

River Great Ouse Pollution Incident

28 November 2018

Community Briefing

Current situation and next steps

Community drop-in

Nearly 60 people dropped in to talk to us at our community drop-in event which we held on 7 November 2018 (2pm and 7pm) at the Buckingham Community Centre. 28 people stayed for the 3.30pm presentation and a further 15 joined us for the 6pm presentation.

A variety of Environment Agency teams were represented at the event in order to answer questions about the Environment Agency's role and responsibilities during and following a pollution incident like the pollution event which has affected the River Great Ouse here at Buckingham.

We were unable to talk specifically about the June pollution incident; information sharing has to be limited whilst we continue our investigation, to protect the potential for any enforcement action.

The presentations, delivered by Kye Jerrom, Fisheries Technical Specialist, focused on river restoration highlighting what might be achieved in the long term. The presentations generated much discussion which ranged from how river clean ups could be organised, to how pollution events can be prevented.

A quarter of our visitors took the time to complete our feedback form. Feedback indicated that:

- 78% of respondents felt that the event was useful to them.
- 85% recorded that the event was useful in helping them understand more about our role and the role of others.
- 78% felt that we were able to answer the questions they came with.

Partnership working

A sub-group of the Upper & Bedford Ouse Catchment Partnership is being established to bring together people, organisations and charities in the vicinity of the Upper Ouse to work together to restore and enhance the river. They met on 31 October to discuss what they can do to bring people together to achieve more. As a result, the group decided that a volunteer River Warden scheme would be set up to enable interested members of the community and organisations to assist in the restoration and ongoing monitoring of the river, you can read more about this in the River Warden Leaflet included with this Community Briefing.

The Upper & Bedford Ouse Catchment Partnership sub-group will meet again in January 2019 and we will include an update on this as part of our next Community Briefing.

Stay informed

Please let us know if you would like to be sent the previous month's newsletter because you've recently joined this mailing list, and if you would like us to keep your email address on this distribution list (for future updates on our recovery work) by emailing FBG.C&B@environment-agency.gov.uk. Please note, if you ask us to keep you informed we will retain your email address only for the duration of this work.

You can keep up to date with fisheries activity by following us on Twitter @OusefishEA.

Next update due by 30 January 2019

customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
03459 88 11 88