

Respect the River Campaign

As requested, here is info on the 'Respect the River' campaign for the February River Itchen Scrutiny meeting:

Respect the River campaign aims:

"Our aim is a clean and pollution free City river - the tidal Itchen in Southampton".

This campaign is being run and promoted jointly, by Sara Tschersich, Community Campaigns Officer with Southampton City Council and Rose Nicole, local community contact Friends of Chessel Bay. The campaign was initiated by Bob Reeve, Community Campaigns Officer with SCC, prior to his retirement.

The campaign emerged after several meetings where SCC, EA, NE, SAS FoCB discussed the pollution in Chessel Bay LNR. Later Southampton University joined the project. Two things were needed: a thorough clean-up of the Bay, plus a campaign to prevent new pollution contaminating the Nature Reserve and the wider City River Itchen.

Respect the River action has included:

- walking round the City river and talking to businesses and residents - mostly businesses
- informing individuals and organisations about our campaign e.g. ABP
- producing and delivering/emailing "Around our River" newsletters
- contacting organisations considered responsible for river Itchen pollution e.g. Southern Water
- attending Itchen riverside events such as Trifest and All Aboard

There is not currently a web presence for the campaign, but people may contact Sara or Rose by email.

Hope this is helpful.

Best Wishes

Rose Nicole