

South West Water to pay charity £350,000 after polluting stream

South West Water has offered to pay £350,000 to the Westcountry Rivers Trust to help a Devon river recover from serious pollution that wiped out the local fish population.

The payment, known as an Enforcement Undertaking, has been accepted by the Environment Agency as an alternative to prosecution and will benefit urban watercourses in the Plymouth area including the Tamerton stream.

In August 2016 the Environment Agency responded to reports of dead fish in the Tamerton stream. The pollution was traced to an overflowing manhole on South West Water's combined sewer network. South West Water and its contractors arrived on site that evening and stopped the discharge the following morning.

The pollution had a substantial impact on the watercourse, killing more than 100 brown trout. The dead fish were found downstream near Tamerton Foliot, close to where the stream enters the Tavy estuary.

Mike Ingman for the Environment Agency said:

The Tamerton Stream has suffered several pollution incidents over the past five years.

It is good to see a positive outcome from what was serious pollution of a local stream. South West Water has since cleansed the main sewer line that runs through the woods and this should help reduce the likelihood of any further pollution.

Fish killed in the Taverton stream ended up near the Tavy Estuary, a sensitive watercourse

The Tavy Estuary is a sensitive watercourse with several important designations including Special Protection Area, Special Area of Conservation and a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

The South West Water Enforcement Undertaking offer will fund a programme of works known as the 'Plymouth River Keepers Project' that will help offset the damage caused by the water company.

Dr Nick Paling of the Westcountry Rivers Trust said:

We are excited about the Plymouth River Keepers Project. By encouraging people to reconnect with nature and bringing urban

rivers and streams back into the affection of the people living close to them, we believe we can have a positive impact.

The Westcountry Rivers Trust will use the money to restore fish numbers through additional habitat management work and pay for a programme of community engagement to raise awareness of pollution problems on Plymouth's urban streams. The project also aims to increase public usage and appreciation of the Tamerton stream and encourage community-led monitoring of local watercourses.

Buckinghamshire Skills For Growth – OC02S19P1501

Call to run a project that improves the opportunities to provide placements, work experience and higher-level apprenticeships within SMEs and micro businesses in Buckinghamshire.

Membership of the Veterinary Products Committee 2019

The Veterinary Products Committee (VPC) is looking to appoint four new members:

- Veterinary immunologist
- Veterinary surgeon (mixed/small animal)
- Medical/clinical microbiologist
- Veterinary surgeon (fish)

Members receive £148 for each meeting attended and an additional £76 for preparation time.

Meetings are held at the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) offices in Surrey.

The VPC schedules three regular meetings a year (February, June and September typically) and it may, occasionally, be necessary to hold ad hoc meetings. Usually an Open meeting is held on the day before the September meeting (25 September 2019).

Further information on the VPC is available on its [website](#) and from the VPC secretary, Sandra Russell s.russell@vmd.gov.uk or tel: 01932 338490.

Please contact Chris Abbott c.abbott@vmd.gov.uk for details of how to apply. The closing date for applications is noon on 23rd August 2019.

Three men plead guilty for dumping waste illegally

Trio fined for flytipping household and commercial waste at site in Havant.

Three men plead guilty for dumping waste illegally

Daniel Worboys of 'Rubbish Clearance Portsmouth', Jason Newman of 'What A Load Of Rubbish' and Sidney Simpson of 'S&S Clearances' pleaded guilty at Portsmouth Magistrates Court for dumping waste illegally – including waste collected from a church in Portsmouth.

A fourth defendant, Ben Bennett (real name Lezlie Hollis) pleaded not guilty and his case has been adjourned until 10 September 2019.

In September 2018, a major flytipping site was discovered by the Environment Agency on Hulbert Road, Havant. It found orchestrated dumping of household and commercial waste by trespassers, including waste forming around 40 different tips from many small vehicles. The waste site caused problems for the environment with some of the waste catching fire, causing toxic smoke, and some entering the local stream. It cost around £100,000 to clear the site.

Mattresses and household items were among the rubbish dumped on the site

Following an extensive investigation, the Environment Agency identified the 3 men, who pleaded guilty to dumping the waste at the Hulbert Road site.

Daniel Worboys, who was sentenced to 12 weeks' imprisonment suspended for 12 months and ordered to pay £1,500 compensation, admitted he had collected waste from a number of customers that he deposited at the site near Havant.

He also did not use correct paperwork.

Jason Newman was sentenced to 12 weeks' imprisonment suspended for 12 months and ordered to pay £1,000 in compensation. The Environment Agency found paperwork belonging to Jason Newman at the site. It also found that he had dumped waste he had collected from a housing association and a landlord as part of a house clearance. He also did not use correct paperwork.

Sidney Simpson, who was sentenced to 12 weeks' imprisonment suspended for 12 months and ordered to pay £1,000 compensation, was employed to clear household and business waste from a church in Portsmouth by the pastor who had employed him before. He also did not use correct paperwork.

Some of the waste caught fire, causing toxic smoke

A spokesman for the Environment Agency, said:

Their actions showed blatant disregard for the environment. These waste criminals also undermine legitimate businesses.

In cases like this, we have no hesitation in prosecuting those involved as we want to make sure that waste crime doesn't pay.

We all have a part to play in stopping waste crime. We encourage the public to ask to see their waste collector's 'Waste Carriers Registration' and demand a 'Waste Transfer Note', which states where they are taking the waste to be disposed.

Notes to editors

Mr Newman was prosecuted for:

- Section 33 illegal deposit of waste on or before 27 September 2018
- failure to respond to Notice which expired on 12 December 2018
- failure to keep transfer notes as required

Mr Simpson was prosecuted for:

- Section 33 illegal deposit of waste on or before 27 September 2018
- failure to respond to Notice which expired on 6 December 2018
- failure to keep transfer notes as required

Mr Worboys was prosecuted for:

- Section 33 illegal deposit of waste on or before 27 September 2018
- failure to respond to Notice which expired on 24 January 2019
- failure to keep transfer notes as required