

Issue Number 3

Introduction

Summer seemed to almost pass us by this year. Fortunately for us, the weather did not prevent August from being a busy month for the project team as we continue to develop the project to design our new water treatment plant at Glencorse in Midlothian.

In August, we also commenced activities in relation to the clean water pipelines that are an integral part of this water project.

Project Feedback

During August, media interest has been quiet. The Midlothian Advertiser reported on our attendance at Damhead Community Council.

Our Project Champions, who work at our Customer Contact Centre, have advised that they received no enquiries regarding the project on the Customer Helpline during August.

Meeting Local Residents

We met a number of local residents personally during August and also hosted our second 'Meet the Team' session on 28th August at the Flotterstone Inn. The attendance was again very encouraging with a total of over 30 people attending during the afternoon and evening sessions. We were able to return to this forum with updated layout drawings taking on board feedback received during June. We appreciate and value the time given by the many residents who attended our second residents Open Day and allowed us to answer concerns and issues regarding the proposed Glencorse Water Treatment Works.

We will continue to respond to issues raised and feedback given in August and we have already committed to return back to the Flotterstone Inn for a 'Meet the Team 3' session towards the end of October. For our next meeting, we have committed to produce some visual drawings that will have had architectural input and make better use of colour and 3D imagery. This will allow everyone a better opportunity to view how the new water treatment building could appear.

We also undertook to return with more details regarding the anticipated construction activities and their typical durations.

As part of our Planning Application, we are required to produce photomontages (these are typically photographs of the site, taken from agreed viewpoints, with our proposed building(s) superimposed on the picture). As a result of our last meeting with residents, and in addition to our formal requirements, we will be producing photomontages from local viewpoints near the site boundary. Our photographer will be in the area next week.

Waterwatch Scotland also attended the Meet the Team session, their officers were able to see the Glencorse site and get a feel for how the project affects individuals and their concerns.

Liaison with Community & Stakeholders

Locally, we met with Jeremy Purvis MSP, Rhona Brankin MSP, David Hamilton MP and Damhead Community Council. We were also able to meet or make contact with the remaining Midlothian Elected Members in Wards 1 & 4 who had not been briefed during July. The project team has held initial meetings with Midlothian Council Planning Department and Scottish Natural Heritage as part of the pre-planning consultation stage.

We provided information posters for display at two separate exhibitions held in Penicuik Town Hall arranged by Penicuik Community Development Trust and Penicuik & District Community Council.

Our Community Forum will assist communication with existing community groups ahead of the Planning Application and we will continue to meet through the construction phase. Damhead CC, Penicuik CC, and Pentland Hills Regional Park have all confirmed that they will join the Forum. We will be meeting Friends of the Pentlands this month.

We had a very productive session with Waste & Resources Action Programme (WRAP) during August. Scottish Water will be responding to the Scottish Government request that the public sector is sustainable in its construction activities. To this end, we will be engaging in sustainable procurement which means that at least 10% of the materials used during our construction shall derive from recycled or re-used content.

Liaison with Landowners and working on Land

Fortunately last months Foot and Mouth outbreak did not develop. This allowed us to commence our ground investigation work and access fields with agreement from the owners and occupiers of the land. Our specialist contractors are currently on site at Glencorse drilling boreholes to analyse the soil and ground conditions. This work should be completed within 2 weeks.

Our Environmental Consultants have also been carrying out ecology surveys in the area, including bat surveys at dusk, as part of our Environmental Impact Assessment programme. Letters were sent to neighbours in the affected areas to advise that this work was due to commence.

Almost 10 kilometres of new treated water mains will be laid between Glencorse and Edinburgh as part of this project. We have identified and contacted the landowners and tenants along our proposed pipeline route to gain access for ground investigations on their land. This survey work will commence later this month and continue into October. The local community will be advised by letter when we are intending to work in the area.

All of our consultants and contractors have been issued with Customer Enquiry Cards encouraging members of the public to contact our Customer Helpline if they have any concerns. We do not require access to anyone's homes and have been alerting all parties to be vigilant against bogus callers.

Following our meeting with Damhead Community Council, we have been able to produce a Question and Answer sheet to address most concerns and questions about our requirements to access land. This will be available to download from our website next week and can be sent out by request.

We were able to complete our aerial survey of the pipeline route and main site during August.

As well as being invaluable for our designers, we hope this will be able to be used for presentation purposes in the future.

Looking forward

We will be attending Liberton Community Council and Penicuik & District Community Councils in September.

An Open Day for the benefit of the Glencorse, Penicuik and wider community is currently scheduled for late September. This will be communicated through the media, our project website and local Community Councils.

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 or the associated pipelines, you can:

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