



## Lower Char Community Project CAMPAIGN 2023

### 1. River Water Campaign – to clean up our river...

#### We call on Wessex Water to:

- Accelerate its investigations and take urgent action to eliminate all spills (recently 8-12 per year) at Newlands Bridge Sewage Pumping Station (because they are unlicensed and illegal).
- Work with Newlands Holiday Park and properties on Stonebarrow Lane to:
  - Identify where and how rainwater is getting into the sewer network and causing the spills at Newlands Bridge.
  - Ensure that rainwater from roofs, roads and hard standing areas is diverted so that it no longer flows into the Combined Sewer.
  - Ensure that any defective private or public drainage is properly sealed and maintained to prevent rainwater getting into the Combined Sewer.

*LCCP offers to work with Char Valley and Charmouth Parish Councils, Newlands Holiday Park and Stonebarrow Lane residents to help get this done.*

- Install 6mm screens to the emergency overflow at Newlands Bridge Sewage Pumping Station (SPS) as soon as possible, as a temporary improvement.

#### We call on the Environment Agency to:

- Monitor the river at Charmouth Pool (just before the beach) which it did from 1992 until 2019 but then stopped without explanation.

### 2. Coastal Waters Campaign – to clean up our beach and sea...

#### We call on Wessex Water to:

- Reduce the frequent storm discharges from the Long Sea Outfall to fewer than 10 per year and 3 per bathing season as soon as possible (well ahead of 2050 targets). [Currently this happens about 70 times a year into the sea, with no pollution alert required.]

*To achieve this, we seek definitive clarification from Wessex Water on their plans to create additional storage at this site either by repurposing existing storage tanks or building new ones.*

*Our campaign is to achieve fewer than 3 spills per bathing season. If this is not possible, we will campaign for all spills to be UV treated before entering our coastal water. To support this campaign...*

## We call on the Environment Agency to:

- Enforce the requirement for no storm discharges at Newlands Bridge SPS
- Reclassify the storm overflow at the Long Sea Outfall as a 'high priority spill' as it discharges:
  - 'in or near' a designated bathing water (we are writing to the EA for clarification on what constitutes 'in or near')
  - within a Special Area of Conservation: UK0019864: Sidmouth to West Bay SAC
  - within a designated shellfishery: Marine Character Area 2: Lyme Bay (East)
  - into an SSSI and just offshore from a UNESCO World Heritage Site

*To support this, LCCP will film the sewage plume from the Long Sea Outfall and track its dispersal on an incoming tide.*

- Extend its definition of 'Bathing season' (currently mid-May to end September) to take account of year-round water sports and the year-round ecological impact of sewage spills.

## We also call on South West Water to:

- Clean up the biobeads littering Charmouth Beach that were previously spilled from its Uplyme Sewage Treatment Works.

*LCCP will work with South West Water to implement its agreed beach clean-up strategy.*

## 3. Other Sea and River Issues – we will campaign on 3 issues:

- Climate-led Sea Level Rise:** we will press for fuller information on Wessex Water's infrastructure strategy to address this issue.
- Sewage Spills Information:** we will work with Wessex Water to address inaccuracies and grey areas in recording data, mapping infrastructure, reporting and Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) designation, including:
  - False alerts
  - Access to real time data on spills
  - Inclusion of Newlands Bridge CSO on all relevant maps whilst it is still in operation
  - Updating and extending Wessex Water's 'Coast and Rivers Watch' service to include full, accurate real-time data on spills at the Sewage Treatment Works, Newlands Bridge and the Long Sea Outfall for the SAS Safer Rivers & Seas app).
- Community Projects:**
  - we will request targeted support from Wessex Water for LCCP community projects to reduce waste water and rainwater entering the combined sewers
  - we will campaign for Sustainable Urban Drainage (SUDs) solutions to be built into planning law and become a legal requirement for any new development in the area.

To support all these campaigns, LCCP will:

- Participate in the CROWD (Clean Rivers of West Dorset) group chaired by Chris Loder MP
- Host the Charmouth Dragon River Festival in May 2023.

**Find out more and join us at:**  
**[www.riverchar.org](http://www.riverchar.org)**