

Pipework

Following meeting with Viguera on Wednesday 30th November I have the following information on the materials.

Mains replacement with steel pipe work:

This pipe has a life expectancy of 150 years three times that of Polyethylene pipe. Its design means no pipe furring and it is 10 times stronger than plastic. The main pipe is comprehensive strength steel with an internal polymer lining and a rubberised outer skin.

There are now several water companies in the UK returning to the use of steel pipe work as the new modern steel pipe has such a long life expectancy. The director from Viguera showed me documentation showing Severn Trent Water is now using steel pipe to replace mains. The jointing process with steel pipe to the plastic pipe being very simple and very effective with no plastic welding required.

In relation to colour coding of pipes the United Kingdom is one of the few countries in Europe that do so. Spain has very little need to as there are very few places that have main gas supplies. The blue line that does show on these pipes is for the pressure rating of the pipe. The only other pipes in the Village are for sewerage and these are grey in colour.

Concerns have also been raised regarding pressure increases and the possibilities of fracture or leaks caused by pressure spikes. The new system being installed has computerised pressure valves where the supply comes out of the meters servicing the village. In the event of a pressure spike the system reduces the pressure by automatically closing a pressure valve.

The renewal has been long recognised as needed and is an investment in the future of the community. The longevity of the pipe work being used will see us all off. The fact that we now have a complete ring main means we can do away with one of the three water meters servicing the village. We will save the annual standing charge on this meter. We will also save on water as the new system will stop wastage through leaks.

A further feature being installed with the water mains replacement is individual valves for each stairwell. This will help in the future when any maintenance is required in a specific block. We will now be able to isolate individual stairwells as compared to the past when whole sections of the community had to have their water switched off.

The completion of the water mains replacement in one phase rather than the three planned phases which would have had the project finishing in 2018 with its accompanied disruption will save the community over €30,000 on the proposed budget.

The cleanliness of the pipes has also been questioned. All of the pipes steel and Polyethelene (Used for the feeds to each stairwell) will be pressurised and flushed before being connected to the individual water meters. At each individual water meter (for every apartment and locale) there is a metallic gauze filter screen. These filters will be removed and cleaned prior to the connection of the new water mains.

Samples of water have been taken from the old system as will samples from the new. These will be sent to an independent laboratory for analysis.