

PRESS RELEASE



13 December 2012

Local people join debate to shape the future of our rivers

Over 120 people have taken part in an event in Sussex to discuss the future of rivers and streams in the 'Arun and Western Streams' catchment.

Hosted by newly formed charity, the Arun and Rother Rivers Trust (ARRT), the Arun and Rother Connections (ARC) Partnership and the South Downs National Park Authority, the event provided an opportunity for people to learn more about the catchment.

The open event, held over two sessions at Pulborough Village Hall on Thursday 6 December, allowed people from within and around the catchment to debate and discuss their concerns for the rivers and streams, the different ways of managing them and to identify funding possibilities and opportunities for working together.

Sir Sebastian Anstruther, Chairman of the Arun & Rother Rivers Trust, said of the event:

"I'm delighted that so many people took the time to attend our event, which shows just how important our rivers and streams are to people living in and around the catchment.

"It was great to hear views from a range of people who work or live by the water - farmers, landowners, anglers and those who just enjoy living in and around them.

"Our local rivers are precious and important for our economy, health, wellbeing, leisure and for the wider environment, but they are under increasing threat. By working together we can develop a clear vision for a rich and thriving river system and the views, contacts and discussions from this recent event will help us shape how we do that. We will continue to keep local people informed and involved as we progress with our work."

-Ends-

Notes to editors:

123 people attended the event at Pulborough, held over two sessions.

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

To view a map of the 'Arun and Western Streams' catchment visit:

http://www.arrrt.org.uk/media/ARRT_Catchment_Map.pdf