

Havant Borough Council APP/23/00004

Temporary use of land to carry out ground investigation works comprising the drilling of 2 no. boreholes and the installation of headworks and equipment to monitor ground conditions for a period of 18 months including mobilisation, decommissioning and full restoration periods. | Pavilion, Bidbury Lane, Havant

.....

This application should not be approved for the following reasons.

Firstly:

Bidbury Park is a valuable public facility. It is not acceptable for the Council to allocate sections for commercial activities, including the attendant accesses for a long period of time to facilitate a speculative drilling venture by Southern Water as part of the recycled sewage and Havant Thicket project.

This project is contentious, and is not supported by the Council or stakeholders, and no decision on its viability has been made by Defra.

Secondly:

The choice of this location is suspect for other reasons:

- Southern Water says it is to test the suitability of the land for the pipelines to and from the Havant Thicket reservoir. Looking at the length and routing of these pipes, it is unlikely that testing in this one site can achieve the stated objectives.
- It is far more likely that Southern Water are again hiding the real reason for this activity. (We should remember that Southern Water in the overall proposal deliberately hid the fact that the Portsmouth Water customers are to receive their drinking water from the processed output from Budds Farm.)
- It is more likely that Southern Water are drilling to see how much additional water can be extracted from the aquifer. This drilling is in the same area as the Bedhampton wells, and the depth of the boreholes (60 metres) would point to this as the more likely intent.
- In addition, sanctioning drilling into the Portsmouth Water drinking water source would require a detailed risk analysis before even considering any reasons.

This application should not be approved.

Dave Parham
Save Our Island Group