

## **Burgh and Tuttington Parish Council**

**Re. Planning Application 2023/3003: Hybrid planning application comprising:**

- 1. Full Planning Application for construction of 242 dwellings (including affordable homes), garages, parking, vehicular access onto Burgh Road, open spaces, landscaping, drainage and other associated infrastructure.**
- 2. Outline Planning Application for land for a Primary School, with all matters reserved except access. Land Adjacent Aegel House Burgh Road Aylsham Norfolk.**

We do not oppose the expansion of Aylsham with well-planned major developments. However, this proposal does not address the associated risks to our river environment from contamination by untreated sewage from the Aylsham Water Recycling Centre (AWRC) releasing material directly into the river Bure in our Parish of Burgh and Tuttington.

Comments in the application by Anglian Water who run the AWRC (Flood Risk Assessment /Drainage Strategy document Page 38; Appendix K of the Anglian Water Pre-planning Assessment Report Page 4) make it clear that there is insufficient capacity to cope with the increases in foul water that the development is expected to generate.

Although there is a legal obligation for water companies to match water treatment capacity with the expansion of towns like Aylsham, news reports from around the country show clearly how this obligation is often ignored due in part to an under-funded Environment Agency who police this problem.

In fact, the Rivers Trust report that the AWRC spilled untreated sewage 38 times for a total of 173.25 hours in 2022, up from 95 hours in 2021.

West Oxfordshire District Council has confronted this problem by bringing together planners, developers and water companies at an early stage to solve the problem of sewerage works capacity. They apply a planning condition that newly constructed houses cannot be occupied if the developers and water company together cannot demonstrate an ability to deal with the increased sewage generated.

We suggest that such an obligation is considered as a condition by planners for this application. This would protect the valued river environment not just in our Parish but in the wider Broads region fed by the river Bure. Failure to address this problem adequately leaves a stark future for the Broads environment, the coastline, and the economy of Norfolk.

**We object to the proposal in its current form.**