

# CROWD: Clean Rivers Of West Dorset

FRIDAY 5TH DECEMBER 2025 MEETING

WOOTTON FITZPAINE VILLAGE HALL, WOOTTON FITZPAINE DT6 6ND – 11:00AM-1:00PM

## DRAFT AGENDA + QUESTIONS (2 PAGES)

Apologies: Emma Teasdale,

- INTRODUCTION
- UPDATES –
  - **DORSET NATIONAL LANDSCAPE / BRIT CATCHMENT NFM PROJECT UPDATE** – Ian Rees
  - **NEW MEMBERS (RIVER ISSUES / OPPORTUNITIES / WORK & TESTING UNDER WAY / HELP NEEDED)**
    - RIVER BRIDE – Debbie Legge
    - RIVER AXE (BROADWINDSOR) – Sheila Hawkins
  - **WESSEX WATER (NEWS OF ANDY'S REPLACEMENT; CROWD QUESTIONS\*; UPDATES)** – Julian Okoye
  - **ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (CROWD QUESTIONS\*\*; UPDATES)** – Fiona White
  - **WEST DORSET CONSTITUENCY (RIVER & BEACH ISSUES)** – Edward Morello MP
  - **NEWS FROM CROWD INCLUDING**
    - RIVER CHAR – John Kenward
    - RIVER WINNIFORD – Paul Ramsden/Lee Ramsden
    - RIVER MANGERTON & RIVER ASKER – Chuck Wilmott/ Margaret Morgan-Grenville
    - RIVER SIMENE – Bob Hamblett
    - BRIT VALLEY PROJECT – Dana Assinder
    - ANY OTHER RIVERS AND BEACHES
- **FUTURE PLANS AND DIRECTIONS** – Should CROWD be more public facing? (e.g. recent proposals to create a directory of local river groups, to make a calendar and/or film, to publish a book of local memories of our rivers)
- NEXT MEETING AND AOB

Invitees:

- **River Winniford (Winniford River Action Group):** Lee Ramsden, Paul Ramsden, Peter Stapleton
- **River Char (River Char Community Project):** Andrew Carey
- **River Char (River Char Action Group & Riverfly Testing Coordinator):** John Kenward
- **River Mangerton and River Asker (River monitor):** Chuck Willmott
- **River Mangerton (River monitor):** Margaret Morgan-Grenville
- **River Axe (Little Axe Group, Broadwindsor):** Sheila Hawkins
- **River Bride:** Deborah Legge
- **River Brit (Upper River):** Rosemary Rychnovsky
- **River Brit (Lower River):** Caroline Pearce
- **River Simene (Parish Councillor):** Bob Hamblett
- **West Dorset Wilding:** Dana Assinder
- **West Dorset Rivers and Coastal Streams (Catchment Officer):** Ian Rees
- **Litter Free Dorset:** Emma Teasdale
- **West Dorset Constituency:** Edward Morello MP
- **Wessex Water** – Julian Okoye
- **Environment Agency** – Fiona White

## \* Questions for Wessex Water

### Ofwat

- In response to [WW's Section 19 undertakings](#), how does WW's undertaking to cut spills at specific overflows through new investment in AMP8 affect CROWD rivers?
- What might WW's undertaking to help customers to sustainably manage rainwater look like in practice?

### River Bride

- The Bride has not previously been represented at CROWD, so we never had a summary from Andy Mears of the situation there. Can you quantify sewage spills into the River Bride from WW assets in recent years, explain what is causing the spills and tell us what actions are planned or currently being taken to reduce or stop them?

### Charmouth

- At our last meeting in September it looked as if works at Newlands Bridge, Charmouth earlier in 2025 had more or less eliminated spills. What spills have there been at Newlands EO since then?
- If the approach taken at Newlands has worked, does WW have plans to work with other campsites / holiday parks to separate surface water at source and reduce pressure on the sewage treatment system?
- At a Charmouth CTAP (Coastal Transition) meeting this week we heard that there had been no positive feedback from Wessex Water about a nature-based solution at Charmouth Foreshore, despite clear signs that the pumping station at the Foreshore already cannot cope with storm water levels and despite the problem being exacerbated by rising sea levels. Would WW be willing in principle to discuss using a reedbed or other NFM approach to help protect Wessex Water assets (including the STW) and help with storm surges up river?

### Seatown/Chideock

- Can you update us on current work at the Chideock Sewage Treatment Works on the River Winniford?

### Phosphate/Orthophosphate

- Can you tell us how many STWs in the CROWD area remove phosphate? And how many are due to be upgraded to do so in AMP8? Have you any thoughts on the fact that WW *adds* an estimated 300 tonnes of phosphoric acid per year for plumbosolvency control and then *removes* an estimated 300-500 tonnes of phosphorus – at great expense - across its estate?

## \*\* Questions for the Environment Agency

### River Testing

- As CROWD river groups start to undertake more river testing, can the EA offer any guidance on preferred/recommended approaches, e.g.
  - what bacteria, chemicals, metals, pesticides, water conditions to monitor?
  - what methods to use: Petrifilm, Fluidion or Membrane Filtration for bacteria; Hanna Eggs vs CSI alternatives for chemicals; sondes and gauges or manual testing, etc.?
  - what modality to follow: [Friends of the River Dart](#) or [CastCo](#) or [RiverHub](#) or something else?