

Anglian Water Consultation Response

Stoke Ferry Neighbourhood Plan Reg. 16 Consultation

Anglian Water welcomes the opportunity to respond to the consultation on the Stoke Ferry Submission Neighbourhood Plan.

1. Anglian Water

- 1.1. Anglian Water is the water and water recycling provider for over 6 million customers in the east of England. Our operational area spans between the Humber and Thames estuaries and includes around a fifth of the English coastline. The region is the driest in the UK and the lowest lying, with a quarter of our area below sea level. This makes it particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change including heightened risks of both drought and flooding, including inundation by the sea.
- 1.2. Additionally, our region has the highest rate of housing growth in England. The 2021 Census report identifies that population growth in the East of England region was 8.3% in the past decade against a national average of 6.6%. Population growth in the Borough of King's Lynn and West Norfolk was considerably lower at 4.6%.
- 1.3. Anglian Water has amended its Articles of Association to legally enshrine public interest within the constitutional make up of our business – this is our pledge to deliver wider benefits to society, above and beyond the provision of clean, fresh drinking water and effective treatment of used water. Our Purpose is to bring environmental and social prosperity to the region we serve through our commitment to Love Every Drop.

2. Anglian Water and Neighbourhood Development Plans

- 2.1. Anglian Water is the statutory water and sewerage undertaker for the Stoke Ferry neighbourhood plan area and is identified as a consultation body under the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. Anglian Water wants to proactively engage with the neighbourhood plan process to ensure the plan delivers benefits for residents and visitors to the area, and in doing so protect the environment and water resources.

3. Commentary on the [Local Plan/Neighbourhood Development Plan]

- 3.1. The following comments are made in relation to ensuring the making of the neighbourhood plan contributes to sustainable development and has appropriate regard to assets owned and managed by Anglian Water.

Policy SF5 Design and Character

- 3.2. We welcome the policy reference to the Stoke Ferry Design Codes, to support the design of new development within the parish. The Design Codes support a number of design approaches that directly correlate with our strategic ambitions, particularly 4.10. Sustainability which addresses a number of key factors that help to protect our assets and ensure efficient use of resources such as water.

Policy SF15 Drainage and Flood Risk

- 3.3. Anglian Water is supportive of the policy approach to minimise flood risk in the parish. We recommend that the policy promotes sustainable drainage systems as an effective measure to address surface water run-off, particularly given the reference to SuDS in the supporting text, and the supporting text is reinforced by referencing the Design Code SU.01: Sustainable Drainage Systems.
- 3.4. We suggest the final paragraph of Policy SF15 is amended as follows:

"Developments that include ~~measures~~ **sustainable drainage systems (SuDS)** to reduce surface water run off ~~e.g.,~~ **including** permeable surfaces, **attenuation** ponds and tree planting will be supported."

Policy SF19 Energy Efficiency and Sustainability

- 3.5. Anglian Water supports the policy approach, particularly the inclusion of rainwater harvesting/capture and greywater recycling as measures that can help to minimise resource use in an area of serious water stress, and therefore an area vulnerable to the increasing impacts of climate change.
- 3.6. Such measures can be incorporated through an integrated water management approach to sustainable development, that we proactively support and work with a range of stakeholders to deliver. We welcome the supporting text reference to the Design Codes to provide the appropriate context for this policy including guidance for rainwater harvesting, recommendations for more ambitious water efficiency standards, and highly water efficient devices.

Stoke Ferry Design Codes - General observations:

- 3.7. There are varying references to Anglian Water assets within the Stoke Ferry Design Codes, which should be corrected prior to final publication. The document should be reviewed to ensure that the correct assets are referred to correctly as there is an Anglian Water water treatment works (Stoke Ferry WTW) and water recycling centre (Stoke Ferry WRC) within the parish.
- 3.8. **Figure 76 – Character Area CA6:** The text on the map should refer to **Anglian Water Stoke Ferry water recycling centre** - rather than water treatment works which is located in character area CA7 Limehouse/Joe's Plantations. Furthermore, the text in CA6 (page 49) refers to the "East Anglian Waterworks and offices", but this should read **Anglian Water Stoke Ferry water treatment works**, although it is referenced in the context of School Lane (but outside of CA6). Some clarification is required to ensure the two assets are not confused.
- Stoke Ferry WRC – Character Area CA6: Wretton Road/School Lane
 - Stoke Ferry WTW – Character Area CA7: Limehouse/Joe's Plantation

4. Conclusion

- 4.1. Anglian Water is supportive of the direction taken in the Stoke Ferry Neighbourhood Plan and the Design Guidelines and Codes - subject to the suggested clarifications outlined in our response above. These clarifications aim to ensure the plan will help to deliver sustainable and resilient development within the parish.