

SEWER DIVERSION TO REDUCE PYMMES PARK POLLUTION

Thames Water engineers have started work on a new project to minimise the impact of pollution from Edmonton homes on a lake in Pymmes Park.

Bungling plumbers and careless DIY enthusiasts have mistakenly connected household appliances, including toilets and washing machines, to surface water sewers that should channel only rainwater from roofs and roads to the lake.

The appliances should instead be connected to foul sewers that take household waste to Deephams Sewage Works for treatment.

Household waste has entered the lake via an outfall pipe on its southern side as a result of the misconnections.

The £40,000 scheme started on Monday 4 October. It involves work to divert polluted water from the surface water system into the nearby foul sewer, preventing it from entering the lake.

The diversion will come into operation during times of little or no rainfall, when levels in the surface water network are low enough. The system will revert to its normal operation during times of heavy rain, and valves will be installed to prevent surface water overloading the foul sewers and causing them to flood.

An intensive programme of work to identify households contributing to the pollution started earlier this summer. Checks by Thames Water's Environmental Protection team have so far revealed 33 wrongly connected household drains that are polluting the lake.

The company is working closely with the environmental health department at Enfield Council to ensure the homeowners in question carry out the necessary corrective work to their drains to stem the flow of pollution.

Letters and leaflets explaining how the sewers work, and outlining property owners' legal responsibilities to connect to them properly, have been sent to over 7,000 local homes.

Steve Lousley, Thames Water's Project Manager, said: "Surface and foul water sewers are normally kept separate from one another, but by diverting the polluted surface water away from the lake we can lessen the impact of the pollution while work to trace the homes it is coming from continues."

The improvements will be made to pipes under Sweet Briar Walk. Traffic lights will be used to manage the flow of vehicles through the road for the duration of the work. The arrangements have been agreed with Enfield Council, and every effort will be made to minimise disruption.

The work is expected to take five weeks to complete.