

Notice of Motion – Rule 12

Councillor Gwynne will move that:

This Council notes that:

Protecting the River Test;

- Every river in England is now polluted beyond legal limits.
- In 2019 the Environment Agency rated just 14% of rivers as 'Good'.
- Some 36% of English rivers have been damaged by water companies. They released untreated human waste into our waterways over 400,000 times to a total of 3 million hours in 2020 alone. In that same year just 3.6% of pollution complaints made to the Environment Agency resulted in penalties.
- Government funding to the Environment Agency to monitor river quality and regulate farms and water companies, has dropped 75% since 2010/11.
- Consequently farms are now rarely inspected, water quality is rarely tested, and water companies can pump raw sewage into rivers with virtual impunity.

To protect the River Test – the very basis for the existence of TVBC - this Council resolves to request the Chief Executive write to:

- 1) The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs calling for the Government to urgently address these issues.
- 2) The Chairperson of the Parliamentary Environmental Audit Committee to advocate for greater enforcement of existing regulatory powers.
- 3) Both of the Borough's Members of Parliament, asking for their support in this matter.
- 4) The Chief Executive of Southern Water, calling for urgent action to address the impact of waste-water discharges on our local rivers – and the river Test in particular.
- 5) The Regional Director of the National Farmers' Union requesting clarification on the action being taken locally by farmers to prevent nutrient run-off.
- 6) The charities River Action and The Rivers Trust expressing this Council's support for their campaign to restore the health of Britain's rivers.

Councillor Burnage will second the motion