

RIVER RHYMNEY TASK GROUP - 3RD NOVEMBER 2003

**SUBJECT: DISCUSSION PAPER**

**REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

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**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To consider how to develop joint working arrangements to improve responses to problems and proactive protective measures with the aim of improving the quality of the River Rhymney.

**2. SUMMARY**

- 2.1 As above.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Further to the meeting of 19<sup>th</sup> August, a review of recent records held by the local authority confirms a range of problems that have occurred on the River Rhymney including the following:
- Sewage/foul water near Kwik Save, Rhymney. Possible misconnections.
  - Sewage/foul water near Abertysswg (Hudds Farm area). Possible misconnections.
  - Pontlloyn near Capital Valley – iron staining (discussion ongoing between Environment Agency and Coal Authority).
  - New Tredegar near Rugby Club – sewer/foul water.
  - South of white Rose Way ? overflow from school. ? not Welsh Water problem.
  - South Queens Road, Cwmsyfiog – problems on storm water overflow – works have been carried out by Welsh Water.
  - Near Old Mill (Aberbargoed/Bargoed) various sewer problems have been addressed by Welsh Water.
  - Gilfach near road from station to Bargoed Colliery reclamation – storm water overflow sometimes blocks and foul water and sewage enters river.
  - Tiryberth – mine water.
- 3.2 This list which is far from exhaustive illustrates the variety of problems being encountered and the importance of a concerted effort to address them.

**4. POINTS FOR DISCUSSION**

- 4.1 At the previous meeting improved joint working arrangements were aired and the following points are suggested for discussion to take the process forward:
- 4.2 A comprehensive list of problems/complaints/concerns.
- Initial complaints and requests for action arise from a number of sources including agencies, user groups and individuals. Similarly, the response can be the responsibility of a number of agencies. It would be helpful to have a comprehensive dataset which includes all of the requests, the problems and the response actions. If this is agreed the following points require consideration:

- Who should compile and hold the database?
- What data should be recorded?
  - Source of request – generalise addresses for individual complaints but record agencies and groups.
  - Agency(ies) responsible for action.
  - Update of actions.
  - Closure – resolution of problem.
- Who should have access to the information?
- How will access to the information be obtained?

4.3 Once joint information is held this can be reviewed by the task group to identify areas where improvements can be made to the response arrangements. This would be the next stage in the process.

4.4 In addition to improving the reactive mechanisms, discussion also focused on proactive initiatives. There are programmes for improvement and these could be considered, drawn together and supplemented by consultation.

Development and review of an improvement programme for the River Rhydney.

- The programmed improvements be drawn together and reviewed alongside suggestions from interested agencies and user groups.

If this is agreed a consultation process will need to be organised.

- Who will draw together existing proposals and develop a consultation process?

## **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 These will need to be considered.

## **6. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 These will need to be considered.

## **7. RECOMMENDATIONS**

7.1 It is recommended that the task group consider the items raised in the report to consider how to progress the joint working arrangements.

## **8. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

8.1 Not applicable.

## **9. STATUTORY POWER**

9.1 Not applicable.

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