



Water Quality analysis programme:

We have now tested our five river sites across Bradford on Avon (BoA) for eleven months. Since the last meeting, the water has been high spate, near flood conditions, and currently, it is fairly low. The nitrate and phosphate have continued to be elevated, but not very high. At the end of September Molly from Bristol Avon Rivers Trust (BART) trained new River Detectives at Bradford on Avon Boat Club and 5 new sites along the canal have been assigned. I don't know all the volunteers, but I have seen their data plotted on the BART database maps.

The problem with the faulty nitrate and phosphate strips seems to be sorted and most of the results since April have continue to be more reliable.

Following the completion of the Wessex Water project in Victory Field earlier this year to make improvements to a storm overflow, there were some issues within the sewerage network at Barton Farm Country Park, including a number of dilute localised discharges in the wake of the significant rainfall that occurred in September. Wessex Water teams worked hard to investigate and resolve the issue. Wessex Water teams were working for a month and finally cleared the emergency pumps and barriers from Barton Country Park on 24 October. While Wessex Water believe this to have had little to no environmental impact, the Environment Agency has been made aware and we are also working closely with any local residents and businesses affected.

If you notice pollution along the river or suffer from illness caused by the river, it is important that this is reported to Wessex Water or the Environmental Agency (**contact details below**), so that it can be investigated properly. At this time of year, when the river is flowing faster, there is often foam or scum. If this is brown, it is likely to be due to humic acid from the mud and is totally natural. Whiter foam is more likely to be due to detergent pollution.

Despite the river chemistry, there seems to be thriving wildlife along the river with sightings, amongst many other creatures, of fish, kingfishers and definitive signs of beavers, eating willow bark and actual sitings.



On October 8th, I met with Abi Williams, River Recreation Liaison, Wessex Water to find out more about real-time AI analysis of the river to better understand the

Environment and Green Spaces committee meeting 19 November 2024

Agenda item 8 – Healthy Rivers Project Update

Written by Councillor Alex Kay



potential impact of the data we have been gathering and consider designated swimming sites. It was a very positive meeting despite torrential rain and I am hopeful that a site in BoA will be considered for real-time monitoring. I understand that this type of testing is becoming a legal requirement across many sites in the UK.

We will continue our monthly testing of five sites through the town along the river and canal, and report those to the Bristol Avon Rivers Trust. Hopefully, together we can work to understanding the state of our rivers and help reverse the decline in quality.

<https://bristolavonriverstrust.org/river-detectives/index.html>

Perhaps the content below could be publicised in BOATC sites near the river, incl. at the Green Wall.

Something urgent related to pollution?

Wessex Water:

Telephone: 0345 600 4 600 (24/7)

For general information, common questions and advice visit www.wessexwater.co.uk

Environment Agency

enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

Telephone 03708 506 506

Emergency incident hotline 0800 80 70 60 (24/7)

Use What3words app so you can report exact location of the problem