Have you got a comment on the proposed Thames Tunnel?

Every year enough untreated sewage to fill the Royal Albert Hall 450 times enters the River Thames. We need the Thames Tunnel to address this problem.

Our statement of community consultation

The Thames Tunnel is needed to capture discharges from combined sewer overflows (CSOs) into the River Thames. Untreated sewage, which currently flows directly into the River Thames from the CSOs, would be transferred and stored in the main tunnel and the tunnels that connect the main tunnel before being transferred for treatment. In reduction in untreated sewage entering the River Thames would bring long-term benefits for the environment and users of the river.

The main tunnel would start at Acton Storm Tunnels in west London, where it is at a depth of approximately 20m and would end at Abbey Mills Pumping Station in east London at a depth of 30m. It would be 11.5km long and have an internal diameter of 7.2m. Once flows have been transferred to Abbey Mills Pumping Station it would be transferred to Beckton Sewage Treatment Works via the Lee Tunnel. This is a major engineering project and during construction our works could have the potential to affect amenity in the area surrounding the proposed tunnel route. These effects will be reduced as far as is possible and will not be permanent. Permanent above ground structures would also be required at these locations to operate the Thames Tunnel.

The Statement of community consultation (SOCC) sets out how we intend to consult members of the public and local communities in the area of the project. It supersedes the SOCC published in September 2010. We have produced a Community consultation strategy (CCS) available at our website, in association with our SOCC, which details our commitment to consult on the project in more detail.

On 16 November 2010, the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs made a written ministerial statement to Parliament that she intended to bring the project within the scope of the Planning Act 2008. This intention is reflected in the draft National Policy Statement for Waste Water Infrastructure (Draft NPS) published in autumn 2010 and Defra’s recent consultation on an announcement of our preferred tunnel route and have an internal diameter of 7.2m. Once flows have been transferred to Abbey Mills Pumping Station, it would be transferred to Beckton Sewage Treatment Works via the Lee Tunnel. This is a major engineering project and during construction our works could have the potential to affect amenity in the area surrounding the proposed tunnel route. These effects will be reduced as far as is possible and will not be permanent. Permanent above ground structures would also be required at these locations to operate the Thames Tunnel.

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When we undertake section 48 publicity we will publish our application in the relevant media, including placing a formal notice in specified forms of local and national newspapers. We will consult on

The Overriding aim of our pre-application publicity consultation is to ensure that local communities we consult have a chance to understand and comment on the project.

During phase two consultation, we will ask for comment on:

• the need for the project including whether a tunnel is the most appropriate solution
• our preferred tunnel route including detailed alignment of the tunnel
• our preferred site for the construction and permanent works
• feedback on the Environmental Information Report which takes into account the results of our phase one consultation and further, more detailed, technical work undertaken
• the effects of the project as reported in our Preliminary environmental information report

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We will hold public exhibitions in the vicinity of the proposed sites; open days at local libraries and town halls. Attendees will be able to ask questions of the project team and give their views.

Further information

We will post regular project updates on our website and in local newspapers and on a website called Our pages. A copy of this SOCC will also be available from local libraries and town halls.

Website: www.thameswater.co.uk

Contact: Thames Tunnel Consultation, Thames Water Utilities, Pipers Green, Swindon SN2 8LA

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