

Amendment to Grey Water motion – proposed by Councillor Lisa Spivey

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Words added in red text

Amended motion:

Council Notes:

- Thames Water believes that limiting water use and runoff could help to stop the outflow of sewage into rivers from its systems. In 2020, this occurred for more than 200,000 hours.
- Much of the CDC district is within Thames Water catchment, one of the worst for leaks losing about 25% across its network which is classed as under serious water stress.
- Cirencester and our Trinity Road offices of Cotswold District Council are within Thames Water district.
- The Environment Agency has warned that parts of England could run out of water within 25 years as a result of growing demand from a rising population and the impacts of climate change, and has called for household water use to be cut by a third. We already experience periods of drought followed by periods of deluge and as a responsible authority, we should be doing our utmost to mitigate predictable catastrophes **by encouraging those with powers and responsibilities to take action.**

Council Further Notes:

- Thames Water are responsible for drinking water supply and for sewage disposal in parts of the District along with Severn Trent and Wessex Water
- Leaks in drinking water pipes have little impact on the ability of the network to cope with sewage spills
- Currently around 20% of water running through pipes is lost to leaks
- According to OFWAT, water companies lost an average of 2,923.8m litres of water a day on 2021-22, equating to 1.06trn litres over the year
- In 2022 Thames Water admitted to losing 600million litres of water a day – 25% of what they supply
- There is no national legislation within the NPPF or via Building Regulations which requires housing developers to include greywater recycling in new developments
- A recent investigation by the BBC shows that Thames Water illegally dry spilled sewage into waterways for more than 1253 hours in 2022 at 49 overflow sites, including here in the Cotswolds
- That the agency charged with monitoring and holding water companies to account, the Environment agency has seen its funding cut by more than half in the last 10 years, hugely impacting its ability to deal with illegal sewage spills

~~It is this Council's duty to do our utmost to achieve water neutrality.~~

Council would like to promote water saving technology through our Planning and Building Regulations advice and policies. Examples such as low-flow systems, which use less water and pressure, and systems that use grey water should be the ambition for larger developments in the Cotswolds. Water butts should be encouraged for all properties and can easily and cheaply be retro-fitted. Capturing peak storm water flows and helping to

prevent storm related sewage discharges is particularly relevant to older properties in towns and villages where there is a greater chance of "combined" sewerage systems.

Therefore this motion requests that Council:

- Endorses the use of rainwater and greywater systems to achieve water neutrality.
- Request that officers investigate how rainwater and greywater systems can be promoted for use in developments and properties in the wider District.
- Request that officers investigate how rainwater and/or greywater systems could be applied to Council assets such as the Council Offices, Trinity Road.
- Request that the findings of these requests be delivered by officers through a briefing note to Members'.
- **Instructs the Chief Executive to write to the MP asking for urgent action on funding for the Environment Agency to investigate and take action on illegal sewage spills by water companies**
- **Writes to the Secretary of State for DHLUC lobbying for changes in the NPPF and Building Regulations, making the introduction of greywater recycling mandatory in new housing developments**