



Mr K Saunders
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Little Ann
Andover
SP11 7PJ

Your ref

Our ref

HANTS/S104/Gen

Date

2 November 2004

Contact

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Dear Mr Saunders

Adoption of Sewers at Abbots Hill, Little Ann, Andover, Hampshire

I refer to your letter dated 1 November 2004 and I thank you for the very helpful information contained therein.

Firstly I note the information copied to me regarding the local authority search carried out on your property in February 1994 and I would advise that the replies to the questions that you have highlighted were correct and would have been so irrespective of the status of the sewers in Abbots Hill. Interestingly the response to question 2.1.2 of the search indicates that the connection to the public sewer was by drain and private sewer (my emphasis). This, coupled with the response that there was not an adoption agreement in place (q. 2.4.1), should have raised suspicions that the sewers in Abbots Hill did not appear to have been adopted. However, that is water under the bridge now.

More importantly and of utmost relevance is the letter from Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) to Scarlet & Edwards dated 3 February 1992 confirming that the sewers serving the Abbots Hill development were adopted on 29 January 1992. That appears to be irrefutable evidence and Southern Water now accepts that these are public sewers and that the Company is responsible for their repair and maintenance. At the moment, though, as I do not have any plans showing these sewers I cannot confirm the extent of adopted sewer in Abbots Hill.

The heading to your letter referred to a "Signed three party Legal agreement with detailed plans ...", although this was not included in the copy correspondence sent to me. I assume that Mr Edwards may have provided this document and that it may be a copy of the adoption agreement (Agreement under Section 18 of the Public Health Act 1936). The detailed plans may well show the extent of sewers offered for adoption or alternatively Mr Edwards may have a copy of the "as laid" record drawings referred to in the TVBC letter dated 29 November 1990. Either way such information would be invaluable in updating Southern Water's public sewer records to show the Abbots Hill sewers and any help you can provide in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

It is disappointing to find that, although the sewers were adopted in January 1992, they were not shown on the map of public sewers handed over to Southern Water when the sewerage agency agreement was terminated at the end of March 1992, neither did there appear to be any arrangements in hand to update the records in due course. I can only assume that, with the massive amount of documentation that had to be packed up and transferred, this matter was somehow overlooked. No other evidence was available and when the recent problems arose, Southern Water could only state the position as it appeared to be at the time. On behalf of all concerned, I apologise for the past omission and look forward to rectifying the matter in the near future, with your assistance as discussed above.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "W Simmons". The "W" is a simple, slightly stylized capital letter, and "Simmons" is written in a cursive, flowing script.

W Simmons
Network Development