

District Council Report

At the last full council, an important motion to enhance the protection of our rivers was passed unanimously. Although the impact on tackling the appalling level of pollution in our rivers, might be limited, it will increase pressure on those that use our rivers as a dumping ground. It was mentioned during the debate that a number of political parties are demanding that water companies are re classified as statutory consultees in planning applications. I would urge everyone to contact your local MPs to ask that they get behind this initiative. If this can be brought about, it will, in my opinion, be a game changer requiring water companies to be fully accountable in a way they are not at present.

At the same meeting a council tax increase of 2.99% was passed.

A recent presentation by the EA to EDDC, about changes to responsibility of water courses, highlighted aspects of riparian ownership that are being altered. However, having looked at the document, I see little in there that may have an impact on those in the parish who have these rights. Without being too sceptical about this, it seems an exercise in the EA obviating yet more responsibility onto riverside owners to keep water courses clear. So if you have these rights, my advise would be to check the EA website to see if these changes impact you.

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