



LAURA FARRIS MP

Member of Parliament for Newbury

Anna Burns
Area Director - Thames
Environment Agency
Red Kite House
Howberry Park
Wallingford OX10 8BD

Our Ref: LF8834

23 February 2024

Dear Anna,

Since you last wrote to me, I have been to visit affected constituents in Lambourn. I have seen raw sewage flowing through the main roads and into the River Lambourn, a chalk stream.

I understand that this has been the case for around 10 weeks now. One of the principle locations is a manhole on a small bridge in Lambourn (on the B4001, directly opposite Oaksey House, RG17 8XS) where raw sewage is pouring out onto the road and is permitted to run down the nearest bank into the river where it is cordoned off by a white buoy device. Nonetheless, it is in the water and poisoning it, week after week.

Quite why nobody has taken the practical step to catch the effluent in some kind of device, after it leaves the manhole but before it reaches the water is beyond me. The casual attitude to such a precious waterway is deplorable.

You will see from the photos I am attaching that plants and wildlife are dying.

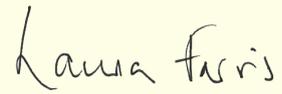
I understand that Thames Water have promised to attend the village 3 times per week to clean up but this isn't happening consistently. Irrespective of this, it is disgusting and a public health hazard.

Please treat this letter as a formal request for the Environment Agency to exercise its power to impose a fine for this serious breach of their environmental and public health obligations.

I am copying this letter to them and to the Flooding Minister, Robbie Moore MP, with whom I have been in regular contact.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura Farris". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and larger than the rest of the letters.

Laura Farris MP