

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL
LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ADVISORY BOARD

02 March 2015

Report of the Director of Planning Housing and Environmental Health

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 PRIVATE WATER SUPPLIES

Summary

This report details the work recently undertaken by the Environmental Protection team in respect of complying with the provisions laid down in the Private Water Supply Regulations 2009.

1.1 Background.

- 1.1.1 The Private Water Supplies Regulations 2009 require that local authorities complete a risk assessment on all the private water supplies (other than to a single dwelling not used for commercial activity). The regulations state that the risk assessments should be completed within five years of the regulations coming into force and thereafter every five years to keep the risk assessment under review and up to date. The regulations came into force in January 2010.
- 1.1.2 The primary purpose of the risk assessment process is to identify risks to a private water supply from source to tap which could lead to potential failures of the standards and/or risks to human health. In situations where evidence of risk to human health or failures of the standards is found, the regulations state that the Council must serve a notice requiring improvements to the water system.
- 1.1.3 In the borough of Tonbridge and Malling there are a total of five private water supplies, all of which have now been assessed. Risk assessments were completed on the basis of greatest risk, starting with large supplies and commercial supplies, of which there are two, concluding with the small supplies which were assessed in 2014. One single domestic dwelling private water supply was also monitored in 2014, at the request of the occupiers, which was reported at previous LEMAB meetings (these supplies are usually exempt from the Regulations unless there is a significant health concern or the Council is requested to monitor).

1.2 Risk Assessments

- 1.2.1 The results of the risk assessments completed in 2014 showed that remedial work needed to be carried out on two private water supplies to address microbiological

failures (in particular for total coliforms, enterococci or E.coli) and lack of maintenance.

- 1.2.2 Whilst the Regulations require that the local authority has to issue a Notice requiring remedial works to be completed, it is important to note that the Council has made sure of ongoing discussions with the owners of the private water supplies as to the necessary works to bring the supply up to standard, and provided advice and support prior to serving the notices. The detail of these notices can be found in the “Statutory Notices” report later on the Agenda of this meeting.
- 1.2.3 The works required relate to the maintenance of the treatment works and the maintenance to the sources and their immediate surroundings/structures, to ensure the potential danger to public health identified by the risk assessment is eliminated.
- 1.2.4 Risk assessments of a further two supplies have indicated necessary improvement works which will be ongoing into 2015. Future work will involve a periodic review of the risk assessments to ensure the supplies continue to provide safe water for those using them.

1.3 Legal Implications

- 1.3.1 The Council has a statutory duty to implement the requirements of the Private Water Supply Regulations 2009.

1.4 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.4.1 The Regulations allow the Council to charge for undertaking the risk assessment and re-charge the owners of the supply for sampling charges incurred up to the maximum limits stated within the Regulations.

1.5 Risk Assessment

- 1.5.1 This work safeguards the health of those using private water supplies in the Borough, failure to meet its statutory obligations could put the health of those residents at risk.

Background papers:

Nil

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