

Email on 17th May to SWaT planning officer Ursula May, copied to Redrow

Subject - North Taunton Development Drainage Strategy Layout Plans

Dear Ursula Fay,

I have submitted the following comments to the 34/19/0035 planning website and include a copy for your information.

From examination of the Drainage Strategy Layout Plans included on this website I see that the average depth of retained runoff water to be temporarily contained in the Sustainable Urban Drainage ponds is between 1.00 and 1.50 metres and that the level of the bank at the lower end is given as about 0.300m above the maximum water level. The one exception to this is the pond situated just to the west of Rectory Road where the depth of water could be 2.28m (7' 6") and with the depth of excavation thereby necessary being about 2.50m at the lower end of the SUD. Most of the time these pond excavations will be almost empty.

There are however two exceptions where, because of the slope of the ground, the excavation needed at the higher end of the pond is very much greater than this. The worst case is the SUD situated north of the Silk Mills/A358 junction where the total depth to be dug out needed on the highest side is 6.00m (almost 20 feet) i.e. 4.33m of depth of cutting slope above the maximum level of water to be retained. This figure would have been even worse if a second SUD had not been added higher up the hillside, towards Rag Hill, to take some of this runoff water. To reduce the impact of this unsightly 'hole in the ground' the size of this second pond should be increased further to reduce the vast amount of total excavated material still currently necessary here.

The second exception is in the 'bonfire' field north of The Grove where the excavation required at the higher end of this pond is 3.65m (12feet) and being necessary to retain runoff water of only 1.36m(4' 6") maximum depth. Here also, providing a second pond, higher up the field, so that the two similar ponds retained the same quantity of water, (3700 cubic metres), would once again dramatically reduce the amount of excavated material that had to be dug and carted away and be slightly more attractive to look at.

Both these two sites are located on space open to the public and although I assume all the ponds themselves will be protected by fencing, they will be a great temptation to children to go 'pond dipping' etc. and a reduction in the amount of sloping cutting stretching down to the water level is very desirable. The field above the Grove has, of course, the West Deane long distance path passing through it and I assume that the current wire fencing on the field side of the path will be removed to give full access for the public to this open space.

Therefore, for increased public safety, plus the saving of unnecessary excavation and the reduced amount of spoil to be removed, the size of the upper SUD at Silk Mills should be increased and two ponds should be provided in the field to the north of The Grove.

I assume that the drainage authority will maintain these ponds.

With kind regards

Michael Clark
Staplegrave Parish Council Chair