



Radyr & Morganstown Community Council Cyngor Cymuned Radur a Threforgan

Report

Agenda Item 6 (a)

Meeting: Environment Committee
Date: 6 April 2023
Report Author: Dr Huw Onllwyn Jones

“Cleaning the River Taff”

Introduction

1. This paper recommends action with regard to pollution in the River Taff.

Background

2. The River Taff is littered with plastic waste which spoils the amenity value of the river and is a threat to the wildlife that lives there.

Key Issues

3. We need to stop waste entering the river in the first place. At present, the buck is passed between National Resources Wales, Cardiff Council and Dwr Cymru. The focus is on constantly cleaning the river, rather than preventing pollution.
4. We have campaigned about this before - and produced a leaflet in liaison with NRW (this can be found on our website) But there has been no, or little, progress. The river depends on volunteers such as the Cardiff Rivers Group to keep the river clean.
5. Other countries use initiatives such as very large, rugged nets around outfalls, to catch any waste before it enters the river. Booms are also used to trap waste.
6. This is the river that flows through Wales' capital city. the current situation is an embarrassment and a national disgrace.

Financial Implications

7. Zero

Links to Corporate Objectives?

8. Seeks to improve our natural environment. (A Resilient Community. A Globally Responsive Community.)

Staffing Implications

9. None (H O Jones will draft the letter)

Risk Management Implications

10. If we don't take action there will be less chance that this problem will be properly dealt with. Also, writing this letter will demonstrate a positive attitude from R&MCC with regard to the river that runs past our community.

Legal Implications

11. This project can be delivered using powers available to the Council.
General Power of Competence
Environment (Wales) Act 2016

Recommendation

12. It is **recommended** that: the Council writes to the NRA, Cardiff Council, Dwr Cymru, Cardiff Rivers Group and the Welsh Government asking that a working group be established to discover where the waste comes from - and to develop ways of preventing waste entering the river. The Council should also inform BBC Wales and other media outlets that it is doing so,

Huw Onllwyn Jones