

E-Letter update #1 on Glencorse Water Treatment Works, Midlothian.

Introduction

This is the first in a series of monthly e:letters to brief stakeholders in the development and progress of the Edinburgh Drinking Water Project. You have been identified as or have requested to be one of our interested stakeholders.

Project Launch

Scottish Water announced its intention to locate the new Water Treatment Works (WTW) to serve Edinburgh at Glencorse in Midlothian on June 12th. Over 1000 letters were sent out at this time to MSPs, MPs, Councils, Councillors, local residents in Edinburgh and in Midlothian, Community Councils, Statutory Stakeholders, and other interested parties. The local residents around the new Glencorse site were informed personally by hand delivered letter.

Over the following week, there was a high level of local press coverage which was generally positive.

To date, in the 3 weeks following the announcement, we have received a small number (18) of telephone and email enquiries. Most of these contacts have been to request further information and documentation. A couple of contacts have expressed concern and potential objection to the development at Glencorse, and a couple of others have expressed concern about the future redevelopment of existing Scottish Water sites that will ultimately become redundant following the completion of this project.

Meeting Local Residents

We held our first residents Open Day on Tuesday 26th June, inviting locals to meet the project team at the Flotterstone Inn. The attendance was very encouraging with over 30 people attending during the afternoon and evening session. The mood was constructive, challenging at times but not negative and everyone was clearly engaged.

Key comments:

- Location and timing of proposed roundabout at Mauricewood Road/A702 junction.
- Potential to move spoil outside the main site onto neighbouring field during construction period prior to reinstatement.
- Appearance of site compound, construction noise - how visual impact and noise can be best mitigated during construction.
- Size & Location of WTW. This is detail that we will need to bring forward to the next project surgery.

A full summary from the Residents' Open Day has been sent to all local residents and will be put onto project website this week. We have committed to return again at the end of August.

Scottish Water has also strengthened the communications team handling customer enquiries regarding the project. Five project champions have now been identified who can respond to customer's project queries. The Project Champions met the project team ahead of the Residents Open Day on the 26th June. One of the champions commented "It makes our job much easier when we can assure customers we have visited the site, and we have been fully briefed by the project team. It builds up the customers confidence that we understand their concerns".

Liaison with Community

A Community Forum is being planned to assist communication with existing community groups through their representatives. Invitations are being sent to key stakeholders to establish a Community Forum ahead of the Planning Application and continue to meet through the construction phase. Proposed invitees include representatives from local Community Councils, Edinburgh University, Pentland Hills Regional Park, and Friends of the Pentlands.

An education support programme is being offered to some of the local primary schools.

In addition, we will be hosting an Open Day for the benefit of the wider Glencorse and Penicuik community. This is likely to be held in September when more detailed plans will be available. This will be communicated through the media, our project website and local Community Councils.

Liaison with Landowners

We have identified and contacted the majority of landowners and tenants that could be affected by the proposed WTW and associated pipelines. We will continue discussions with affected landowners to allow access to the land for investigation work, land purchase and permission to lay pipes.

Looking forward

Over the coming weeks, project development will progress in the run up to preparation and submission of the Planning Application.

We will be briefing Midlothian Council elected Members later this month, Midlothian Planning department will also be represented at the briefing.

Within the project, our Contractor and Designer have been appointed, the Environmental Impact Assessment has commenced and detailed topographical and geotechnical surveys have started.

To avoid disturbance on the ground, we have engaged a specialist aerial survey firm who will survey a large amount of the pipeline routes and treatment works area from the air. We have also appointed our Project Architect.

Making Contact

We will continue to put updates on our project website when available. If you would like to contact Scottish Water about the new Glencorse Water Treatment Works, you can:

- Phone: Customer Helpline: 0845 601 8855
- E-mail: edinburghwater@scottishwater.co.uk
- Address: Project Manager, The Edinburgh Drinking Water Project, Watermark House, The Alba Centre, The Alba Campus, Livingston, EH54 7HH
- Website: www.scottishwater.co.uk/edinburghwater

If you would prefer not to receive this e:letter in the future, please advise by emailing 'edinburghwater@scottishwater.co.uk' with 'e:letter unsubscribe' in the subject field.

Dated : July 2007