

GARD says a big THANKYOU to all who responded to the SESRO Statutory Consultation. We are grateful to our elected representatives Olly Glover MP and Sally Whiteman VWHDC for getting the deadline extended. It was a complex questionnaire and Thames Water had failed to explain the limited number of characters permitted per question.

You will find the public responses (MP, Councils, some Parish Councils) on our website <https://groupagainstreservoirdevelopment.org/>

Some quotes:

Olly Glover MP: 'The business case is weak.... Safety and flood risk information is inadequate.... Construction traffic impacts are unacceptable.... The increased land grab threatens planned infrastructure..'

The Vale District Council: 'the lack of emergency plans for drawdown, accidents and disasters appears at best oversight and at worst negligence in the face of potentially catastrophic disasters'.

The Joint Statement from Parish Councils (eleven councils including Steventon), in their Conclusion: 'For all of the reasons outlined — spiralling costs, unproven safety, potential flood risk, environmental damage, poorly defined land requirements, inadequate visual and engineering information, severe construction impacts, and the failure to demonstrate genuine need — we object to the SESRO proposal in its current form. Until Thames Water provides independently verified evidence, realistic modelling, transparent costings, full land-use clarity, and an honest comparison with alternative solutions, this project should not proceed.'

We hope the Parishes will continue to act together, ensuring that Councils, MPs and government know how much we are all concerned.

What's next? GARD's immediate focus is on the response to the regulators (RAPID) on their draft decisions at their 'Gate 3' review, pressing for a full, independent review of the financial case, to ensure this scheme is properly tested for value for money against safer, cheaper alternatives.

Going forwards GARD is looking to increase supporters and make sure everyone is well informed. Thames Water constantly changes the information about SESRO – cost, size, design, method. GARD wants to keep people up to date. We also need to raise funds towards the contesting of the Development Consent Order if it gets past the Inspectors. This is another hefty legal process after 2027.

We need active campaigning help please! Do you have ideas for us? Can you help with media / social media? Fund raising? And of course, delivering leaflets. Please let us know at [gard.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:gard.secretary@gmail.com)

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