

DRAFT

Rt Hon Suella Braverman MP
Flick Drummond MP
Paul Holmes MP



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14 April 2022

Dear Members of Parliament,

DRAINAGE FROM THE M27 BRIDGE INTO THE RIVER HAMBLE

I write as Chairman of the River Hamble Harbour Board to ask for your collective support as riparian Members of Parliament in driving a solution to the long-standing problem of the direct drainage of pollutants from the M27 motorway bridge into the River Hamble.

You may recall that I wrote to the Secretary of State in January of this year to highlight recent failed commitment from National Highways to address the matter. That letter is at Appendix 1. Baroness Vere of Norbiton's reply, at Appendix 2, indicates that a scheme for the Hamble M27 bridge is planned for feasibility in 2022/23, design in 2023/24 and construction in 2024/25, subject to securing approval of funding for each stage. While this appears to be encouraging news, the reality is that these conditional indications are identical to those we have received over the past twenty years. The risk and vulnerability perpetuated by this obfuscation cannot be allowed to continue.

I would be grateful for your support, therefore, during each stage of the process outlined by the Minister in ensuring that National Highways is held to account on its acknowledged responsibility. It is most fortunate that the environmentally catastrophic consequences of this failure to act, most recently highlighted by a road traffic accident involving the Bridge area on 01 April, have not yet been realised.

Yours sincerely

Councillor S D T Woodward
Chairman
The River Hamble Harbour Board

Appendices:

1. River Hamble Harbour Board Chairman's Letter to the Right Honourable Grant Shapps MP dated 12 Jan 2022 (Subject).
2. Baroness Vere of Norbiton response to Appendix 1, dated 31 Jan 2022.

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