

Motion: Clean Water – Clean up Your Act

North Norfolk District council is concerned about the water quality and pollution of our beaches and waterways. This Council cares about ensuring the highest levels of water quality and seeks to hold Anglian Water and the Environment Agency to account.

- 1) Request the Leader of the Council write to the Chief Executive of Anglia Water and request the following:
 - a) Confirmation of when all combined sewage outflows (CSO) in North Norfolk will have monitoring equipment in place and in operation
 - b) The reporting of CSO discharges on a quarterly basis to the Council.
 - c) A detailed investment allocation plan for North Norfolk

- 2) Request the Leader of the Council write to the Environment Agency and request the following:
 - a) Greater transparency on their water quality readings
 - b) A guarantee that regular E. Coli testing will be undertaken & increased.
 - c) A guarantee that reactive DNA testing be undertaken
 - d) Information relating to collaborative works with agriculture partners

- 3) Request the Council undertake discussions with both Anglian Water and the Environment Agency to ensure that there is a review of the actions undertaken from the 19th March incident

- 4) The Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for the Environment to request that funding to the Environment Agency is increased

Proposed: Cllr. Harry Blathwayt

Seconded: Cllr. Adam Varley

Further background information and detail.

Water quality is at the forefront of public consciousness and there are serious concerns in North Norfolk over the disregard for our beaches and waterways owing to the mismanagement of pumping stations and dumping of effluent by the water companies.

On 19th March 2023, a sewage pipe burst in Mundesley, and parts of the beach needed cordoning off due to fears of public safety. The loss of three of our important Blue Flag beaches also raises concerns for this council and many residents.

The district has 45 miles of coast line and many ecologically important waterways including parts of the Broads and the world-wide renowned chalk streams. We need to ensure that these can be protected to maintain North Norfolk's biodiversity, natural beauty and remain attractive to the visitors that sustain our tourist industry.

This council finds the actions of the water company and Environmental agency unacceptable and resolves to...

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- 1) Request the Leader of the Council write to the Chief Executive of Anglia Water and request the following:
 - a) Confirmation of when all CSO in North Norfolk will have monitoring equipment in place and in operation
 - b) The reporting of CSO discharges on a quarterly basis to the Council. This will help identify discharges after heavy rainfall and during dry periods
 - c) A detailed investment allocation plan for North Norfolk, which identifies what percentage of Anglian Water's investment allocation has been spent in the last two years and is proposed, guarantying that these funds will go towards improvement works which will lead to a reduction in sewage discharge in North Norfolk waterways and improvements in water quality

- 2) Request the Leader of the Council write to the Environment Agency and request the following:
 - a) Greater transparency on their water quality readings to ensure it is clear where monitoring has not taken place at CSO points and show where discharges have taken place following heavy rainfall and in dry periods
 - b) A guarantee that regular E.coli (both agriculture and human waste) testing will be undertaken and this regime increased.
 - c) A guarantee that reactive DNA testing be undertaken
 - d) Information relating to collaborative works with agriculture partners such as the NFU

- 3) Request the Council undertake discussions with both Anglian Water and Environment Agency to ensure that there is a review of the actions undertaken from the 19th March incident. This review will formulate and shape a multi-faceted action plan for any future issues.

- 4) The Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for the Environment to request that funding to the Environment Agency is increased because of the need to increase the testing regime. This needs to be at a level where the necessary monitoring of the water companies, water flows and CSO and pollution incidents is comprehensive enough to be able to hold water companies to account. This is particularly important due to Climate Change, increased rainfall and issues we've seen with combined sewage outflows.