

Petition Details

I am writing to present a community petition concerning the continued discharge of untreated sewage into the River Wriggle and the impact this is having on our local environment and communities.

The petition was launched on 28 February and has already received strong public support, with over 800 signatures from residents and supporters across the Wriggle Valley and surrounding communities.

The level of concern expressed demonstrates how important the health of our river and local environment is to people living in the area.

Residents have raised a number of serious concerns including:

- Repeated sewage discharge events into the River Wriggle
- Pollution affecting the ecological health of the river
- Untreated sewage being allowed to flow across public roads in some locations
- The long-term impact on wildlife, water quality and downstream communities

Environment Agency monitoring data shows significant discharge activity in recent years, including:
2022 – 63 discharge events lasting 343 hours
2023 – 125 discharge events lasting 904 hours

These figures illustrate the scale of the issue affecting the Wriggle catchment and the urgent need for meaningful action.

The River Wriggle flows through Chetnole, Leigh, Yetminster, Beer Hackett, Bradford Abbas before joining the River Yeo, then the River Parrett, eventually reaching Bridgwater Bay.

The condition of the river at its source therefore has consequences for communities and ecosystems far beyond our immediate area.

The purpose of this petition is not simply to raise concern, but to encourage constructive engagement with the relevant authorities and infrastructure providers to ensure that our river is properly protected.

I would respectfully ask that your respective Parish Council consider:

- Acknowledging the petition and the concerns of local residents
- Supporting the campaign for improved protection of the River Wriggle
- Engaging with Wessex Water, the Environment Agency and our local MP to seek clear solutions and infrastructure improvements
- Working with neighbouring parish councils across the Wriggle Valley to ensure a coordinated community response

I would be very happy to attend a parish council meeting if helpful, to briefly outline the concerns raised by residents and the objectives of the campaign.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this matter and for your continued work supporting the local community.

<https://www.change.org/StopSewageInWriggleValleySaveOurRiver>

Yours sincerely,

Paul Hollick