

Severn Trent – progress report and Q&A

Rebecca Sweeney (senior designer on Hadnall project)

Laura Holloway and Catherine Webb (Capital Communications, acting for Severn Trent)

RS reported that Severn Trent is currently working on three key tasks:

1. **Establish root cause/s of problems.** It is apparent that the system stays full for a few days after heavy rainfall. Surveys are being carried out to discover where surface and ground water is entering the system and when/how it is leaving. Flow monitors have already begun to be set up across the Hadnall network and more are to follow. This survey is expected to take place across a 6-week period. Supporting evidence from residents about all flooding/pooling (however small) will help – see survey.
2. **New rising main.** This is to replace the existing rising main which will help with the current situation and build resilience into the system to allow for future development. Two route options are being explored: Following the A49 (installation would impact traffic) or an alternative route to the east of the village (private land). The option which is least disruptive will be chosen. Surveys will take place over the next few months, with road closures avoided if at all possible. We will be in contact with landowners individually.
3. **Possibility of reconnecting 2m deep drainage tank at Blacksmiths to Abbot Drive drainage system.** Based on record drawings the levels are too deep to connect by gravity; a new pipe would need to discharge directly to the culverted watercourse outfall just to the east of Abbot Drive, or there would need to be a new small underground pumping station in the centre of the village (probably in the layby) near the moat. We are checking the depths of the manholes as part of the surveys which are planned over the next few weeks. The surveys include flow monitoring which has already been installed to check the storage tanks & SUDS systems in the village.

Timeline: RS said that they expected to have a clearer idea of the best option by Feb/Mar 2026. The estimated date for construction to begin is spring 2027.

Communications: LH apologised for a recent gap in communications but assured residents this will not happen again.

Survey: The letter inviting residents to submit information will go out by First Class post on 11 November. The link is via a QR code, but paper copies available on request with

contact details on the letter. Residents are encouraged to get as much information submitted from as many households as possible, to aid the investigative process. Responses should be submitted by the end of December if possible.

Questions:

Where systems empty into ditches and water courses, can ST do anything to ensure that the landowners keep these clear? RS: We will absolutely do our best, in cooperation with Shropshire Council. Please include information about these possible problems in your survey response.

I was contacted and informed that ST would be coming to put dye into the pipes (Hall Drive property) and they didn't turn up? LH: We will follow that up.

Can we see the proposed eastern route for the rising main? RS showed a rough plan, but emphasised that it's very much a first draft.

What was behind the change to the Grampian condition on the Wedgefields planning application? It seems to have been 'watered down' – is that the case? LH and CW said that they did not know the full details but that they would obtain the information and send it to the parish council so that it can be shared. LH and CW were clear that if the planned improvements do not work within the timeframe of an existing Grampian condition (although they are confident they can make a good impact), the condition would be revised accordingly. LT clarified that a Grampian can only prevent occupancy – construction is at the developer's risk.

Following the meeting, the following was received from Severn Trent:

"No dwelling shall be occupied before 31st December 2027 to allow for the improvements required to improve capacity of the public wastewater network sufficiently that the development may connect to it to be fully implemented and completed by Severn Trent. Should the required improvements to the public wastewater network not be fully implemented and completed by this date, a strategy for the phased delivery and occupation of dwellings shall be submitted to and agreed by the Local Planning Authority in consultation with Severn Trent. The phasing strategy shall be informed by the status of the improvement works to the public wastewater network at that time.' With regards to potential growth in the location, this would all be subject to planning approval, so residents really need to canvas their elected members* to make sure the planning committee does not approve any more development." [*Elected members of Shropshire Council and in particular our local unitary councillor Brendan Mallon and members of the Shropshire Council Planning Committee].

Are there any quicker fixes that could help while the longer-term work is being done?

RS said she didn't think so, unfortunately. However, a badly-affected householder was assured that the project team are alert to her situation and that tankers would be deployed during any heavy rain event.

Will prospective developers, with land possibly falling under the rising main route, and other landowners/tenant farmers, be informed of the developing plans from ST?

Yes. ST aims to work closely with all other stakeholders.

Will we be told of the results of the survey and any progress? Yes. LH and CW are looking into setting up another drop-in event at the Village Hall quite soon and other communications will be shared via notice boards, Hadnall Parish Council website and Facebook page.

The Chair thanked Rebecca, Laura and Catherine for attending. She also encouraged those present to spread the word about the importance of responding to the survey.