



Liberal Democrat Group
Rugby Borough Council
Evereux Way
Rugby
CV21 2RR

Ms L Garfield
Chief Executive
Severn Trent
2 St John's Street
Coventry,
CV1 2LZ

Date 26 November 2025

Dear Ms Garfield,

We are writing to you on behalf of residents in the Dunsmore & Leam valley area of Rugby Borough. Our residents have antiquated water and sewerage infrastructure which is causing real impacts every day.

- Repeated sewage spills into local water courses, ditches, gardens and roads;
- Undersized pumping stations with repeated, and in some cases, continuous tanker activity to remove excess sewage;
- Inadequately sized pipes from pumping stations meaning that any excess, especially in wet weather, results in discharges into water courses, ditches, gardens and roads;
- In one village, repeated low and no potable water supplies.

We are calling on you to invest in our local infrastructure to meet the needs of the existing population. In addition, a 5,000 home urban extension with (potentially) new commercial premises are about to be built. This development was approved in 2019 but no substantial infrastructure works have been put in place to meet this massive increase in demand. Although we note the long overdue increase in pumping station capacity at Cawston Spinney.

It is time for Severn Trent to do better by the residents in the Dunsmore & Leam valley area of Rugby.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Isabelle McKenzie".

Cllr Isabelle McKenzie
Deputy Group Leader, Lib Dem group Rugby Borough Council

Rugby Borough Council, Town Hall, Evreux Way, Rugby CV21 2RR
Telephone: (01788) 533533 Email: contact.centre@rugby.gov.uk

Stretton-on-Dunsmore

- **Pumping Station Project:** The village is awaiting updates on the progress of the sewage pumping station project. The pumping station is insufficient in capacity and the waste pipe from the pumping station to the water treatment works is also undersized. This has resulted in spills into the local water course whenever it rains.
 - **Additional houses:** Stretton-on-Dunsmore had a number of sites for new housing identified in the local plan making process at Regulation 18. Should they be chosen at Regulation 19, there will be increased pressure on the local infrastructure and will result in more spills should nothing be done.
-

Grandborough

- **Flooding:** The village is prone to flooding, particularly along Hill Road, Sawbridge Road, and Main Street, due to a combination of surface water runoff and an overloaded drainage system.
 - **Sewage Overload:** The sewer system is frequently overwhelmed by floodwater, causing foul water to enter ditches and gardens, leading to health hazards.
 - **Sewage Pumping Station Capacity:** The sewage pumping station and discharge pipes are reaching their capacity, with the increased number of homes over the last six years exacerbating the problem. No plans to upgrade the system have been made that we are aware of.
-

Marton

- **Severn Trent Issues:** The village has concerns over abnormal discharges of sewage into the River Leam from the Frankton plant. The parish council has been actively engaging with Severn Trent (ST) but has received poor responses.
 - **Ozone Treatment at Frankton:** Residents are questioning why Frankton was chosen for an experimental ozone treatment, which could be related to ongoing issues at the plant.
 - **Discharge Concerns:** There has been a significant increase in the number of sewage discharges into the Leam, far exceeding the expected average.
-

Wolfhampcote

- **Sewage System Issues:** Concerns about poor maintenance and clogging of drain pumps and pipes. Specific problem areas include:
 - **Morris House/Village Hall Area:** Persistent water pooling (possibly spring water) near the village hall, which freezes in winter, creating a fall hazard for elderly people.
 - **Lynmouth and The Manor House:** Drainage issues outside these properties.

- **Water Supply Problems:** There have been instances of low or no water supply due to issues with the water boosters. A detailed report from Severn Trent is requested on future water supply reliability.

Princethorpe

- **Pump Station Issues:** The village is experiencing 24/7 pumping to relieve the overcapacity, though an upgrade this year provided temporary relief. Tankers were required during the recent wet weather.
- **Insufficient pipe capacity:** The discharge pipe from the pumping station does not seem sufficient to manage the load and, without an upgrade, will continue to discharge into the stream.
- **Flooding Risk:** The village has a Flood Action Group, working with Severn Trent to maintain the brook near the pumping station to reduce flood risks.

Thurlaston

- **Sewage Overload:** The village's pumping station in Church Lane has been overwhelmed by additional sewage from the nearby Tritax warehouse development. Tankers are required to remove the overflow, causing disruption with traffic and damage to roads and verges.
- **Tanker Problems:** The tankers cause significant traffic and environmental issues, and the damage to roads is being repaired, though an end date for the works has not been provided.
- **Waiting on Severn Trent:** Severn Trent is awaiting a license from the company responsible for the Tritax site to allow tankers to be stationed on the site, rather than entering the village.
- **Increased Load:** The load on the pumping station has increased since the Tritax warehouses became operational, although problems arose before they were fully occupied.
- **Additional Development:** Tritax have submitted a planning application for further warehouses next to the existing ones. Should planning be given, there will be a further increase in demand on the local network.