

**From:** [Lesley Berry & Roy Wilson](#)  
**To:** [elspeth.fowler](#)  
**Cc:** [James Perry](#)  
**Subject:** Sewerage Infrastructure FAIRBURN  
**Date:** 03 October 2011 11:38:59

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Dear Elspeth,

Response to Yorkshire Water's letter dated 26th Sept. 2011.

I would like to respond to the above mentioned letter tabled by SDC on the 28th Sept. Before I do so, however, I would like to place on record that current sewerage problems are not the only grounds for requesting the Inspector to downgrade Fairburn to a Secondary Village.

Briefly the other grounds are: -

1. The Selection Process. This process was defective since it relied heavily on non-existent facilities such as shop and public transport links. It was inconsistently applied to other settlements in the district giving incorrect weight to Fairburn as a DSV. [ See Cllr Perry's submissions.]

2. Green Belt. The GB surrounding Fairburn is the same as that which encompasses the RSPB Nature Reserve and SSSI. The openness of the surrounding GB has over the years assumed an additional function providing land for foraging and for the breeding of birds and animals essential for the sustainability of this nationally and regionally significant reserve. Approximately half of the reserve lies within the administration of Leeds CC. Leeds, however, have a much stricter approach towards protecting the GB from development than that now proposed by SDC. This proposed change by SDC will result in opposing policies arising from a lack of cross boundary consultation.

To return to the Yorkshire Water YW letter, YW state that flooding problems " only occur during periods of exceptional high rainfall" and "at the pumping station." Both those allegations are incorrect. It is obvious from the addresses of the complainants that many areas of the village are affected to some degree or other and not just those who reside in close proximity to the pumping station. Furthermore, Mr. Senior, who does live close to the pumping station, in a letter to YW, complained that in a period of over 8 years, his garden had been flooded with raw sewage on an average of 9 occasions per year. Fairburn does not experience "exceptional high rainfall" on 9 occasions each year. The truth is that flooding occurs with normal levels of rainfall.

Nor is it correct to infer that the problems have been resolved. As a part of the recent site allocations DPD consultation process, responses from Fairburn residents were reported to the Executive of SDC on 26th July 2011 as follows :

"Throughout Fairburn, responders note problems with drainage ..... flooding from an inappropriate drainage system creates localised problems." Because there is no link provided on the SDC website, it is not possible to determine how many complainants or their addresses but from the numbers of people who attended a public meeting on the DPD, it is reasonable to assume that the numbers who responded were considerable. This must confirm that the problem of sewage flooding has not been resolved and raw sewage continues to blight gardens and streets in Fairburn.

YW state that they have carried out some improvements at Sutton wwtw. This has nothing whatsoever to do with the substandard network in Fairburn. Likewise, redirecting an overflow discharge pipe from the Ings SSSI into the River Aire has nothing whatsoever to do with flooding in the village.

YW also state "Unfortunately the network will continue to flood in exceptional high (*disputed*) rainfall whether new development takes place or not." This stance to a potentially serious health hazard is not acceptable and one which has led to an additional 100 houses being built over the last few years and is the cause of the seriousness of the problem which is currently being experienced. YW will not accept that the network is not fit for purpose and refuse to invest in its upgrading. It is beyond dispute that more new houses means more raw sewage on the streets

and in gardens.

It is acknowledged that it is not the responsibility of the EIP to address the current problems but it has a duty to protect the SSSI and not to further undermine the health and wellbeing of the residents of Fairburn village.

Roy Wilson