

# The River Crouch Conservation Trust Est. 2009

## Friends of the river bank:

Roy H. Hart  
Peter Steward  
Steven Wastal

24 February 2012

Dear Suzanne,

Unfortunately as you know, the River Crouch was very badly polluted once again by a malfunction of the South Lands pumping station at Runwell. I did not manage to take a sample as I was away at the time. I have been informed it was very bad and for a long period of time. The excuse was that it was due to a power failure is not acceptable in modern society.



Keeping our rivers clear and pure is of paramount importance above all else.

The River Crouch is a lone river with no deviation other than the open sea. The quality of the water, when not being polluted is really excellent, over gravel for the most part proved by the last court case i.e. 1,000 fish killed in just over ¼ of a mile. We urgently need to replace these fish as soon as possible.

Anglia Water and my Conservation Group are poles apart and unfortunately dead and dying fish are the main warning of pollution in the river. Dead fish mean pollution, with A.W.S being the main culprits. This equates to bad publicity and prosecution in the courts.

We have a work party this weekend, I will put this question of liability to them but we only work at low water etc, and we are all responsible people. My tractor and trailer are fully insured. Access paths to this river etc are really under the remit of Basildon Council.

As regarding the £15k, and on reading the judgement there was to be, I believe £5k for five years for surveys on the river. There is nothing whatsoever wrong with the river apart from A.W.S's continuation of polluting it. We would like the E.A to consider putting say 3 or 4 shallow weirs between the Memorial Bridge, and this three arch rail bridge.

My group can cut back some of this overhanging foliage to let more light into the river places.

The problem which must be solved by A.W.S with all their extra revenue is to make sure their warning policies at the pumping stations and works are working. This over the years appears not to be the case and to have a simple back-up system when there is a power cut. In fact their record is appalling, polluting the River five times since the last court case. It is not good policy to have a relationship with potential repeat offenders i.e. Anglian Water Services. The group feels it is banging its head against a brick wall!

At the work party, on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2011, my group worked upstream of the Memorial Bridge. Shopping trolleys, road barriers, 2 fridges, bikes, a large plastic lorry cover and tyres were recovered. The large sheet was festooned with live shrimp etc. A water vole was seen working the far bank plus a kingfisher. Unfortunately no fish were seen.

There is nothing personal in this letter, as I know you feel just as passionate about the wildlife in this river, it's just that the E.A policies do seem at odds to what my group are doing.

Yours very sincerely,

Roy Hart

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