

Olly Glover

Speech in support of reservoir motion, item 17

Oxfordshire County Council meeting, Tuesday 12th December 2023

My name is Olly Glover. I live in Milton, and I am the Liberal Democrat parliamentary candidate for Didcot and Wantage constituency.

There is huge concern in the villages surrounding the site of the proposed reservoir about the scale of the proposal; the safety of its design; and the environmental, construction and water bills impact.

This concern was intensified when the size of the proposed reservoir was doubled over what was consulted about beforehand.

Residents feel that the case for the reservoir has not been made, particularly amidst huge losses of water from leaks; the very long construction time for the reservoir; unanswered questions about population growth assumptions used; and the financial sustainability of Thames Water.

Before any giant reservoir arrives in our area, we need answers as to why the Severn-Thames Transfer has been rejected as an alternative; to better regulate Thames Water, particularly on its water leaks performance; to examine how we can all use water resources more efficiently; and turn Thames Water in a public benefit company, with much tougher regulation that is clearly needed.

I urge the council to play its part in challenging the proposed giant reservoir, by voting for this motion.