

WHITBOURNE WATER TREATMENT WORKS

£857,000 water scheme for Bromyard area



Whitbourne Water Pumping Station and Treatment Works at the time of its official opening in April 1966

This scheme was first conceived as a result of the government survey of Herefordshire's water supply needs in the post WW2 era, but it was not approved by the Minister of Housing and Local Government until 1960 when the Herefordshire Water Board was put in place.

At the 'opening' of the works, which had been designed to supply water to 12,000 people in the Bromyard, Ledbury, Hereford, Leominster & Wigmore rural districts, and meet about one eighth of Herefordshire's water supply needs, it was described as one of the most modern waterworks in the west Midlands.

The pumping and filtration plant had the capacity to supply 805,000 gallons a day from the River Teme (a tributary of the River Severn) through a network of 70 miles of pipeline. It was the single biggest scheme completed by the Herefordshire Water Board.

Chairman, Mr SR Southall, said that in the past six years the Board had laid 350 miles of mains - 'as much as the councils ever laid from the dawn of time until we took over'. He said that the board had made water available to 25,000 people previously without mains supply. To do this, 17 pumping stations and 18 water reservoirs had been built. He added that in addition, ten more pumping stations, six reservoirs and 150 miles of mains were then under construction.

**** £100 in 1966 = c£1,585 in 2020. The cost of this scheme in 2020 would have therefore been over £13.5 million**

**** 805,000 gallons/day equates to 3.66 megalitres/day. In 2020 Whitbourne can abstract up to 5.15 megalitres/day.**

Prior to the opening of Whitbourne WTW all the water supply needs of the area would have been met from natural spring sources, the river Frome and boreholes drilled to gain access to underground sources, which would have been variable and inconsistent supply and quality. See page 2

In addition to Bromyard town, since 1996 the houses in the following places have received piped water supplied from Whitbourne WTW: (in no particular order)

Edwin Ralph
Bromyard Downs
Stamford Bishop
Ridgeway Cross
Storridge
Pencombe
Bredenbury
Kimbolton
Brimfield
Puddleston

Tedstone Delamere
Bringsty Common
Acton Green
Cradley
Mundersfield
Little Cowarne
Grendon Bishop
Leysters
Little Hereford
Upper Sapey

Tedstone Wafre
Liney Green
Acton Beauchamp
Stifford's Bridge
Stoke Lacy
Ullingswick
Hatfield
Middleton on the Hill
Blythewood

**** In June 2007, river water from the River Teme inundated Whitbourne WTW and around 3,800 properties (or 5,200 people) lost their water supply and needed to boil their water for several days after supply was restored.**