

Revamp Your Tank: Frequently asked questions

- *How will the funds be dealt with and when will they be paid?*
Wiltshire Council will pay our third party contractors directly.

- *Do I have to organise anything?*
You will only need to coordinate with our third party contractors once the project starts and arrange site visits, dates and access for works etc. All other project management and payment will be cared for.

- *Why are septic tanks thought to pollute rivers?*
They are designed so that the liquid and solid waste is separated, with the liquid being released into the surrounding soil (a drainage field) where it can be assimilated ('eaten') by the bacteria naturally occurring in the soil. However, sometimes septic tanks have been placed too close to surface water bodies, or they become affected by groundwater or, increasingly, surface water flooding. In this way, the effluent they release can reach rivers and streams as pollution. Moreover, if a septic tank malfunctions, it may also release untreated effluent.

- *What is better about the new system?*
Package treatment plants (PTPs) not only separate the waste, they also biologically treat them to produce bacteriologically safer and clearer water. This is why they are legally allowed to discharge straight into a water course, whereas septic tanks are not. The PTPs being used in this scheme are also designed to remove some excess nutrients from the wastewater, which cause pollution if released. In addition, if tertiary treatment is used in series with a PTP, this results in the highest water quality standards being reached.

- *What's in it for me?*
This is a scheme designed to benefit both the environment and the homeowner. As well as having the substantial cost of replacing your system covered entirely, and having the project managed on your behalf, the funding will also cover a 5 year service plan. These benefits are, of course, additional to helping to reduce pollution inputs into our waterways.

- *How long will the new system last?*
Roughly 25 years if it is well maintained.

- *Is the new package treatment plant likely to smell?*
If your system is well maintained and service according to the manufacturer's guidelines, it should not smell. Foul odours will be a symptom of an issue.

- *Is the new package treatment plant likely to make a sound?*
Yes. A sewage plant requires the addition of oxygen into the water which is added through an air blower or air compressor. This can produce a humming sound.

- *How much does it cost to run these systems?*
Each system varies in energy consumption, and the type of system opted for will be recommended by specialised engineers. As an example, the energy running costs may be around £0.20-0.80 per day.