

# MARTIN SALTER MP



READING WEST

Contact: 0118 954 6782 Mobile: 07976 946033

## *NEWS RELEASE*

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### **THAMES WATER SET TO IGNORE WILDLIFE CONCERNS OVER RESERVOIR SITE**

Labour politicians in Reading West have slammed the decision of Thames Water to press ahead with plans to develop the entire Bath Road reservoir site in the face of residents concerns about the environmental impact and the loss of an important wildlife habitat.

Following a public outcry over the company's plans to build 110 homes on the land between Bath Road, Western Road and Petworth Court, Reading West MP Martin Salter set up a meeting with local residents, councillors and Thames Water to look at alternative proposals which would retain the rear reservoir site as a wildlife reserve. However, Thames Water have now rejected this approach as it would reduce their profits and notified councillors last week that they will be submitting a revised scheme to build 101 units across the whole site.

Reading West MP Martin Salter has written to the Chair of the Council's Planning Committee accusing the company of "putting profits before the environment".

Minster councillor Paul Gittings said:

"Thames Water had a great opportunity to make good their claim to be an environmentally responsible company by scaling back their plans to the front of the site including the existing buildings on Bath Road. The rear reservoir has been undisturbed for many years and is a wonderful wildlife haven that could be used as a resource for local schoolchildren."

Martin Salter added:

"I am very disappointed with Thames Water and will be campaigning vigorously against their overdevelopment of this site and their failure to recognise its importance as a 'green lung' in a built up area of my constituency."

***/ENDS***

**More information:** Martin Salter MP  
Paul Gittings 07973 960 627

**Attached:** 1. Martin Salter's letter to Chair of Planning – 8<sup>th</sup> July  
2. Martin Salter's letter to Thames Water – 26<sup>th</sup> March