

**Sue Wells, 95 Burnside, Cambridge CB1 3PA**

Daniel Clark  
Water Resources & Environment Manager  
South Staffs Water (Cambridge region)  
South Staffordshire Water PLC  
Green Lane  
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Dear Daniel

### **South Staffordshire Water: Cambridge Region Drought Plan pre-draft consultation**

Thank you for the invitation to contribute to the preparation of the Drought Plan. Friends of Cherry Hinton Brook would like to make the following comments:

We have been very concerned in recent years by the low flow rates and water levels of Cherry Hinton Brook and understand that this is in large measure due to the current levels of abstraction from the chalk aquifer which supplies the brook. This represents a major threat to the important wildlife of the brook, which is one of the most important sites in the City for water voles, and which provides suitable conditions when flowing adequately for a variety of other important biodiversity. We think that it is essential that the Brook, and other chalk streams flowing into the Cam, should be restored to 'good ecological status' with flows at natural or near-natural conditions.

We therefore fully support the recommendations made in the recently published report by the Cam Valley Forum [Let it Flow!](#) (their submission to Water Resources East) and in the River Cam Manifesto that they released last year. These documents present a number of options for making significant reductions in water abstraction and tackling pollution and habitat modifications, including:

- Closing and or/reducing the number of boreholes, which will help Chalk streams flow more naturally
- Finding alternative sources of water (a number of which are suggested in the CVF reports)
- Promoting water harvesting and greywater recycling schemes.

Given that these solutions will take time to plan and implement, we would also like to see immediate action to reduce leakage and ensure that supply is metered. Many of our members and partners, who include numerous city residents, are similarly concerned and keen to take appropriate action themselves, but need encouragement from the water companies. For example, the Burnside and Vinery Road Allotment Society, which manages the allotments adjacent to the Brook, are currently looking at how they can encourage their allotment holders to increase the harvesting of water and thus reduce the use of the mains supplied troughs that they have installed for watering. Examples like this could be used to encourage others in the City to make similar changes.

Friends of Cherry Hinton Brook have promoted the need to save water at both our own meetings and the various events that we attend; for example, we have supported a primary school in Cherry Hinton who undertook a water-saving project with the children. We would be willing to work further with Cam Water to help communicate the water-saving and recycling message.

Yours sincerely

Sue Wells  
Chair, Friends of Cherry Hinton Brook