

## Alison Semple

As a local resident, I have huge concerns about the RAPID Gated process, which hasn't yet allowed for any consideration of the main problem for people living in the area: the issue of risk.

Thames Water has been allowed to proceed through various stages of the process, and for its proposal to take on an unjustified degree of credibility, when it should never have got past the first hurdle, given the risks associated with what is being proposed.

It's also allowed Thames Water to get away with the most superficial of PR campaigns which completely fails to answer even the most basic questions around any actual advantages for the local area; or give any serious consideration to the Elephant in the Room: The actual size of this monster reservoir and the potential risks for the local population.

Residents I've spoken to have been largely unaware that this would be the biggest reservoir of its type in the UK. The process has allowed Thames Water to carry on planning, without any meaningful conversation around what would happen to the 10,000 residents of adjoining villages, and the 40,000+ inhabitants of Grove and Abingdon, in the event of a safety issue; around the flood wave that would hit East Hanney within 8 minutes of a catastrophic breach; or the estimated loss of 11 lives in the closest properties.

It doesn't matter if the risk of a failure is one in a trillion. Because of the gigantic nature of the reservoir, and the devastation and potential loss of life that would result from a failure, ANY risk is too great.

These issues cannot continue to be swept under the carpet. I believe the fact that Thames Water has been allowed to continue to develop plans for a frankly experimental scheme which would see us living in the shadow of 150 billion litres of water demonstrates a truly alarming level of disregard for our local communities. The transparent process and honest engagement that are urgently needed are orders of magnitude away from anything that Thames Water or the regulator have come close to delivering so far.