Sewerage in Twigworth

compiled by G.Sharpley
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In times of heavy or persistent rain, sewage reappears from manholes in Twigworth. Pluvial floodwater enters the ageing sewerage system and causes foul waste to spew into fields, public footpaths, roadways, drives, gardens, outbuildings and houses.

This is an ongoing problem with no solution in sight, relieved only by tankers, and that usually after the problem erupted in the first place.

Our water company, Severn Trent, have not given a date by when they will upgrade the network. Despite this, and despite Tewkesbury Borough Council's own drainage adviser stating that there should be no further connections here until there is an upgrade, the Local Planning Authority at TBC continue to permit planning applications, which will add significantly more waste to this already failing system. They argue that their hands are tied by the limit of their powers. Their argument is that the obligation to provide a functional network lies with Severn Trent, and so the green light is given to major applications, despite the fact that there is no likelihood of improvement any time soon, and sewage will continue to flood people's properties and amenities, with it only likely to get worse.

The National Planning Policy Framework advises differently:

> "The purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development, including the provision of homes, commercial development and supporting infrastructure in a sustainable manner." [7]

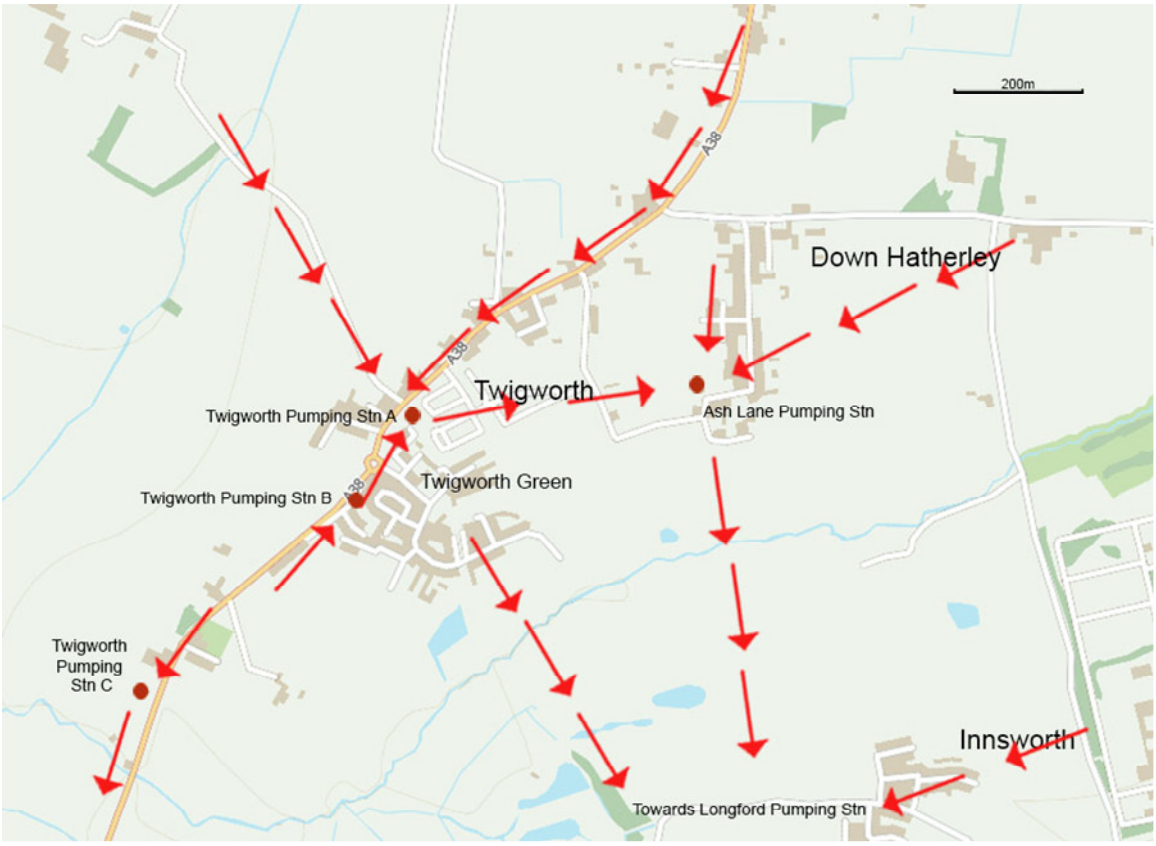
And this is particularly relevant to the **Strategic Local Plan** in light of the fact that Severn Trent have offered no prospect of improving the network over the next few years:

> "Strategic policies should set out an overall strategy for the pattern, scale and design quality of places **and make sufficient provision for**:
>
> a) homes (including affordable housing), employment, retail, leisure and other commercial development;
>
> b) infrastructure for transport, telecommunications, security, waste management, water supply, **wastewater, flood risk** and coastal change management, and the provision of minerals and energy (including heat)." [20]

Pictures follow, examples of sewage on footpaths, in public places and private houses. What you do not see is the number of houses where toilets, sinks, baths and showers back up with sewage when this flooding occurs – in newly-built houses as well as older ones.

All pictures are from 2020 or afterwards.

This charts the local sewage pipelines. The pipeline from Twigworth Green towards Longford is separate from the rest of the Twigworth network. It is new; but this one too has been failing: in early 2026 five manholes between Twigworth and Longford erupted.



Sewage arrives at Twigworth Pumping Station A from the village itself (not from Twigworth Green, which has a new separate pipeline), and from Sandhurst, and from Norton. This is all then pumped over to Ash Lane. Or it should be if it is working properly. At Ash Lane it meets a further flow of foul waste from the village of Down Hatherley, where, if functional, it is pumped south towards Longford Pumping Station.

At the bottom of the village is Twigworth Pumping Station C. This takes the foul waste from houses close by southwards to join the Longford network.

Sewage which is piped up the A38 to Pumping Stations B then A causes backup in people's bathrooms during heavy or persistent rain.

Notoriously poor pipes by the junction of Sandhurst Lane and the A38 are very quick to spew sewage with flood water into people's gardens. There was even a sewage backup as recently as 27.07.26, after several weeks of zero rain.

A regular event of sewage and floodwater appearing in Wallsworth Lane, from Pumping Station A.



A garden close to Pumping Station A.



A private house close to Pumping Station A.



A private house close to Ash Lane Pumping Station.



A private driveway close to Ash Lane Pumping Station (as with the other examples, a mixture of sewage and floodwater).



Sewage like this erupts on public footpaths: this eruption was from the *new* pipeline from Twigworth Green to Longford Pumping Station.



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Twigworth
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About the contributor:
I have been observing flood events in this area since October 2000, working in partnership with other locals and with a senior hydrologist, Prof. Ian Cluckie. I live in Twigworth, and am currently chair of Twigworth Parish Council.