

Dear Ann

Thank you for your letter dated 29<sup>th</sup> July to Charlie Seward, which I have been asked to reply to. I also refer to our teams meeting with your good self and Iain Keeping Chairman of the Parish Council on 30 September and I attach both your letter dated 29 July and the notes of our meeting dated 30 September which I received on 14 October, for completeness. Please accept my apologies for this late response but I have been away on leave, before I leave the Council in the next few days.

I think I responded to all of the points in your letter via our helpful and productive teams meeting, but if you feel that there are still some unanswered questions, please let me know, but also copy in Mark Averill and Jim Gibbins and I am copying both of them into this response.

Tattenhall has suffered badly this year, particularly when storm Christoph brought exceptional weather conditions in January, when parts of Cheshire received approximately the January whole-month long-term average rainfall during the Christoph event (18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> January).

Following storm Christoph, the Council is undertaking a Section 19 flood investigation to identify and investigate whether the Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) exercised their risk management functions as per the appropriate legislation and Tattenhall is included within that investigation. The interim Section 19 investigation report will be presented to the Council's cabinet on 24 November and it includes a separate section for Tattenhall within an overarching report. The section on Tattenhall will provide a background to the flood risk and water management assets in the village, a summary of what occurred during storm Christoph and what was affected and, a list of the actions taken to date and those that can be taken in the future to reduce the risk of flooding.

A full Section 19 Investigation Report will be completed following the Interim Report and will include a strategic overview of the Risk Management Authority (RMA) response, flooding mechanisms, flood infrastructure performance and a full list of recommended actions.

With particular regard to the borehole, I have had an initial conversation with the Environment Agency (EA) as they have accumulated a lot of information regarding the history of the borehole and ground water information over the last 12 months or so. I think we now need to engage more fully with them and work with them to develop a strategy between CWaC and the EA to better understand how the groundwater is affected by the ceasing of abstraction at the borehole and see what evidence there is regarding the water table in Tattenhall and what the impact there has been on the water table of any historical release of water through the borehole.

With regard to your specific request that the Council take over the responsibility for this private borehole which sits within private land, there are a significant number of issues which would need to be researched before this question could be taken forward. All costs and liabilities in respect of land access/ownership arrangements and any land damage, new licence application including costs and the impact/cost of

any new conditions that the EA may/may not apply, maintenance and structural integrity of the borehole, revenue costs and capital replacement costs of pumps and possibly the borehole itself, insurance and risk costs, liabilities for any contamination and any resultant flooding caused by abstraction, all need to be fully understood before any factual report can be presented to the appropriate officer and/or appropriate elected official before any decision could be made.

Once the section 19 interim reports have been presented, I would suggest you get in touch with Mark and Jim to discuss any questions you may have

I hope this helps

Kind Regards

Kieran

**Kieran Collins**  
Highways Commissioner  
**Cheshire West and Chester Council**