent Pollution Incidents at the Barns Green
Sewage Treatment Plant**



**View of the Incoming Sewer Manhole Located Just Upstream of the Raw Sewage Lift
Pumping Station in the Treatment Plant with Parsons Brook in the Foreground**



**Close-Up of the Manhole with Raw Unscreened and Untreated Sewage Overflowing
and Running Down the Bank and into Parsons Brook**



View of the Parsons Brook Badly Polluted with the Raw Unscreened and Untreated Sewage which then Flows Downstream to the River Adur West



Still from a Video of the Same Manhole on Another Occasion



Still from a Video of the Same Manhole from the Other Bank of Parsons Brook

These are just some of the illustrations of very frequent unrecorded pollution events that occurs every time the raw sewage lift pumps in the adjacent sewage treatment plant fail as a result of blockage, mechanical failure or electrical power failure. There is now a standby power generator installed but on occasions this does not automatically start on power failure. Even when alerted to these issues it can be several days before Southern Water actually respond.
