

# Holbeton News Climate Change & Environmental section

## Update on the Erme Estuary sewage discharges meeting

There were 3 actions from the November meeting:

- *To approach SWW through our MP Sir Gary Streeter asking them to join with the parish council in developing an agreed strategic plan.* I had a response from Vicky Garner, Community and Partnerships Manager for SWW, and I had a long phone conversation mid February. Out of that meeting I was expecting a follow up email confirming what SWW proposed to do. I am still awaiting that response.
- *John Mildmay-White and his planned Citizens Science group to enhance monitoring in the estuary.* Those who have volunteered will be trained to undertake tests on the water in the estuary in collaboration with the Westcountry Rivers Trust. They will join a number of volunteers who already regularly test the river water upstream from the estuary.
- *To approach the other relevant councils asking them to support the development of a whole river group, the River Erme Water Quality Group.* The first meeting of a newly formed group took place in Modbury, chaired by Cllr Ann Turner and attended by representatives from all the councils having the river or one of its tributaries within their boundaries. It was agreed that it will follow along the lines of the River Yealm group. This group will meet again towards the end of March with a broadened membership, so will be too late for an update next month.

## An electric vehicle (EV) car charger for the village?

The parish council is now actively pursuing a well thought out proposal for a car charger in Holbeton village, that if successful would mean that anyone without a space for their own private charger and living within the village could own an EV and use the shared charger. The proposed charger would have a universal connection.



This would operate through an existing app (CoCharger) that allows sharing of a privately owned charger.

We are currently looking into possible locations that could support the charger. It should then not be difficult to get funding to make this happen.

If anyone feels that they might consider investing in an EV and wants to know more about how this scheme would work, please let me know, and I will be pleased to explain.

## Life On The Edge Project

We now have a list of projects that will be supported by the project in due course, all of which are designed to benefit pollinating invertebrates. Examples include:

- Helping to improve the management of gardens and community spaces.
- A summer bug watch.
- Regular weekly butterfly watching walks (so called butterfly transects), and participate in national surveys.

*sponsored by Holbeton Parish Council*

- Holding a bee education weekend (*see below*).
- Encourage a pesticide and herbicide free approach in garden and community spaces.

Although any funding from Life on the Edge does not start until 2024 we will try and get at least some of the projects under way this year.

I will continue to keep you posted. Harry Baumer 01752 830274, [harryluson@gmail.com](mailto:harryluson@gmail.com)

## Grants for local environmental and climate change projects

The local dividend from the Creacombe Solar Farm (so called section 106 payments) is entering its 3<sup>rd</sup> year, and to date has funded approaching £6,000 for various projects and expenses.

Payments have included enhanced insulation for the village hall roof, bird boxes, LED lights in the church and solar panels for the cricket pavilion.

We look forward to helping many future projects. More details are on the parish council website. Go to the climate change section.

**A community composting facility.** We have not been able to find anywhere suitable within the parish. I understand that the development at Collaton is expected to include a space for this purpose. However it is that much further away and not expected to come to fruition for a matter of years. Any suggestions welcome.

## Meet the Bees: save the date



Brigit Strawbridge Howard, author of "Dancing with Bees" will give an introduction to Bumble Bees, Solitary Bees, Bee Mimics and other Pollinators on Friday 26th May at 7pm.

The following day, Saturday 27th May from 10am - 4pm at Mothecombe Stables there will be a workshop for a more detailed look at the life of bees followed by a walk in Mothecombe Meadow and gardens to see and identify some common bees.

Tickets will in time be available through Eventbrite, and attendance will need to be pre-booked to manage numbers. Watch this space!

Anne Mildmay-White

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## Tip of the month:

### 6 easy sustainable swaps to help the environment & save money

Think small changes to your everyday life won't make a difference? Small changes can help if we all make a collective effort. Some of these changes not only benefit the environment but have the added bonus of saving money.

1. **Swap takeaway cups for a flask or reusable coffee cup.** Many coffee chains implemented a temporary ban on reusable cups at the start of the pandemic, but this was subsequently reversed.

2. **Swap cling film for beeswax wraps.** Cling film can take decades to decompose. As its name suggests, it's made of plastic which is not naturally biodegradable. It will go for incineration when it goes into general waste.
3. **Swap disposable freezer bags with reusable freezer bags.** The cheap price of the packs of thin plastic freezer bags sold at most supermarkets are unlikely to last more than a few uses. They are prone to rips and tears. Reusable freezer bags cost a little more upfront and are sold in smaller packs, but are built to last.
4. **Swap plastic bottles for reusable water bottles.** It's estimated that 7.7 billion plastic bottles are bought in the UK each year and plastic can take up to 500 years to decompose naturally. There are a large range of metal, plastic and glass water bottles for sale.
5. **Swap regular coffee pods for recyclable coffee pods.** Regular pods are usually made from plastic or aluminium which aren't naturally biodegradable materials. Though some coffee pods are technically recyclable, you'll still need to clean and dismantle them. There are now a number of greener alternatives: some recycling schemes operate; compostable pods (which will still get incinerated); refillable pods. Alternatively, go for bean to cup when deciding to have a machine.
6. **Swap shower drain unblocker for a chemical-free option.** Confused about how environmentally friendly your drain unblocker is? Some manufacturers claim their products use natural ingredients that are less damaging to the environment, but that's not always the case. Instead of opting for an eco drain unblocker, why not ditch chemicals altogether and get a Flexisnake? It's a chemical free, manual method of removing contents from a blocked drain. Just stick it down, wiggle it around, and pull it out... along with whatever drains it up. You can use it again and again.

*These suggestions are based on an article from [Which Magazine](#)*

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## **Yealm Community Energy announces the 2023 Community Fund round is open!**

YCE are encouraging applications for the latest grant funding round.

Do you have an environmental project that needs some match funding to realise its full impact and potential? YCE have granted over £80,000 to local projects since 2018, plus £10,000 in Covid emergency relief. YCE harness the power of the sun to empower our local communities.

The 2023 round is open again for Environmental Project applications.

**Closing date for applications is 21st April 2023.**

Application form, rules and guidance is available on the YCE website:

[www.yealmenergy.co.uk](http://www.yealmenergy.co.uk)

Please read the full guidance, rules and expectation of an impact report before applying.

Tracy Ebbrell

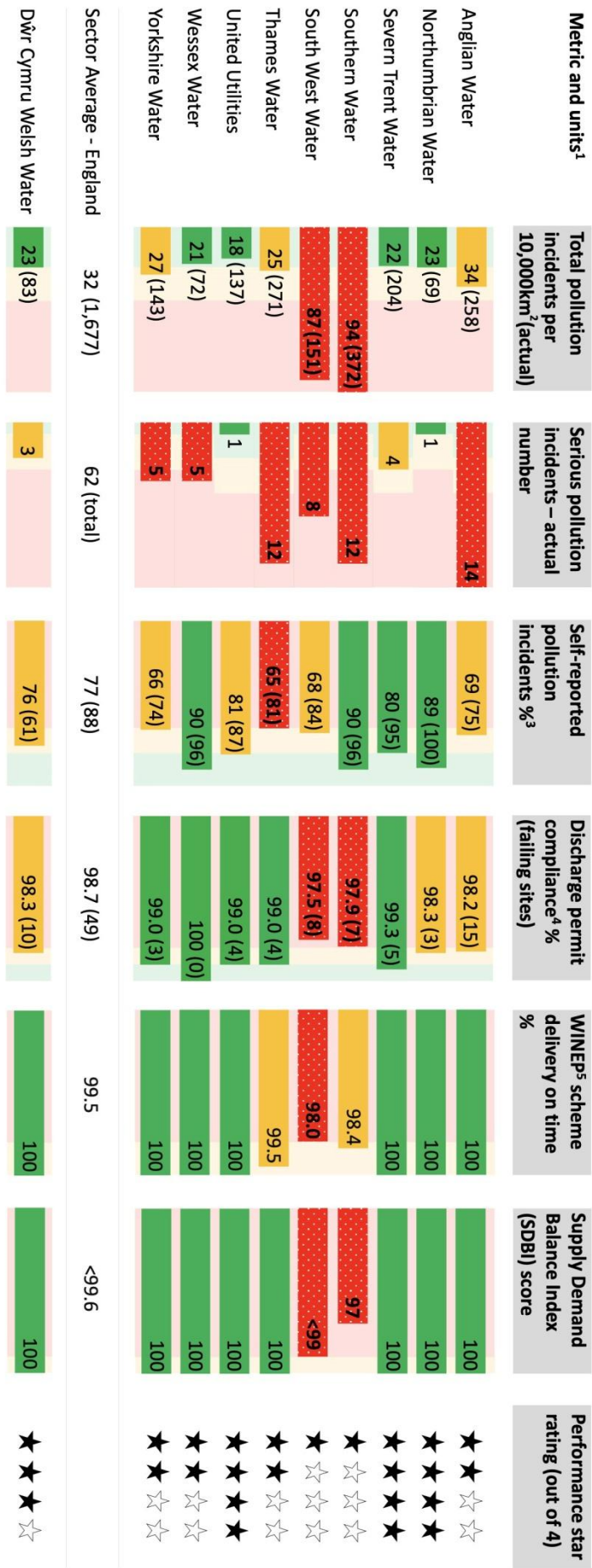
*sponsored by Holbeton Parish Council*



And finally, how does SWW compare with other water & sewerage companies?  
 Harry Baumer 01752 830274, [harryluson@gmail.com](mailto:harryluson@gmail.com)

# Water and sewerage companies Environmental Performance Assessment 2021

For a version of this document in a more accessible format, and for individual water and sewerage company data reports, please visit:  
[www.gov.uk/government/publications/water-and-sewerage-companies-in-england-environmental-performance-report-2021](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/water-and-sewerage-companies-in-england-environmental-performance-report-2021)



**Red** Significantly below target **Amber** Below target **Green** Better than target **R A G** Red, amber, green metric thresholds

Note: These results are drawn, in part, from information submitted by the companies and may change as a result of subsequent audits and checking

<sup>1</sup> Refer to the EPA metric guide for more detailed information ([www.gov.uk/government/publications/water-and-sewerage-companies-in-england-environmental-performance-report-2021](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/water-and-sewerage-companies-in-england-environmental-performance-report-2021))

<sup>2</sup> of sewer length <sup>3</sup> The figure in brackets is the combined self-reporting percentage for just sewage treatment works and pumping stations - this must be 90% or more for a green rating

<sup>4</sup> with numeric water quality limits for treated wastewater at sewage treatment works and water treatment works <sup>5</sup> Water Industry National Environment Programme

Source: Environment Agency & Natural Resources Wales