

News archive 2008

December 2008

Albion Water on track to become the provider of wastewater services at Knowle Village, Fareham, Hampshire

On 14th November, Albion announced that its application to take over responsibility for the provision of wastewater services at Knowle Village had entered a public consultation period. To facilitate this process Albion held a public meeting on 2nd December, during which residents took the opportunity to explore plans for sewerage services provision. David Knaggs, Albion's Technical Director (pictured below), commented that the issues of cost, asset ownership and resilience were of key interest and Albion's proposals to enhance local biodiversity were greeted with universal approval.



November 2008

Albion Water victorious again as Competition Appeal Tribunal confirms Welsh Water's pricing 'both excessive and unfair'

On Friday 7th November 2008 the Competition Appeal Tribunal (CAT) published its long-awaited judgment on Unfair Pricing ([2008] CAT 31) in relation to the charges imposed by Welsh Water upon Albion Water for a supply of water that was delivered to Albion Water's large industrial customer in Wales, Shotton Paper.

In its conclusion, the judgment stated:

"The Tribunal finds that Albion has established that in March 2001 Dwr Cymru (Welsh Water) abused its dominant position by quoting a First Access Price which was both excessive and unfair."

This outcome follows previous findings of Welsh Water's dominance and abusive margin squeeze.

June 2008

Knowle Village Sewerage Services

Albion Water has applied to Ofwat to become the sewerage undertaker for Knowle Village near Fareham. Albion has agreed to replace the existing private operator and plans to provide sustainable waste water services to Knowle's residential customers, its hospital and business park. A redacted copy of the Knowle inset application is available for further information.

May 2008

Court of Appeal Judgment - 22 May

Albion Water welcomed today's Court of Appeal judgment that dismissed all grounds for Dwr Cymru's appeal in the long running Shotton Paper case. They found that the Competition Appeal Tribunal were correct in finding Dwr Cymru, as a dominant undertaking, guilty of abusive margin squeeze. A subsequent application for leave to appeal to the House of Lords was also dismissed at the handing down hearing.

Albion estimates that Dwr Cymru has spent over £4 million of their customer's money in fighting the case, despite a series of overwhelming judgments against them.

Final judgment on the second limb of Albion's case, excessive pricing, is anticipated later this summer. It is expected that Albion's further success will contribute significantly to the delivery of innovative water services, an objective that Ofwat recently endorsed through its competition review paper.

Commenting on the judgment, Jerry Bryan (Managing Director) said that he hoped that Dwr Cymru would now take a measured approach that recognises their failings and avoids further delay and wasted customer money.

March 2008

Carbon Dioxide emissions down by 40%

Over the last four years Albion has achieved a 40% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions resulting from business car journeys. This achievement results as much from personal choice as it does from Albion's commitment to reduce environmental impact. Though it promotes the use of public transport and streamlines the need for centralised meetings, it has benefited from its employees enthusiasm in embracing efficient motor technology. 'It is not only important to reduce total mileage but it is also necessary to consider how to minimise the environmental impact of the journeys that remain necessary' commented David Knaggs, Albion's Technical Director.