

Dear Ms Morrissey,

The rivers Colne, Colne Brook, Alderbourne and Horton Brook all flow through The Ivers. They are all important, taking flow from many land drains and ditches to the south and eventually the Thames near Staines.

The Ivers are under intense pressure from development. Some on a very large scale but also at a local level when small properties are converted to larger and sites with one dwelling are granted permission for several. Building regulations should ensure there are no misconnections of foul waste into surface water drains but we have no confidence this always happens. The regulations need to be tightened and penalties made commensurate with the failure to observe them. This is one element of Mr Dunne's Private Member's Bill, to tackle river pollution from untreated sewage and improve water quality, to be introduced on Friday 21st November.

In addition the Colne catchment is increasingly suffering from the repeated release of raw sewage under licence from the Environment Agency.

Recently, there has been a disturbing trend towards allowing water companies to self-regulate the monitoring of discharges from sewage treatment works – effectively leaving them to mark their own homework. We have already observed the disturbing consequences of this: numerous pollution incidents recorded across the catchment, with few, if any, repercussions.

This is a problem that our member organisations and supporters (who between them represent tens of thousands of people) are very concerned about. Information on some of the issues facing the network of rivers in your constituency can be seen at <https://www.colnevalleypark.org.uk/caring-for-our-rivers-in-the-colne-valley-park/>

The Ivers Parish Council is a member of the CVRP CIC and endorses its support for the Private Members Bill, to be introduced by Phillip Dunne MP on Friday 13th November. We trust that you will also support this bill.

Please let us know if you will support the bill.  
Your sincerely

Cc:-

Phillip Dunne MP.....

Stewart Pomeroy.....