



Subject:

HTR. Discharge of Planning Condition 4 re. Phasing. App/20/00990

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## **Phase 6. Valve Tower and Secondary Means of Access**

### **Comment on behalf of Havant Climate Alliance and Havant Friends of the Earth.**

We object to the Secondary Means of Access to the Valve Tower being phased separately (Q1 2025) from the Valve Tower itself (Q1 2024), meaning they will be considered as separate planning applications. The two should come forward as one application, to allow a proper assessment of all the potential impacts.

This is not only because of the impact on the appearance of the Reservoir as a natural body of water, but also because it may increase risks to people living in Leigh Park.

There has been a significant change to the approved outline design which was for the Valve Tower to be embedded in the main embankment.

The new design is for it to be placed out in the water away from the embankment.

We think that the Valve Tower should remain within the embankment unless there are sound engineering reasons (i.e. risk of weakening the embankment) for it to be placed away from the embankment within the main water body.

Placing the Valve Tower out in the water creates a risk to the neighbouring community of Leigh Park.

1. It may act as a lure to individuals wanting to swim out to it. Although designing the tower with smooth sides could prevent people climbing it (to dive off) individuals may still be tempted to swim out to the tower. We know that reservoirs come with high risks due to deep cold water, strong currents and hidden obstacles.

2. There will be additional risk if there is a Bridge (Secondary means of Access) **across** to the tower. **We understand that it might be possible to have access to the tower solely via a Tunnel from the Control House which would not attract swimmers. There are other reservoirs which only have this one means of access.**

We think that the proposal for Secondary Access (we assume a Bridge) to the Tower further **increases** risks to the people of Leigh Park. However secure, it would act as an additional lure to individuals keen to overcome all barriers and dive off into the water.

Once the Valve Tower has been given planning permission, we don't want HBC/EHDC to have no choice but to agree a Bridge/Secondary Access at a later date, because of risks to the health and safety of workers.

**The Valve Tower and all means of Access to it should therefore be considered as one planning application. It should also come before Planning Committee for decision.**

Regards