



## **PRESS RELEASE**

Thursday, 27 February 2014

### **Improvement plans launched for West Sussex rivers**

Plans to protect and improve rivers in West Sussex have been launched at an event to inform local communities of the next steps

Over 180 people attended a series of events held in Pulborough to hear about future plans for rivers and streams in the 'Arun and Western Streams' catchment, which includes the River Arun, the River Rother, and several coastal streams that feed into Pagham and Chichester Harbours.

The condition of most waters in the catchment is poor, with recent direct pollution incidents contributing to the problem. The plan, which was developed by the Arun and Western Streams Catchment Partnership, led by the Arun & Rother Rivers Trust, aims to improve the rivers and habitats by carrying out a range of projects.

Through a series of meetings and workshops held since 2012, the partnership has gathered views, concerns and input into the plan from local communities, farmers, landowners and anglers.

Sir Sebastian Anstruther, Chairman of the Arun & Rother Rivers Trust, said local involvement was crucial: "Our rivers are precious and important for our economy, health, wellbeing, leisure and for the wider environment, but they are under increasing threat. More than ever, this winter, we have witnessed just how vital it is that we effectively manage our rivers. But we can only achieve this by working together to develop a clear vision for a rich and thriving river system.

"We are delighted that so many people have taken the time to attend our events, and that there is so much enthusiasm to get involved. It's clear just how important our rivers and streams are to those who live, work and enjoy the catchment. We now look forward to moving forward with the projects detailed in the plan."

The Arun and Western Streams Catchment Partnership will continue working with local people and groups as it develops the next actions and completes projects. The partnership encourages anyone with ideas or concerns about how we manage our rivers or funding possibilities and opportunities for working together.

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#### **Notes to editors:**

For more information about the Arun & Rother Rivers Trust, visit <http://www.arrrt.org.uk/>.

To find out more about the Arun and Western Streams Catchment Partnership and the catchment plan, visit: <http://www.arunwesternstreams.org.uk/> To view a map of the 'Arun and Western Streams' catchment visit: [http://www.arrrt.org.uk/media/ARRT\\_Catchment\\_Map.pdf](http://www.arrrt.org.uk/media/ARRT_Catchment_Map.pdf)