
Press Release

The Conservators of Therfield Heath and Greens have signalled their intention to oppose the recent application by Affinity Water Limited (AWL) to erect two very large borehole-head kiosks on Therfield Heath.

The boreholes are located near the pumping station at the end of Stake Piece Road and would be topped by 2.4m/8ft tall kiosks each covering 2.7m/8ft10 by 2.1m/6ft10.

The pumping station is already blighted by graffiti and an eyesore visible widely from the Heath and Baldock Road. The Conservators believe these new kiosks will create a larger eyesore and remain a magnet for antisocial behaviour over a wider area.

The Conservators believe a better plan would be for AWL to create a small secure compound in exchange for other land. AWL would be able to landscape their assets removing the eyesore. The land swap would ensure the approx. 600 m2 of the Heath taken by the compound would be replaced by a new bit of Heath of the same size or larger and of equal amenity value. This sensible proposal would ensure that AWL protect the Heath and achieve their goals.

Clare Swarbrick Chair of the Conservators said

“People rightly want AWL to maintain their water supply to the highest standards, but the proposed solution is not the right one. We hope the public will tell the Planning Inspectorate who will decide AWL’s application that AWL should not look to do this on the cheap but go the extra mile for our beloved Heath”

Representations can be made by to CommonLandCasework@planninginspectorate.gov.uk by 7th October.