



*The Yealm Dippers*®

# River Yealm Water Quality Working Group

## Terms of reference

The River Yealm Water Quality Group was set up in February 2021 with representatives from each of the seven Riparian Parish Councils (Brixton, Cornwood, Ermington, Newton & Noss, Sparkwell, Wembury and Yealmpton) including local people and organisations concerned about the water quality of the River Yealm.

### **The aim of the group**

To work together to raise concerns with the relevant authorities and plan to improve the water quality of the River Yealm, as maybe influenced by inputs of treated and untreated sewage, industrial or agricultural waste and proposed developments.

**Tasks** - The River Yealm Water Quality Working Group will include:

- Work in collaboration with the Yealm Estuary to Moor Project (YEM) and the West Country Rivers Trust (WRT) to undertake regular water sampling on River Yealm as part of the West Country' Rivers Trust Citizens Science through the deployment of a continuous water monitor and recruiting volunteers to undertake the water sampling.  
(Please note that YPC are the owners of the CWM to ensure that this is fully insured. YEM will have unlimited access to and use of the data.)
- Obtain appropriate / relevant data from SWW, EA and any other relevant party. Analyse and publish agreed data and findings obtained from local water monitoring and compare with data provided by SWW and EA to evidence levels of pollution and to raise concerns with the appropriate agencies.
- Support parish councils
  - o to respond to all types of planning applications for extensions, alterations and new developments to ensure a consistent approach to the local Planning Authority on the disposal of surface water
  - o any other matter pertaining to water quality
  - o by providing specialised data and ecological knowledge to improve matters on the river (and land within the catchment).
  - o by working together as a group of riparian parish council, where interests overlap, to become a stronger partnership
- Raise awareness of the work of the River Yealm Water Quality Working Group by engaging the public via parish magazines, local Facebook pages and newsletters.
- In collaboration with other organisations contribute to the planning of longer-term projects to include River Bathing Waters designation and River Charter for the Yealm, if that is in the best interests of the group.

- To apply for funding where appropriate – any monies will be held by Brixton Parish Council on behalf of RYWQWG and will be updated regularly.
- To update Parish Councils via representatives attending the meeting
- Share information and knowledge and collaborate with other river groups e.g. River Erme
- Formulate and update an action plan regularly

**Meetings**

The group will meet on a two monthly basis via zoom



**Ermington  
Parish Council**



Kirstie Aldridge, Clerk Brixton Parish Council

Updated at River Yealm Water Quality Working Group meeting 15th May 2023 & 28<sup>th</sup> January 2025