

# **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