**Winchester City Council**

**Private Sewage System Explanation Sheet**

1. Winchester City Council (WCC) runs several private sewage treatment systems in its administrative area. WCC will not be approaching Southern Water or any other water company to adopt these systems because it is Southern Water’s and other water company’s current policy not to adopt these systems.
2. Property owners when they exercised their right to buy their former council homes contracted with WCC in the Right to Buy Conveyance/transfer/lease to pay to WCC the full costs of running the WCC private sewage system to which they are connected.

Please note that:

* the contract is with the property owner, who is billed annually by WCC.
* The property owner will pay their local water supplier for the supply of water to their property.
* The property owner’s bill from their local water supplier will not include a charge towards sewage disposal from their property..

1. If a property owner lets their property they will continue to be billed by WCC. WCC will not bill the property owner’s tenants.

The property owner is required to supply a billing address to the Housing Finance Team using the current email address: put in email address

1. The property owner is expected to supply their buyer with copies of invoices raised by WCC over the previous 2 or 3 years.
2. The cost of the running the WCC private system is met by the number of users who are connected to each separate WCC system.
3. When a property owner sells their property WCC requires:

* all arrears due to WCC to be cleared before the sale completes; and
* the property owner and the buyer to make any necessary apportionment of paid invoices between themselves.

Please contact the Housing Finance Team to check if there are arrears.

1. WCC regularly services/ cleans its systems and removes waste as appropriate.
2. WCC has all necessary Environmental Consents for the operation of each private sewage system and operates all systems in accordance with required regulations.
3. The property owner is responsible for the repair and maintenance of the lateral drain running from their property until it connects with the WCC sewage drain which in turn runs to the WCC private treatment plant.
4. The property owner is expected to show any potential buyer of their property the approximate position of their lateral drain and its connection with WCC’s private drain.
5. The WCC private drain run from the property through adjoining land to the appropriate WCC treatment plant. The treatment plant is on land owned by WCC.
6. WCC’s policy is to make a charge for replying to enquiries raised by property owners and/or their potential buyers about the private sewage systems.

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