Lower Char Community Project

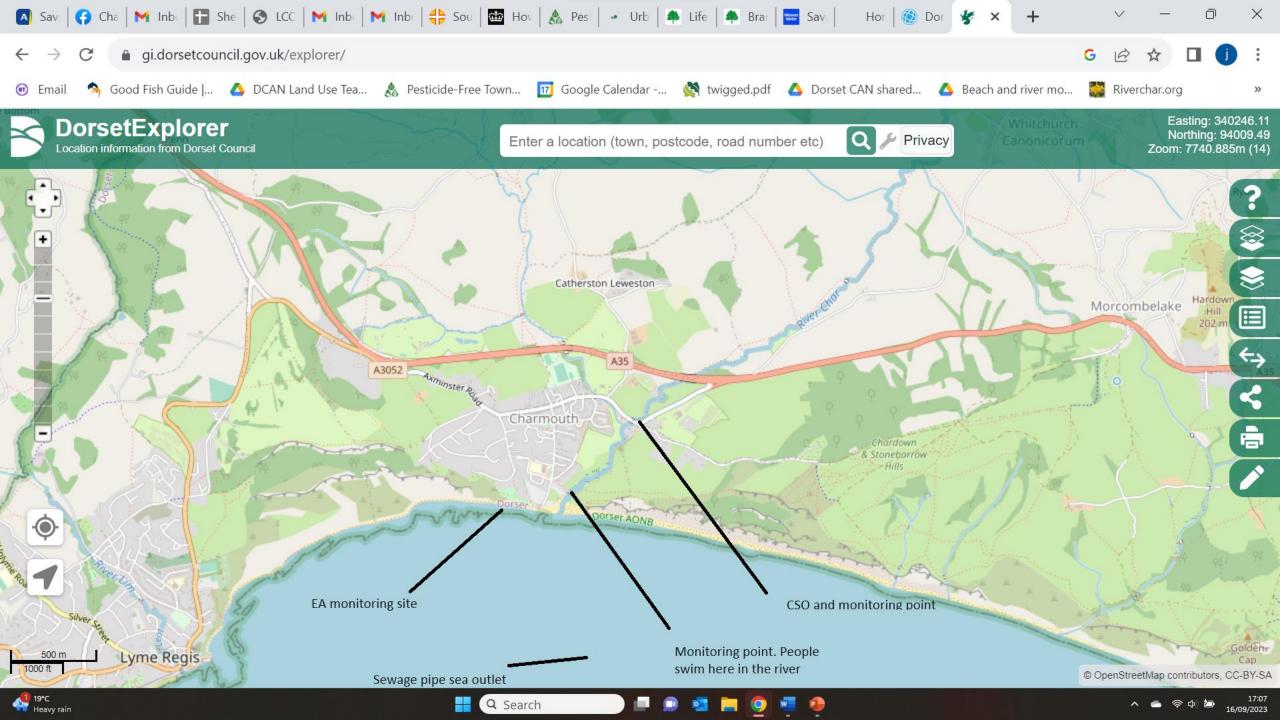
Protecting, regenerating and enhancing our beautiful river and beach

To restore and support abundant wildlife – fish, invertebrates and birdlife

To make the water safe to swim and play, boat, board and fish in.

A place for everyone to enjoy!





Upstream – River Char Community Project

Pollution sources are (predictably):

- Farm run-off
- Home practices / misconnections
- Septic tanks
- Overgrowth of bank side vegetation

Volunteer groups
Liaison with farmers
Education re septic tanks and being water wise.

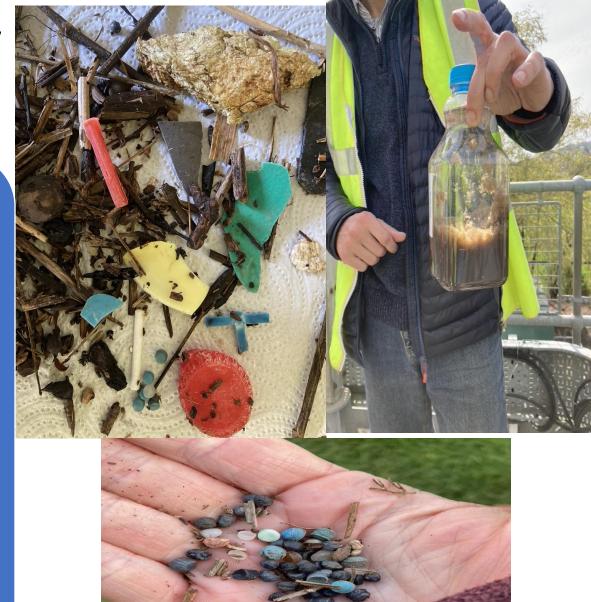


RCCP working party, winter coppicing willow on the Char

Downstream – Lower Char Community Project "keep it clean"

Pollution sources are:

- Pollution from the Upper Char
- Sewage from the village sewage plant
- Sea and tourism related litter. Locals try their best to litter pick
- Urban run-off from village rooves and roads and from the main road



WHO ARE THE LOWER CHAR COMMUNITY PROJECT?

SET UP IN JAN 2021

A simple mission (or not!):

- to tackle the sewage outage issue through collaboration
- to complement the Upper Char work to keep the Char clean
- to restore nature

5 KEY MEMBERS

- Julie Leah, Dana Assinder,
 Andrew Carey, Sandra Reeve,
 Chris Lakeman-Fraser
- We all work at other jobs
- We are all involved in Dorset CAN
- Andrew is involved in running the Upper Char project



WHO DO WE WORK WITH?

Wessex Water South West Water Dorset Council Flood Protection West Country Rivers Trust River Fly The Parish Council The Community **The Environment Agency** Other River Groups – River Lim, Chardstock Eco group, River Axe **AONB CROWD** and its members

All the above have played key roles in supporting, advising and training.



RESULTS / SUCCESS STORIES

Wessex Water (Dana / Andrew):

Remedial work agreed to reduce spillages and improve screening.

South West Water (Dana)

Have agreed to pay for a clean-up of nurdles / biobeads in the river mouth by Nurdle.org

WestCountry Rivers Trust and Riverfly (Julie)

Regular monitoring sites have been set up and a team of volunteers trained.

The Parish Council and the Environment Agency (Julie)

The CPC are now supportive, have donated money and put in a new sign to emphasise the water quality of the river is poor.

The EA have been very helpful.

Listened to our concerns and will review where the beach water is sampled as it does not reflect public bathing patterns or the likely flow of sewage contamination



- We held an arts and information event with a Parade featuring our community made dragon
- Scouts, local artists, singers, the school, Wessex water, the AONB and lots of others joined in.
- We held workshops
- We installed water capture at the Library



THE NEXT STEPS

Aims

- Continue to work with Wessex water
- Find Nature Based solutions
- Separate surface and foul water
- Engage community in water care: saving, capturing, valuing

Challenges

- Time
- Engagement with volunteers
- Surface water
- Elderly population
- Tourism economy



Finally – our next big public event

Nurdle Clean up

•MISTY WILL RE-APPEAR !!!

CROWD Clean Rivers of West Dorset

Works to get positive action to clean up West Dorset's rivers and coastal waters

Aim to meet the targets set in the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan (2018) and the Environment Act (2021)

CROWD will do this by:

- collating factual evidence and local information on water quality
- briefing our MP on these issues to enable action on our behalf.
- working together and in partnership with others

CROWD ARE:

Represented by members of the river groups including:

The Upper and Lower Char, The Simene, The Brit, The Bride The Asker, The Mangerton

Partnership expertise from

The AONB (Ian Rees)
Litter Free Dorset

MP:

Chris Loder