



**CLEAN RIVER KENT CAMPAIGN  
BATHING WATER APPLICATION  
31<sup>st</sup> October 2022**



Submitted by the **Clean River Kent Campaign (SENS)**

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## 1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This application is submitted by SENS - Sustainability and Energy Network in Staveley – in conjunction with the Clean River Kent Campaign (CRKC). Further information about SENS and CRKC is included in **Appendix 1**.
- 1.2 The River Kent is a short river in the county of Cumbria with a catchment size of 550 km<sup>2</sup>. It originates in hills surrounding Kentmere and flows for about 20 miles (32km) into the north of Morecambe Bay.
- 1.3 The River Kent is a very special river. Not only do the upper reaches run through the Lake District National Park - a UNESCO World Heritage site - but it is also designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest at a national level and a special area of conservation at a European level because of the unique ecology including freshwater pearl mussels, bullhead and as the last stronghold of the white clawed crayfish.
- 1.4 In preparing this application we have liaised with local partners, including United Utilities and the Lake District National Park. Both have provided letters supporting the application in the context of their own aims. (**See Appendix 8**)
- 1.5 In early 2022 **United Utilities** published "Better Rivers: Better North West" which sets out their Four Point Plan to improve river health and recreation:
- Ensuring our operations progressively reduce impact to river health
  - Being open and transparent about our performance and our plans
  - Making rivers beautiful and supporting others to improve and care for them
  - Creating more opportunities for everyone to enjoy rivers and waterways

This application is consistent with each of these aims, and we have discussed it with United Utilities on a number of occasions through the summer.

- 1.6 Also in early 2022 the **Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA)** received a letter from the Chief Planning Officer at the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities:
- "Your authority will have received advice from Natural England about the adverse effect that nutrient pollution is having on Habitats Sites in your area. Natural England have issued this advice where Habitats Sites are in an unfavourable conservation status and additional nutrient loads, such as from development, may have an adverse effect. This advises that planning applications and plans affecting habitats sites in an unfavourable condition should be carefully considered and mitigation should be used to ensure there are no adverse effects in order to meet the requirements of the Conservation of Species and Habitats Regulations 2017 (as amended).

This is an environmental issue which we must work together to address. I wanted to personally take this opportunity to write directly on the issue and in particular draw your attention to the funding support available, as well as the wider offer of support from the Planning Advisory Service (PAS)."

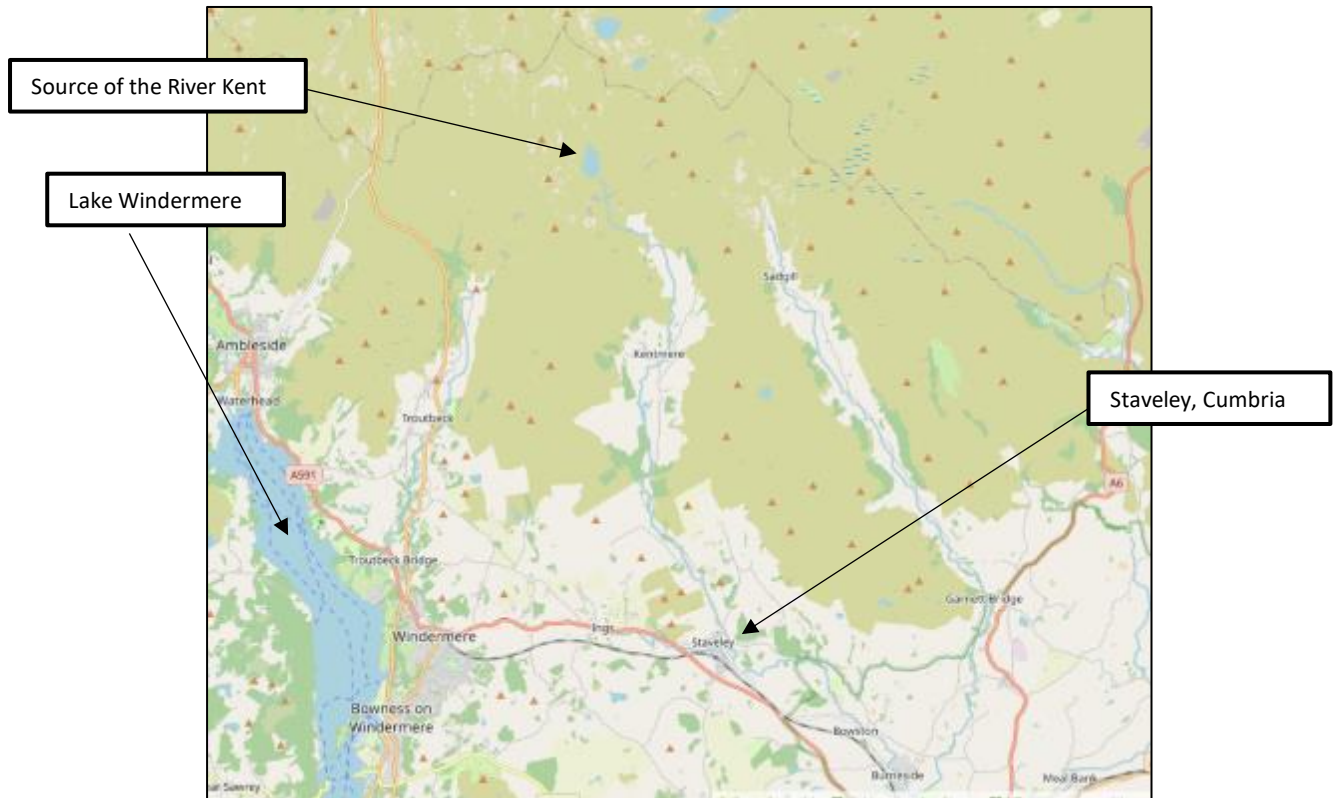
LDNPA responded by issuing planning guidance for four specific water catchments including the River Kent Special Area of Conservation.

"New developments must not add any extra nutrients, in particular phosphates, to these catchments. If a development will increase nutrient levels, for example by adding new houses to the area, it must have a way of removing the same amount of nutrients from somewhere else in that catchment..... Nutrient neutrality information is required before a planning application is validated."

This application is fully in line with both sets of aspirations.

- 1.6 We have confirmed that we have the support of the landowners on both sides of the stretch of river – John Nicoll and the Staveley Village Association. Their letters of support are included at **Appendix 8**.
- 1.7 Our local Parish Council, Staveley with Ings Together, agreed a grant of £500 towards the Campaign at their meeting in February 2022. The aims of CRKC are consistent with the Action Priorities in the Staveley with Ings Community Plan, 2021-23, and progress is reported to the Community Plan Group which meets monthly.
- 1.8 We have also worked with South Lakeland District Council. Cumbria is currently in transition from a county council with six district councils to two unitary authorities. Staveley will come within the area of Westmorland and Furness Council.
- 1.9 We have therefore obtained a letter of support, at **Appendix 8**, signed by:
  - The current Portfolio Holder for Climate Action and Biodiversity, South Lakeland District Council
  - The Portfolio Holder for Climate and Biodiversity, Shadow Authority, Westmorland and Furness Council and
  - Cllr Jonathan Brook – Leader South Lakeland District Council & Leader, Shadow Authority, Westmorland and Furness Council
- 1.10 The location of the proposed bathing water area is in the village of Staveley, approximately 5 miles from the source of the River Kent, a vigorous, relatively fast flowing upland river, with pools, rapids, and small beaches along the upper courses. This section of the river has long been popular with local people and visitors for swimming and paddling.

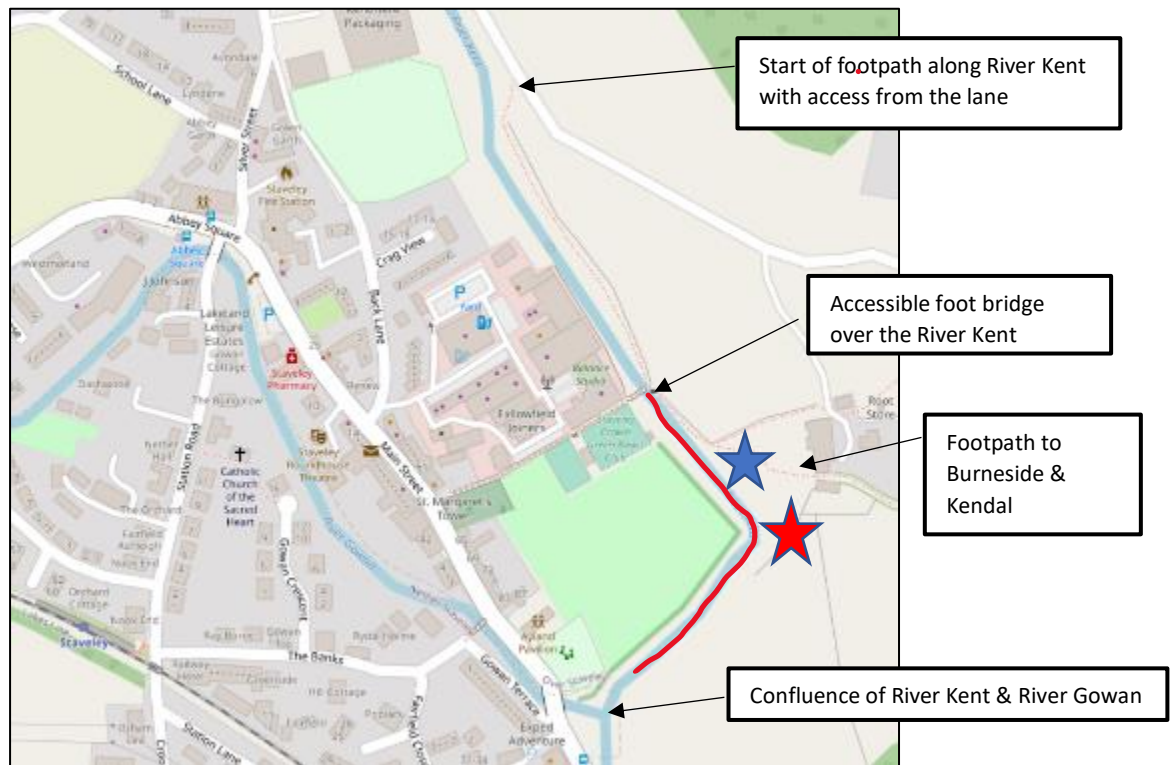
Fig - 1 Map showing the location of the proposed bathing water area, in its surrounds



## 2.0 LOCATION


- 2.1 The name of the proposed bathing water: **The River Kent, Staveley Village**
- 2.2 SENS and CRKC are seeking designation from the accessible sculptured footbridge between the Mill Yard and the Bowling Green along to the end of the Recreation Ground, Staveley Village.


Fig 2 - Map of the bathing water area



### KEY

Designated Bathing Water Application = 

Popular beach for locals to paddle and swim = 

Popular pool for locals to swim and play = 

## 2.3 Grid References

- Start of footpath along River Kent: SD 47181 98423
- Bridge over River Kent: SD 47258 98248
- Confluence of River Kent & River Gowan: SD 47333 98158

*Fig 3 – Images showing the access to/from the riverside*



*Looking south, along the east side of the river*



*Looking south, towards the bridge*



*Looking north from the bridge*



*Looking at the bridge from the riverside path*

I have only recently discovered the River Kent and find many parts of it truly magical. It is a Cumbrian resource to be proud of and to be nurtured and loved. (anonymous interviewee)



### 3.0 APPLICANT AND LANDOWNER DETAILS

<b>Applicant Details:</b>	SENS, in conjunction with Clean River Kent Campaign (CRKC)
<b>Contact:</b>	Isobel Stoddart (Chair, SENS and CRKC)
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:senstaveley@gmail.com">senstaveley@gmail.com</a>
<b>Telephone:</b>	01539 821990 / 07952 786621
<b>Local Authority (LA):</b>	South Lakeland District Council (SLDC) ( <i>not the applicant</i> )
<b>LA Contact:</b>	<p><b>Cllr Dyan Jones</b> - <i>Ward Member for Windermere, Portfolio Holder for Climate Action and Biodiversity, South Lakeland District Council. Portfolio Holder for Customer and Environmental Services, Shadow Authority; Westmorland and Furness Council</i></p> <p>South Lakeland District Council, South Lakeland House, Lowther Street, Kendal Cumbria LA9 4DH / Dyan.Jones@southlakeland.gov.uk / 07467686884</p> <p>SLDC has expressed support for this application (See <b>Appendix 8</b>).</p>
<b>Landowner details:</b>	<p>There are two landowners who are affected by this application:</p> <p><b>John Nicoll</b> owns the land to the NE which runs along behind the beaches on the upstream stretch of river; this includes the footpath. He has confirmed his support for this application (See <b>Appendix 8</b>).</p> <p><b>Staveley Village Association (SVA)</b> owns the Recreation Ground to the SW and then NW of the downstream stretch of river. The SVA has also confirmed its support (See <b>Appendix 8</b>).</p>

*The beck is very precious to our family.*

(anonymous interviewee)

## 4.0 RIVER USER SURVEYS

### 4.1 Introduction

Surveys of river usage were conducted by Volunteers from 15 May to 30 September 2022. These counts were usually between 1 and 3 hours, as shown in the full results table in **Appendix 2**.

Users were classified as either adults or children and by user type, either in the water swimming/paddling or walking beside the river.

To obtain more detailed information about how and when people use the river, what they feel about the river and about bathing water status, Volunteers also asked users to complete a community consultation survey (See **Section 6.8 & Appendix 4** for more information).

As well as the people we counted, we also asked local groups, Staveley residents and businesses, including via local social media channels to complete this survey in order to get a wide range of responses. The survey could be completed either online or on paper.

Finally, we invited regular users (including the local primary school children over the summer) to fill in a river diary to show how often they used the river for various activities (for examples of river diaries see **Appendix 3**).

### 4.2 River User Surveys

Altogether, along the river in Staveley, we have undertaken:

- Total number of counts: 84
- Total number of days that counts were done: 56
- Total of days in School Holidays: 19
- Total of days at weekends: 21
- Total of Bank Holiday days: 2
- Total number of weekdays: 42

This meets the minimum requirements for this application of at least 20 days, including 10 days in school holidays and 10 weekend or Bank Holiday days. (**See Appendix 2**)

The total number of users recorded can be broken down as follows:

- Adult Swimmers: 282
- Children Swimmers: 191
- Adults paddling: 63
- Children paddling: 162
- Adults – other users: 3325
- Children – other users: 589

The highest recorded number of people swimming and paddling on any one day was:

- Adults: 48 (7 July)
- Children: 29 (11 Aug) (27 on 29 May, 28 on both 27 June and 17 July)

The river is a very popular amenity for all types of users who use it regularly throughout the year.

Whatever the weather there were always a large number of walkers along this section of river.

Popular times of day were after school/work early in the season and afternoons at weekends and during the school holidays.

Despite variations in weather conditions, the river continued to be used by both adults and children, either together as families or older children playing in the river and in the pool on the corner of the Recreation Ground, where there is a popular rope swing across the water.

*Recreation along its banks not made enough of - it such a beautiful river that could be an asset to residents + tourists.*

(anonymous interviewee)



















*Fig 4 – Examples of users enjoying the river at Staveley*

## 5.0 INFORMATION ABOUT FACILITIES AT THE SITE

### 5.1 Staveley Village

Staveley is situated in the south eastern part of the Lake District National Park – a UNESCO World Heritage site. The village has a resident population of around 1300 people. It is very popular with local day visitors as well as those who come to stay from further afield, thereby increasing the size of the community especially at weekends and holiday times.

The village got its name from the woodworking industry that thrived in the area. In the Middle Ages the mills at Staveley produced woollen cloth. During the Industrial Revolution there was cotton production at Staveley, and there is an 18th-century mill building from this time.

The cotton industry shifted to Lancashire, and the Staveley mills were converted to work wood. By 1850 bobbin turning was the main industry in the valley. There continues to be several wood working businesses in the village, some relatively recently established.

Staveley is now well-known locally for the opportunities it offers for outdoor recreation, from cycling, fell walking and running to kayaking and fishing.

Both road riding and mountain biking have become increasingly popular over the last two decades. Wheelbase Ltd - one of the largest bike stores in the country - is located in the Mill Yard. The National Cycle Network runs through the village. Staveley has recently launched its own Community Ebike share scheme, and there are numerous cycling and walking events throughout the year that start/finish in Staveley. For instance, each year the 5K Kentmere Sport Trail, 10K Kentmere Trail Run, 18K Kentmere Trail Race and 18K Kentmere Trail Challenge courses start and finish in Staveley.

There are many opportunities for fell walking around Staveley and the Kentmere Valley. In addition, the national long-distance walking route - The Dales Way - comes through Staveley with several sections of the path running along the River Kent just downstream of the village.

The Lake District National Park Authority developed the “Miles without Stiles” walking path alongside the river including the sculptured foot bridge over the River Kent in the heart of the village. This has enabled a much wider group of people to enjoy being out and about on the circular routes round about the village.

Lakeland Canoe Club, with about 140 active members, organises local canoeing and kayaking trips. In addition, individuals and groups kayak from Staveley along the Kent in high water. The stretch from Hawes Bridge (just north of Kendal) to Force Falls is a year round “destination place” for kayakers from the north of England and further afield:

<https://www.ukriversguidebook.co.uk/rivers/england/north-west/>

Staveley has an Angling Association with permits on sale in the post office. There are other angling associations to the south of Staveley including Kent (Westmorland) Angling Association (one of the oldest angling associations in the country, established in 1848 with 200 members) whose waters include the River Kent and Killington Reservoir.

Staveley has a vibrant economy, with a range of traditional shops and businesses as well as many newer enterprises mostly centred around the Mill Yard and more recently Billy’s Place (a converted pub).



Staveley has a nursery and a primary school in the village. There are secondary schools 5 miles north and south. Kendal College (5 miles away) is the award-winning local Further Education College, and there are links to the Universities of Cumbria and Lancaster.

There is Staveley GP Surgery, Staveley Pharmacy and the Body Rehab Injury & Rehabilitation Clinic providing physiotherapy and sports therapy. There is also The Beehive, a branch Post Office with a wide retail base including food and newspapers.

Part of the section of river to which this application applies runs beside Staveley Children's Playground and the Recreation Ground. A total of £120,000 was raised in 2021/22 to undertake a significant upgrade of the Playground with much improved facilities for both children and adults.

Staveley Recreation Ground is used for football, tennis and other sports, by children and families to play and picnic, for car boot sales, and provides camping facilities to support annual village events such as the Lake District Folk Festival each summer.

Staveley has always had a good selection of village shops, and the development of the Mill Yard and Billy's Place has brought a wider range of newer businesses including makers and retailers of outdoor gear (Aiguille and Inov-8) and an IT company (iTek), together with a wide range of food outlets. The village has both The Eagle and Child, with a riverside pub garden, and Hawkshead Brewery.

Throughout the year there are a range of events and festivals in Staveley ranging from the Lake District Folk Festival to numerous cycling and running events (see above), beer festivals, music, art, cinema and theatre events. See: <https://thesva.org/whats-on>

Staveley is an active community, with various village-based groups, which support a range of programmes for local residents. These include the weekly Staveley Food FareShare and 24/7 Community Larder (providing emergency food at no charge), the recent redevelopment of the Children's Playground, and plans to develop the building which housed an Old People's Home into a community hub with supported housing for older people.

Staveley Village Association manages the resources of the Village Hall and the Pavilion (the latter is beside the Playground and adjacent to the river). Both have well equipped kitchens and are available to support a wider range of community activities. There are currently plans to improve the Pavilion, including external access to toilet facilities.

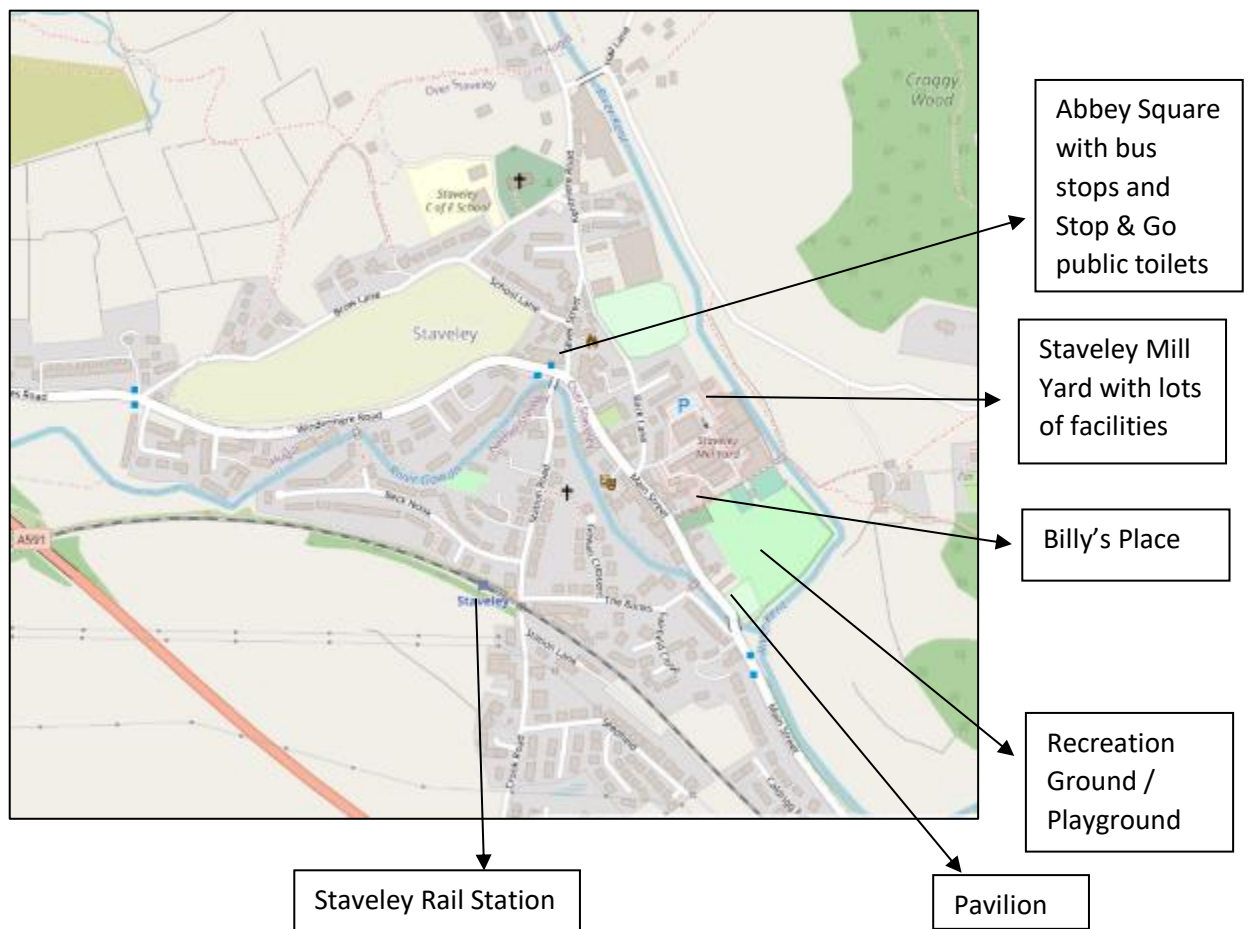
Other resources include a dance studio, the Roundhouse Theatre (for art shows, drama and films), and Staveley Bowling Green.

Staveley with Ings Parish Council published its Community Plan in 2021, with Action Priorities covering 2021-23. The priorities include a number of actions to protect nature and the environment. These include challenging United Utilities to address the problems of sewage backing up in the village streets when we have heavy and prolonged rain. The Parish Council has placed an embargo on their approval of any new developments until the sewage infrastructure is improved.

There should be more emphasis on encouraging kayaking on the river for the youth to have fun and learn to enjoy white water kayaking and rafting when the river flow suits the sport which it often does.

(anonymous interviewee)

Fig 5 - Map showing location of facilities in Staveley



## 5.2 Accessibility and Parking

The stretch of river included in this application is in the centre of Staveley. It is easily accessible by foot from several different directions - from the north by road and footpath, from the Mill Yard walking over the footbridge, and from the Recreation Ground.

The footbridge provides wheelchair access to the river. There are benches along the footpath and in the Recreation Ground.

Staveley is well connected by public transport. There is a regular bus service, with 3 bus stops in the village (central bus stops are sheltered) throughout the year, linking to Kendal and Lancaster to the south, and through the central Lakes to Keswick and the north.

Staveley is also on the branch line between Windermere and Oxenholme (the mainline station on the West Coast line). There are regular daily services throughout the year linking Staveley to mainline trains to Glasgow and London at Oxenholme, as well as direct trains to Manchester, Manchester Airport, Lancaster, Edinburgh and Glasgow.

There are electric car charging points in the Mill Yard. Car parking is available in the village, including in the Mill Yard, although our experience is that most of those who swim or paddle in the river are either local residents or are staying in the village.

### **5.3 Public Toilets**

There are public toilets available in the centre of the village, run by Gowan Stop & Go, a small group of village residents who have taken on the upkeep of the public toilets in Staveley's village centre, raising ongoing funds to this end. (See **Appendix 8** for letter of support)

There are also toilets in the Pavilion adjacent to the river which can be used when the Pavilion is open. There are plans currently to redesign the Pavilion, which would include an external, accessible entrance directly to the toilets 24/7. There are other toilets available for the public to use in a number of the cafés and food outlets in the village.

### **5.4 Shops and Cafés**

For a relatively small village Staveley offers an eclectic selection of food and drink including:

- Food shops such as JD Hayton & Sons (butcher), More! Artisan Bakery, and Spar
- Coffee and food outlets such as Café Ecléc, Mr Duffins Coffee Shop, and Wilf's Café
- Kimmi's Gelato ice cream shop
- The Blind Chocolatier selling handmade chocolates
- The Big Onion selling local produce
- Staveley Chippy
- The Eagle and Child pub and Hawkshead Brewery

### **5.5 First Aid**

Staveley has an established group of Community First Responders - volunteers who act as agents on behalf of North West Ambulance Service (NWAS) trained in First Aid and the use of defibrillators.

There is a defibrillator in the Pavilion (right beside the river), and further defibrillators at Hawkshead Brewery in the Mill Yard, in the Village Hall, and at Staveley GP Surgery.

There is a lifebelt just above the stretch of river to which this application applies.

## 6.0 LOCAL CONSULTATION

### 6.1 Local partner and stakeholder organisations

Over the course of 2022 the Clean River Kent Campaign has informed, consulted, met with, and responded to a wide series of partners and stakeholders including:

- Tim Farron, MP for Westmorland and Lonsdale
- Jim McMahon MP, Shadow DEFRA Secretary of State
- The District and County Councils and specifically:
  - Dyan Jones, South Lakeland District Council, Portfolio Holder for Climate Action and Biodiversity
  - Colin Cox, Director - Public Health, Cumbria County Council
- Staveley with Ings Parish Council including working in partnership with their Flood and Sewage Task Group
- Burneside Parish Council
- Lake District National Park Authority
- Lakeland Canoe Club and British Canoeing
- Westmorland (Kent) Angling Association
- South Cumbria Rivers Trust
- Freshwater Biological Association
- European Outdoor Conservation Association
- United Utilities
- The Environment Agency
- The Lake District Foundation
- Burneside Community Energy
- Issued press releases to local/regional media at regular intervals about activities/events.

We have received letters of support from the following organisations: (See **Appendix 8** for copies of the letters)

- Tim Farron MP
- Staveley with Ings Parish Council
- South Lakeland District Council and the shadow Westmorland and Furness Council
- Director – Public Health, Cumbria County Council
- Lake District National Park Authority
- South Cumbria Rivers Trust
- British Canoeing
- Lakeland Canoe Club
- United Utilities
- Gowan Stop & Go Group
- Staveley Village Association (landowner)
- John Nicolls (landowner)
- Staveley Angling Society

### 6.2 Building Community Networks

From the outset it was a priority to work with the local community and to keep people informed. We used a range of communication channels, including drop in events, the SENS website and newsletter



extended to include CRKC, social media including a WhatsApp group, notice boards, a weekly update for those who became Volunteers, and crucially word of mouth. CRKC held monthly meetings in Staveley through 2022, which were open to all, and Volunteers participated in river user surveys and in the citizen science project to monitor the levels of intestinal bacteria in the river water.

A series of meetings were held in the village, to which local residents, community groups, recreational clubs, councillors, schools and businesses were invited with the aim of informing them of our objective to apply for bathing water status, to hear their feedback and gain their support.

A local film maker created a film about the river and our campaign (see: <http://www.sustainablestaveley.org.uk/clean-up-the-kent/> )

### 6.3 Spring Open Day: April 2022

This ‘drop-in’ event, held on 5 April, was well attended (100+ people) and ran over the course of the afternoon/early evening. South Cumbria Rivers Trust, the University of Cumbria and Natural England had information stands. The Clean River Kent Campaign gave a presentation to explain our proposal and Jonty, a University of Cumbria student explained the results of his dissertation on the River Kent water quality.

Tim Farron, our local MP, attended as did representatives from local partner organisations and local residents. Attendees were invited to sign-up to receive newsletter updates about the project and/or register interest to become a Volunteer over the summer.



*Fig 6 – Open Day, Spring 2022*

Pollution and water safety for use for recreational purposes eg paddling, swimming are top concerns. (anonymous interviewee)

### 6.4 Volunteer Training Day: May 2022

This was held on 14 May, to recruit and train Volunteers to work with us over the summer. In all there was a total of 114 Clean River Kent Campaign Volunteers, all of whom received a weekly email

update summarising actions over the coming week between May and September 2022. The Volunteers included two school students who worked with CRKC as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

Volunteers were invited to shape the programme of work, and were crucial to the citizen science river water testing project and in carrying out the surveys of river users. They also contributed in a number of other ways including through creating art work and videos, and with data analysis and presentation.

**THE CLEAN RIVER KENT CAMPAIGN (CRKC) INVITES YOU TO AN OPEN EVENT**  
**Tuesday 5th April 2022, between 4pm and 7pm**  
**@ The Pavilion, Staveley**

Learn all about our wonderful River Kent and how we can make it more wonderful!

**Drop-in anytime from 4pm to 7pm**

- Watch our short film presentation about the River Kent campaign
- Learn our River Kent campaign facts
- (Chance to win a £25 high street voucher!)
- Take a look at information, displays about:
  - Wear quality raincoats by making plastic £200
  - The history of the river and its importance to water on the river Kent
  - Wear pollution - the causes and links
  - Our campaign plans for May to September 2022
- Help us to improve our page on sustainability
- Many free refreshments will be served (tea, coffee, juice & lots of sweets)
- Take part in a special film & award ceremony afterwards

**Activities 4pm to 5pm**

- River dipping on Sunday, run by the Royal Canals & Rivers Trust. All necessary equipment provided for testing water. Canals can be accompanied by an adult.
- Take a part in water quality monitoring - try collecting water samples, run by the University of Cantabrigia

**Activities 5pm to 6pm**

- Join a time trial along the river banks, led by CRKC (bags and labels provided)

**Activities 6.30pm to 7pm**

- Memorisation Q&A by the Riverside Kings and Queens
- South Canals River Trust about their River Kent LIFE funded project & the Clean River Kent campaign about our massive plan collecting water quality samples, monitoring other users, educating an application to DEFRA for funding for the project

More details on our web site or scan the QR code with your phone: [sustainablestaveley.org.uk/clean-river-kent-campaign-open-event/](https://sustainablestaveley.org.uk/clean-river-kent-campaign-open-event/)

Thanks to our generous funders:

**CLEAN RIVER KENT**

**CLEAN RIVER KENT CAMPAIGN (CRKC) INVITES YOU TO A VOLUNTEER TRAINING DAY**  
**Saturday 14th May 2022, between 12.30 and 14.30**  
**@ The Village Hall, Staveley**

Find out how to take part in our summer monitoring programme, to help protect our wonderful river!

More details on our web site or scan the QR code with your phone: [sustainablestaveley.org.uk/clean-river-kent-campaign-open-event/](https://sustainablestaveley.org.uk/clean-river-kent-campaign-open-event/)

Thanks to our generous funders:

Fig 7 – April Open Event & Volunteer Training Day invites

I wouldn't want anything in place that would restrict or stop swimming in the river. (anonymous interviewee)

## **Welcome to Week 14!**

This week we are 2/3 of the way through our Summer 2022 Programme which is amazing. We are really grateful to all of you for your on-going support.

If you haven't been able to volunteer yet, there are still 7 weeks to go! If you want to talk through how this works, please feel free to contact Isobel (07952 786621) or Sheila (07957 915211). We can also provide you with the necessary paperwork, and a buddy for your "first time" if that would be helpful.

We have enough money in the budget to cover volunteer expenses such as petrol - please let either of us know if you would like to make a claim.

We are blind copying to each new person joining the circulation list. Please let us know if you prefer to stay blind copied; otherwise we will share emails to aid communications between us.

## **The updated Timetable is attached and in Week 14:**

1. We will continue counting this week and need to count on at least one weekday and one weekend day – volunteers who have signed up include: [Names] (Staveley); [Name] (Sandy Bottoms).
2. We are also collecting river water samples this week - if you want to join us please meet up at 2.00pm Staveley Pavilion with Sheila ([Name]) or 2.00pm Dockray Hall Bridge with Wyn and Sue (Names).

## **We need more Surveys including comments about why the River Kent is so important**

We need to encourage more people to complete the survey either in person, using a paper form, or on Survey Monkey via the QR code or website at the bottom of the printed leaflet. The survey provides the opportunity to give feedback, but if in discussion with people you get the chance to collect any other "comments" - what the river means to people, why it's part of their lives, how important it is that it's clean and safe, for people and for wildlife – these will all be really useful for the DEFRA application. All comments will be anonymous.

We will also be using social media and the newsletter to encourage people to complete the survey and to give us comments/quotes.

The successful DEFRA application from Ilkley included lots of quotes - here is the link if you want to see the sorts of things that local people said, Appendix 4, starting on p 44 - <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5ff498e3fa4a7232966e4737/t/600045b9ef036f7dc14b6bb9/1610630598030/Defra+signed+Bathing+Water+Application+Ilkley+2019.pdf>

Please also take photos (with permissions if people can be identified - copy of form attached for new volunteers) and either send as attachments to [senstaveley@gmail.com](mailto:senstaveley@gmail.com) or via WhatsApp to 07952 786621.

## **Early results from our River Kent water samples**

We now have results from six dates since the start of the bathing season on 15 May, in addition to the 3 pilot dates in February and March.

These are very useful as part of our Citizen Science project which is designed to measure the levels of intestinal bacteria on the date and at the time that the sample is taken, and to indicate where there might be relatively high levels at the time of sampling. Whilst clearly the number of samples that we are able to afford aren't sufficient to be able to reach definitive conclusions, they are going to be very important in drawing attention to the levels of pollution in

our 5 mile stretch of the River Kent (Staveley to Sedgwick).

This year we are applying for bathing status for the stretch of river in Staveley near the Recreation Ground playground. Staveley is above all the waste water treatment works, and so far, perhaps predictably, the levels of E coli and Enterococcus at Staveley are relatively low. If we are successful, the Environment Agency will then be responsible for testing the water to ensure that it is safe.

There is a lot of variation across the six locations and on different dates as we expected. For example, the weather conditions and the level of the river influence the results. We are continuing to test for both E coli and Enterococcus (both intestinal bacteria) as planned at the beginning of the summer.

Ideally we need to collect at least one set of samples after heavy rainfall, so that we have results reflecting the range of different weather and river conditions. We have 4 further collection dates scheduled finishing on 14 September, and will report more fully on our results after this. We want to continue this river water testing programme into 2023 to build our understanding of the River Kent, and the threats to our river and the wildlife within it, so that we can campaign more effectively for a Clean River Kent.

### **National news**

This week's top story is an exceptional Guardian long read by Oliver Bullough, interviewing Peter Hammond and Ashley Smith, the "sewage sleuths" of Windrush Against Sewage Pollution (WASP). An in-depth and vital dive into the ecological destruction of UK rivers, the piece covers their exposure of the scale of sewage pollution, and the systemic failures causing it (including the failure of regulation by the Environment Agency). Bullough's tweet sharing the article can be found [here](#). We will check out whether the method which they developed can be transferred to other rivers.

There are several stories about people becoming ill after swimming, for example this one from Chester - <https://www.cheshire-live.co.uk/news/chester-cheshire-news/truth-behind-raw-sewage-chesters-24581067>

And in Rolling Stone, Feargal Sharkey (the Undertones) describes how he has become a champion for clean rivers - <https://www.rollingstone.co.uk/politics/features/uk-rivers-pollution-feargal-sharkey-environment-interview-20111/>

### **Local news**

SCRT (the South Cumbria Rivers Trust) recently released details of their electrofishing programme for 2022 and are looking for volunteers. Here is the link including proposed dates and areas which include the River Kent: <https://scrt.co.uk/events/electrofishing/> Further details of River Kent locations to follow.

### **Items to note:**

- The next CRKC meeting in Staveley Village Institute (where we did the volunteer training) will take place on **Tuesday 30 August, 5.00-7.00pm** (Change of date from 5 September). Everyone is welcome to attend the meeting which will review progress and agree next steps. Your feedback is always very welcome.
- Counting is underway in Burneside, and the local community are looking for some assistance to boost the number of counts. They would welcome anyone living locally who has some spare time to help with a few counts over the summer. Any queries, please contact: [senstaveley@gmail.com](mailto:senstaveley@gmail.com)
- We have a WhatsApp group to help with rapid communications - please let us know (and provide your mobile number) if you would like to join.

Thanks again for all your continuing support! Isobel and Sheila

*Fig 8 – Example of weekly email update for Volunteers (names of Volunteers deleted)*



## 6.5 Summer Events & Activities

Over the course of the summer the Clean River Kent Campaign had a stand at a variety of events, including the local Ings Summer Fayre, the Staveley Village Association's opening of Staveley's refurbished playground, in a local shopping centre etc.



*Fig 9 – Stand at Ings Summer Fayre, July 2022*



*Fig 10 – River dipping event as part of the launch of Staveley playground, July 2022*



A river dipping session for Staveley Primary School, run by South Cumbria Rivers Trust, provided an opportunity to tell the children about our plans to apply for bathing status and to engage them in completing river 'activity diaries' over the summer.



*Fig 11 - Staveley School river dipping across from the Recreation Ground*

Posters were displayed on local noticeboards encouraging people to find out more about our summer programme. We also released several press releases about the programme which were picked up by the local media.

Shadow DEFRA Secretary, Jim McMahon MP, made a visit to Staveley to discuss the work we are doing. He subsequently name checked CRKC in his keynote speech to the 2022 Labour Party conference.



*Fig 12 – Jim McMahon visit, July 2022*

We were invited to make a presentation to the River Kent Catchment Based Approach (CaBA) which is convened by the South Cumbria Rivers Trust.

We were also invited by the Kendal Rotary Club to speak to their members. They indicated that they would be willing to contribute funding to our continuing Campaign.

### 6.5 Autumn Open Day: October 22

This 'drop-in' event was held on 21 October, to present our results to local residents, businesses and partner organisations and to thank the Volunteers. We showed a new film, 'Declaration of the River Kent Rights' made by Volunteers, to celebrate their involvement, and to promote the rights of the river.

At this event we sought views on our potential ideas for on-going citizen science action, and for collaboration with local organisations in 2023. There was enthusiasm to continue campaigning, to undertake further citizen science projects, and to develop links with other local groups.

### 6.6 Citizen Science Water Testing

The Clean River Kent Campaign received grant funding from Staveley with Ings Parish Council to undertake citizen water quality testing in the River Kent at Staveley. See **Appendix 7** for details of all those who funded the 2022 CRKC programme.

We designed and carried out a citizen science project to test water quality in the River Kent at six locations, all of which are used regularly for water-based leisure. We tested for two intestinal bacteria (E coli and Enterococcus) which not only pose a risk to human health but also indicate the presence of pollution which poses a risk to the river habitat and ecology.

ALS, a lab accredited by the UKAS, the National Accreditation Body for the UK, was selected to undertake the microbiological tests on the river water samples. The lab is based in Coventry, with a courier collection from Preston every weekday.

The protocol for taking the samples and ensuring that they reached the lab at the correct temperature was based on the method developed by the Ilkley Clean River Group. This was piloted during February-March 2022.

The primary purpose has been to assess the level of health risk to citizens using the river. At the same time the results indicate the level of pollution and thus the risks to the natural environment.

The river conditions were monitored. This included recording the river gauge readings in Staveley, Burneside, Kendal and Sedgwick plus the rainfall in Staveley. The results for E coli are shown in **Appendix 9**.

Our rivers are at the heart of community and it ought to be a human right to have access and for everyone to enjoy these clean, beautiful spaces. Please continue with your endeavours. (anonymous interviewee)

## **6.8 Community Consultation Survey**

### **6.8.1 Introduction**

In addition to user counts, an online survey was created to gather feedback from both locals but also visitors who use the River Kent. A hard copy of this survey was also created for those that preferred to complete a paper copy. (See **Appendix 4** for full details).

There was a total of 308 valid survey responses between May and September 2022 (251 online, 57 hard copies).

The survey asked the following questions:

*Q1 How much do you support having clean water in our river fit to paddle, play and swim in?*

*Q2 Where are you from?*

*Q3 Please select all of the ways that you/your family currently enjoy the River Kent and its immediate surrounds (including: picnicking/relaxing, walking the dog, walking/hiking, running/jogging, canoeing/kayaking, swimming, paddling/playing, birdwatching/photography, angling/fishing, to enjoy landscape/wildlife, other)*

*Q4 How concerned are you about pollution in the River Kent?*

*Q5 Please rank how important you think the following are (1=most important, 6 = least important) (selected from a list including a range of issues related to water quality)*

*Q6 DEFRA bathing water designation provides extra protection for a site on a river, including regular water quality testing, signage indicating whether it is safe to use, plus a longer term management plan. Are you in favour of this status?*

*Q7 Are there other issues that concern you about the River Kent?*

### **6.8.2 Results**

The full results are provided in **Appendix 4**.

A summary of the results is given below.

#### **Q1 How much do you support having clean water in our river fit to paddle, play and swim in?**

96.4% strongly supported having clean water in our river fit to paddle, play and swim in.

#### **Q2 Where are you from?**

41% of respondents were local residents, 25% from Cumbria, 10% were visitors, 25% were other/not answered.

**Q3 Please select all of the ways that you/your family currently enjoy the River Kent and its immediate surrounds.**

- 1% frequently canoe, 6% regularly canoe
- 13% of respondents frequently swim, 17% regularly swim
- 14% of respondents frequently paddle, 23% regularly paddle
- 2% frequently fish, 2% regularly fish

**Q4 How concerned are you about pollution in the River Kent?**

- 65% are very concerned
- 30% are somewhat concerned
- 2% are relatively concerned
- 2% are neither concerned nor unconcerned

**Q5 Please rank how important you think the following are (1=most important, 6 = least important) (selected from a list including a range of issues related to water quality)**

The 2 most important issues, by far, for respondents were:

- Better government regulation to protect our rivers from increased pollution (79% of respondents selected this as their most, or second most important issue)
- Investment by United Utilities to upgrade wastewater infrastructure (74% of respondents selected this as their most, or second most important issue)

Opinions on the other issues were very similar with a fairly even spread across the other levels of importance.

- Better public information about what not to put into the waste water system
- Better public information about water quality at specific sites on the river
- Media coverage to raise awareness about river pollution
- Practical conservation work to protect rivers

**Q6 DEFRA safe bathing water designation provides extra protection for a site on a river, including regular water quality testing, signage indicating whether it is safe to use, plus a longer term management plan. Are you in favour of this status?**

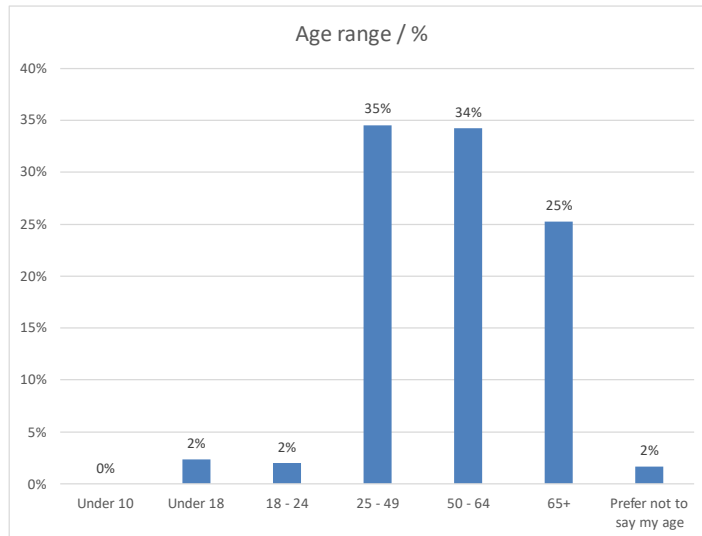
87.2% of responses about Staveley Recreation Ground were supportive, compared to only 0.7% who were not supportive, and 12.2% who weren't sure.

**Q7 Are there other issues that concern you about the River Kent?**

There were a wide range of issues raised that were of concern including: patches of 'scum' and algae, not enough opportunities for young people's recreation, agriculture pollution and run-off from farms, dogs disturbing wildlife, litter, protection of aquatic species, flood management plans, repeated sewage discharge, insufficient dredging to prevent flooding, removal of trees causing erosion, insufficient re-naturalising, large new housing sites around Kendal and Natland creating more sewage



**Q8 Please tick which apply to you below**



*Fig 13 – Age distribution of survey respondents*

The general public need to be encouraged to engage in safe, social activity along all our UK rivers. Enhancements projects should be compulsory led by experts in river conservation and supported by local volunteers and community groups. This brings sense of belonging and care for their environment, is excellent for wellbeing and mental health. Governments both local and general need to be involved and enthusiastic as well the waterways and utility groups. (anonymous interviewee)

## APPENDICES

### Appendix 1 - Background to SENS and CRKC

**SENS (The Sustainability and Energy Network in Staveley)** was formed in November 2007 to promote sustainability action in the village, by looking at ways to reduce home energy use, explore the potential for local hydro-electric schemes, promote cycling and walking, develop renewable technologies and raise awareness of and take action on climate change. The 2015 floods brought (climate) chaos to our village, and since then we have seen episodes of extreme weather each year.

SENS has:

- a website <http://www.sustainablestaveley.org.uk/>
- a newsletter <http://www.sustainablestaveley.org.uk/news/>
- a Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/SustainableStaveley>

We run events and campaigns, undertake research, publish leaflets, and provide green “case studies” about sustainability, climate resilience and biodiversity.

We work in partnership with Staveley with Ings Parish Council, Lake District National Park Authority, local businesses and groups, and other Cumbria-wide sustainability groups.

In Autumn 2021 SENS brought together the **Clean River Kent Campaign (CRKC)**, a coalition of communities living along the River Kent. We include members from Staveley, Burneside and Kendal, and are a cross party organisation.

The River Kent in Cumbria is a beautiful river, and much loved by local people. It is designated as a site of special scientific interest at a national level and a special area of conservation at a European level because of the unique ecology including freshwater pearl mussels, white clawed crayfish, and bullhead.

Our aim is to make the River Kent clean for all types of water-based recreation and to protect the ecology and wildlife in the river by campaigning for:

1. A significant reduction in the amount of effluent discharged into the River Kent. We will assess this through regular testing of river water samples for faecal bacteria.
2. Improvements to the wastewater treatment works on the River Kent:
  - To meet current needs and in addition
  - To meet the needs of new housing development and
  - To meet the additional pressures which will result from climate change.
3. The protection of the river’s ecology and wildlife.

## Appendix 2 – River User Surveys: full results

KEY:

Weekend count =  Weekday count =  Bank Holiday count =  School holiday count =   
 Significant levels of swimming and paddling = 

CLEAN RIVER KENT CAMPAIGN - SUMMER COUNT SHEET						TOTAL NUMBER OF									
DATE	START TIME	END TIME	Weather Conditions <i>eg. Raining, sunny, cloudy</i>	EA River level / m	River level <i>eg. high, medium, low</i>	ADULTS					CHILDREN				
						Swimming	Paddling	Using the water (eg in boats)	Walking/ running along river path	Using the river bank on either side	Swimming	Paddling	Using the water (eg in boats)	Walking/ running along river path	Using the river bank on either side
14-May	16:00	16:30	Sunny	0.292	Medium	1	1	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
19-May	15:20	16:08	Mixed	0.314	Medium	1	1	0	16	0	0	0	0	0	0
21-May	14:00	14:30	Sunny/cloudy	0.301	Low/medium	0	0	0	63	0	0	0	0	7	0
27-May	14:30	17:30	Sunny/cloudy	0.311	Medium	0	0	0	27	0	0	0	0	6	0
28-May	14:30	16:30	Sunny	0.302	Medium	4	10	0	69	54	3	10	0	10	15
29-May	15:00	17:00	Cloudy/Cool	0.299	Medium	0	1	5	63	0	0	27	0	2	0

02-Jun	14:00	15:00	Sunny/Cloudy	0.302	Low	0	0	0	64	0	0	6	0	5	0
03-Jun	09:00	11:00	Drizzle	0.501	Medium	0	0	0	11	36	0	0	0	4	0
04-Jun	15:00	16:00	Fair	0.396	Medium	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	0
04-Jun	14:45	16:15	Sunny	0.396	Medium	2	0	0	65	54	0	7	0	13	12
07-Jun	14:45	16:15	Hot but clouding over	0.347	Medium	3	0	0	15	2	0	0	0	3	2
11-Jun	10:00	11:00	Cloudy and Windy	0.359	Medium	0	0	0	43	0	0	0	0	5	0
14-Jun	13:30	14:30	Sunny and Warm	0.334	Low	0	0	0	57	0	0	0	0	7	0
15-Jun	13:30	14:30	Sunny and Warm	0.324	Low	2	0	0	61	0	0	0	0	2	0
15-Jun	15:15	17:15	Sunny	0.323	Medium	0	0	2	41	0	0	0	0	6	0
15-Jun	14:45	16:05	Fairly Sunny	0.323	Low/Medium	2	2	0	30	1	0	2	0	2	0
15-Jun	12:30		Sunny	0.325	Low	0	2	0	94	0	0	2	0	1	22
16-Jun	14:00	15:00	Sunny and Warm	0.316	Low	0	0	0	64	0	0	0	0	2	0
18-Jun	14:15		Cloudy	0.305	Medium/Low	1	0	0	22	0	0	0	0	8	0
22-Jun	14:45	15:15	Sunny	0.288	Lowish	2	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	8	0
23-Jun	14:00	14:20	Hot	0.286	Low	3	0	0		0	7	0	0	0	0
24-Jun	11:00 - 11.30 13.00 - 13.50			0.298 0.296		9	0	0	35	0	0	0	0	0	0
25-Jun	13:05	14:10	Cloudy	0.292	Low	0	0	0	61	0	0	0	0	19	0

27-Jun	13:45	17:00	Sunny	0.428	Medium	16	0	0	0	0	28	0	0	0	0
30-Jun	13:45	15:15	Bright and Cloudy	0.386	Medium/ High	0	0	0	43	2	0	0	0	0	0
02-Jul	13:45	15:15	Cloudy and Cold	0.497	Medium/ High	0	0	0	77	0	0	0	0	11	0
06-Jul	10:05	12:05	Cloudy	0.372	Medium	42	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
07-Jul	14:30	15:30	Hot	0.356	Medium/Low	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
07-Jul	09:00	11:00	Mostly Sunny	0.359	Medium	46	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0
09-Jul	07:12		Hot	0.338	Medium/Low	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
09-Jul	09:30	11:30	Sunny and Warm	0.336	Low	4	0	0	78	2	0	1	0	16	1
11-Jul	14:30	16:00	Overcast and Warm	0.316	Low	4	5	0	52	3	4	16	0	0	3
12-Jul	10:00	12:00	Overcast and Warm	0.313	Medium	0	5	0	0	0	0	23	0	0	0
14-Jul	10:30	12:30	Overcast and cool turning to sunny and warm	0.300	Low	0	0	0	0	72	12	0	0	2	0
14-Jul	13:10	14:10	Sunny/cloudy	0.300	Low	2	0	0	26	8	7	0	0	1	0
16-Jul	09:00	11:00	Sunny	0.295		12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16-Jul	14:45	15:15	Sunnish	0.293	Medium/Low	2	0	0	37	0	12	0	0	0	0
16-Jul	18:30		Sunny, slight cloud	0.292	Low	2	3	0	42	3	0	2	0	6	0



17-Jul	14:15	15:00	Sunny/cloudy and warm	0.293	Medium/Low	12	4	0	0	39	28	0	0	0	5
17-Jul	16:00	17:00	Cloudy and Warm	0.293	Low	0	0	0	22	0	3	0	0	11	0
25-Jul	09:50	11:30	Rainy, cloudy turning to dry and sunny	0.330	Medium/Low	0	0	0	36	0	0	0	0	5	0
25-Jul	14:55	15:36	Sunny	0.328	Medium	1	0	0	34	0	3	3	0	10	0
27-Jul			Light drizzle	0.296		0	0	0	32	0	0	0	0	0	0
27-Jul				0.296		0	0	0	18	0	0	0	0	3	0
27-Jul	16:12	17:35	Sunny, cloudy	0.296	Medium	3	2	0	43	4	2	0	2	4	0
05-Aug	14:00	14:45	Sunny, cloudy	0.399	Medium	0	0	0	27	0	1	0	0	4	0
05-Aug	15:00	15:30	Sunny	0.397	Highish	0	0	0	30	0	0	0	1	2	0
07-Aug	16:45	17:45	Cloudy, warm	0.358	Medium	0	0	1	25	9	0	1	0	0	6
07-Aug	14:00	14:40	Mainly cloudy	0.361	Medium/high	0	0	0	20	1	0	0	0	2	0
08-Aug	16:55		Sunny	0.345	Medium	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
10-Aug	15:00	16:15	Sunny	0.324	Medium	4	0	0	25	0	6	0	0	4	0
11-Aug	17:00	18:00	Sunny, hot	0.315	Low	8	2	0	51	0	15	14	0	6	2
14-Aug	12:45	13:45	Sunny	0.298	Medium	9	0	0	30	0	12	0	0	0	0
14-Aug	15:00	15:45	Sunny, hot	0.297	Low	6	5	0	15	11	3	3	0	0	5
17-Aug	13:20	14:20	Sunny	0.289	Low	5	3	0	45	3	0	9	0	4	0

19-Aug	14:40	15:40	Partly cloudy/cool	0.290	Low	0	0	0	38	0	0	0	0	10	0
20-Aug	?		Dull		Medium	0	0	0	21	15	0	0	0	0	0
21-Aug	15:00		Sunny	0.296	Low	2	0	0	95	27	3	6	0	27	31
21-Aug	15:15		Bit hazy. Sunny	0.293	Medium	4	1	0	20	0	6	0	0	1	0
23-Aug	12:00	13:00	Cloudy, sunny, muggy	0.286	Low	0	1	0	30	20	0	2	0	7	25
25-Aug	14:25	15:25	Bright sunny	0.289	Low	0	0	0	50	0	0	0	0	7	0
26-Aug	13:20	14:25	Overcast	0.283	Low	2	0	0	51	0	0	0	0	8	0
27-Aug	15:10	16:00	Sunny	0.279	Medium/Low	8	0	0	23	0	10	0	0	2	0
27-Aug	16:00	17:00	Sunny	0.278	Medium/Low	3	0	0	0	53	0	0	0	0	2
28-Aug	14:30	15:30	Cloudy, muggy	0.277	Low	1	0	0	45	49	4	3	0	3	24
28-Aug	13:30	14:30	Cloudy	0.277	Low	4	0	0	51	0	0	0	0	0	0
29-Aug	10:55	12:00	Overcast/hot	0.276	Low	0	2	0	145	3	0	3	18	0	0
29-Aug	14:38	15:44	Dull. Cool.	0.276	Medium/Low	2	0	0	54	0	3	3	0	8	0
30-Aug	13:40		Sunny, cloudy	0.273	Medium/Low	5	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0
02-Sep	16:50		Sunny, cloudy	0.268	Medium/Low	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
05-Sep	10:40		Sunny. Warm	0.274	Low	1	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	3	0
05-Sep	11:10		Blue skies	0.274	Low	0	0	0	19	0	0	0	0	7	0
05-Sep	11:40		Blue skies	0.274	Low	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	4	0
05-Sep	12:10		Blue skies	0.274	Low	0	0	0	21	0	0	0	0	1	0

08-Sep	09:50		Overcast	0.325		2	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
08-Sep	10:10		Dry	0.324		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
08-Sep	10:50		Rain	0.324		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
08-Sep	11:10		Heavy constant rain	0.325		0	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0
08-Sep	11:30		Heavy constant rain	0.323		0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
11-Sep	13:00	14:00	Sunny, cloudy		Lowish	1	0	0	52	32	0	0	0	16	33
11-Sep	15:00		Sunny, cloudy		Medium	0	0	0	70	0	0	0	0	9	0
13-Sep	13:45	14:15	Overcast. Dry		4.5	0	0	0	23	0	0	0	0	1	0
17-Sep	14:00		Sunny . Cool		Lowish	1	0	0	62	0	0	3	0	9	0
28-Sep	14:30	15:30	Cloudy, muggy		Lowish	1	0	0	45	49	4	3	0	3	24
June			Additional river diary data			1	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0
July						4	9	0	20	0	2	9	0	7	0
August						7	3	0	13	0	7	3	0	9	0
Sept						2	1	0	9	0	2	1	0	9	0
					<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2761</b>	<b>556</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>212</b>

## Appendix 3 – River Diary examples

2 examples of river diaries from Staveley:

River Diary August 2022

Name:  (lives in Staveley)

I am in-putting in list as was unable to print at home. If I'm handed an actual copy of blank diary am happy to fill in, photograph and email back.

1st August - none  
2nd- none  
3rd- none  
4th- none  
5th - walk and paddle along Kent from Staveley to Becknickle Ing and back  
6th- none  
7th- none  
8th- walk Staveley  
9th - swim Staveley  
10th- paddle with children Staveley  
11th- none  
12th - swim Staveley  
13th- walk Kendal  
14th- swim and picnic with children Staveley  
15th- swim, paddle and picnic with children Staveley  
16th- walk along river Staveley  
17th- walk and throw stones with children Staveley  
18th- walk x2 Staveley with children in buggy  
19th- walk x1 Staveley  
20th- none  
21st- walk x1 Staveley  
22nd- none  
23rd- none  
24th- walk x2 Staveley with children in buggy  
25th- walk x2 Staveley with children in buggy  
26th- Swim, Walk, and play children by river  
27th- none  
28th- Walk and picnic with children Staveley  
29th- none  
30th- walk Staveley  
31st- walk x2 Staveley with children in buggy



**CLEAN RIVER KENT CAMPAIGN – ACTIVITY DIARY:  
RIVER KENT, STAVELEY (for you, friends & family!)**

Name:  Contact email/tel:

PLEASE RETURN all completed forms to: 2 The Abbey Coach House, Back Lane, Staveley LAB 3UR / [janstaveley@gmail.com](mailto:janstaveley@gmail.com)

If you have any photos that you are happy to share showing you/your friends/colleagues enjoying the river please email to: [janstaveley@gmail.com](mailto:janstaveley@gmail.com)

2022	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<b>JULY</b>	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Swim	✓		✓				
Public play	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Canoes, kayak, boat							
Fish							
Run, jog, walk, dog walk		✓	✓		✓		
<b>JULY</b>	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Swim							
Public play	✓			✓			✓
Canoes, kayak, boat							
Fish							
Run, jog, walk, dog walk		✓			✓		
<b>JULY</b>	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Swim							
Public play		✓					✓
Canoes, kayak, boat							
Fish							
Run, jog, walk, dog walk				✓			✓

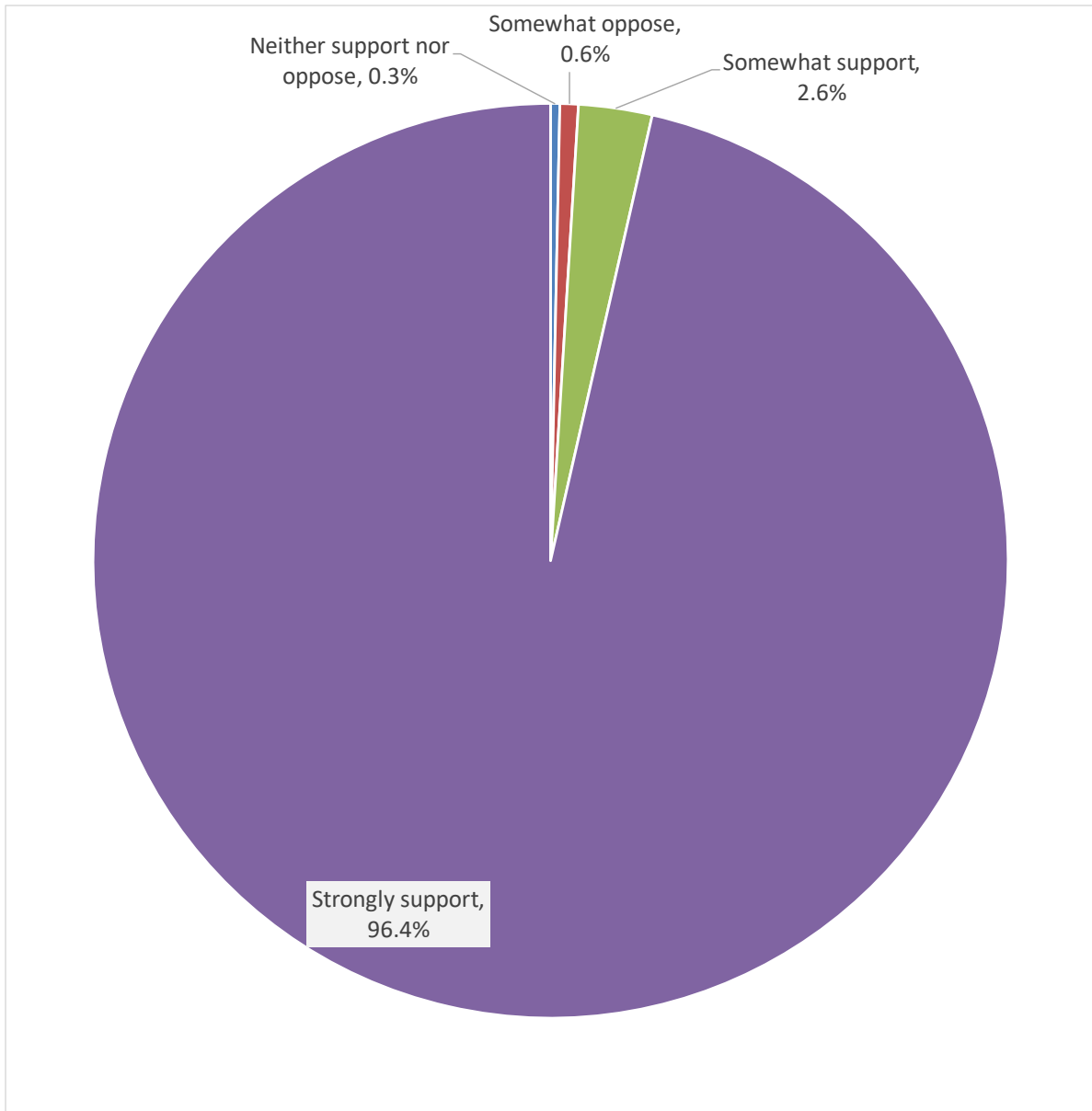
AUGUST	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Swim							
Public play							
Canoes, kayak, boat							
Fish							
Run, jog, walk, dog walk							
<b>AUGUST</b>	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Swim					✓		✓
Public play		✓		✓	✓		
Canoes, kayak, boat							
Fish							
Run, jog, walk, dog walk		✓		✓	✓		✓
<b>AUGUST</b>	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Swim				✓			✓
Public play							
Canoes, kayak, boat							
Fish							
Run, jog, walk, dog walk		✓		✓			✓
<b>AUGUST</b>	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Swim				✓	✓		✓
Public play							
Canoes, kayak, boat							
Fish							
Run, jog, walk, dog walk		✓					

AUGUST	29	30	31	1	2	3	4
Swim							
Public play		✓					
Canoes, kayak, boat							
Fish							
Run, jog, walk, dog walk							✓
<b>AUGUST</b>	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Swim		✓					
Public play							
Canoes, kayak, boat							
Fish							
Run, jog, walk, dog walk					✓		✓
<b>AUGUST</b>	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Swim							
Public play							
Canoes, kayak, boat							
Fish							
Run, jog, walk, dog walk		✓		✓		✓	
<b>AUGUST</b>	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Swim							✓
Public play							
Canoes, kayak, boat							
Fish							
Run, jog, walk, dog walk		✓		✓			✓

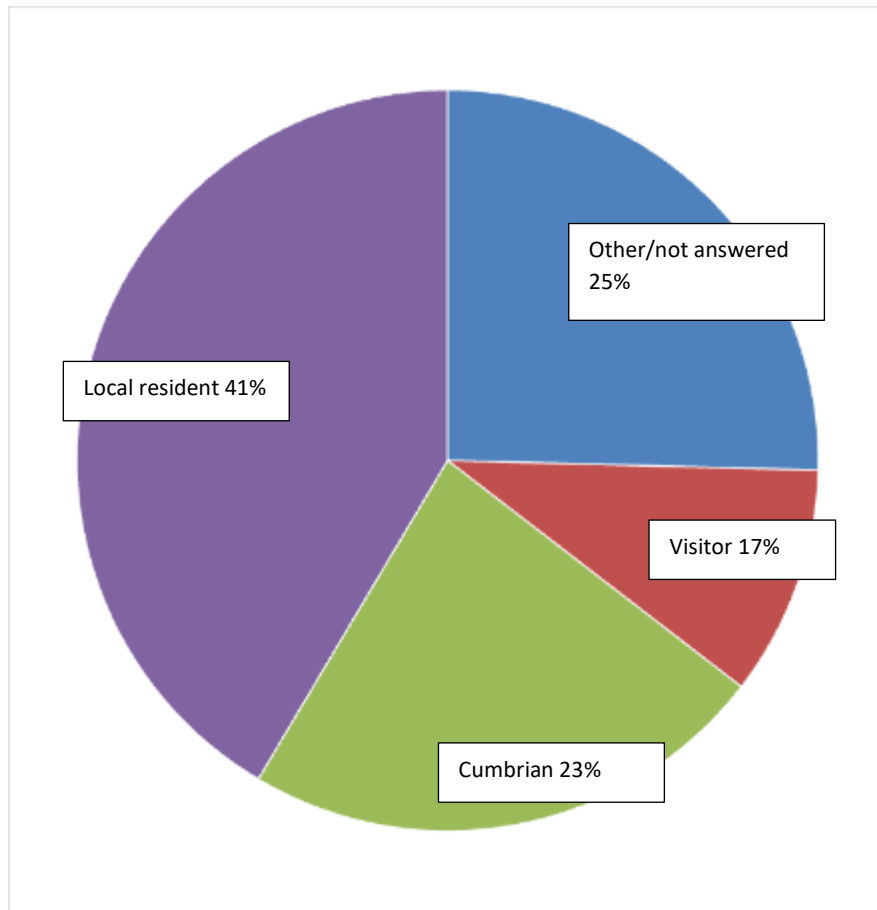
## Appendix 4 - Community Consultation Survey: full results

Total number of valid surveys: 308

### Q1. How much do you support having clean water in our river fit to paddle, play & swim in?



**Q2. Where are you from?**



**Q3. Please select all of the ways that you/your family currently enjoy the River Kent and its immediate surrounds.**

	Picnicking	Walk the Dog	Walking/Hiking	Running	Canoeing	Swimming	Paddling	Birdwatching	Fishing	Enjoy Landscape	OTHER
Frequently	23%	31%	45%	18%	1%	13%	14%	20%	2%	48%	17%
Regularly	32%	13%	32%	17%	6%	17%	23%	26%	2%	31%	17%
Irregularly	36%	10%	22%	16%	22%	31%	35%	26%	7%	18%	11%
Never	8%	46%	1%	49%	71%	38%	29%	28%	90%	2%	55%



<b>Frequently</b>	Under 10	Under 18	18 - 24	25 - 49	50 - 64	65+
Picnicking/relaxing	0	2	0	25	18	12
Walking the dog	0	2	0	28	32	13
Walking/hiking	0	5	2	44	43	27
Running/jogging	0	0	0	31	7	4
Canoeing/Kayaking	0	0	0	1	1	1
Swimming	0	3	0	17	4	7
Paddling/Playing	0	2	1	17	7	6
Birdwatching/photography	0	1	0	11	20	17
Angling/Fishing	0	0	0	2	1	1
To enjoy the landscape/wildlife	0	5	1	45	42	34
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>122</b>

<b>Regularly</b>	Under 10	Under 18	18 - 24	25 - 49	50 - 64	65+
Picnicking/relaxing	0	2	4	44	22	10
Walking the dog	0	0	4	13	12	2
Walking/hiking	0	1	4	36	24	22
Running/jogging	0	0	2	17	16	4
Canoeing/Kayaking	0	1	1	7	4	0
Swimming	0	2	1	24	11	5
Paddling/Playing	0	2	2	28	18	4
Birdwatching/photography	0	2	2	26	21	18
Angling/Fishing	0	0	0	2	1	1
To enjoy the landscape/wildlife	0	1	5	38	21	23
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>89</b>

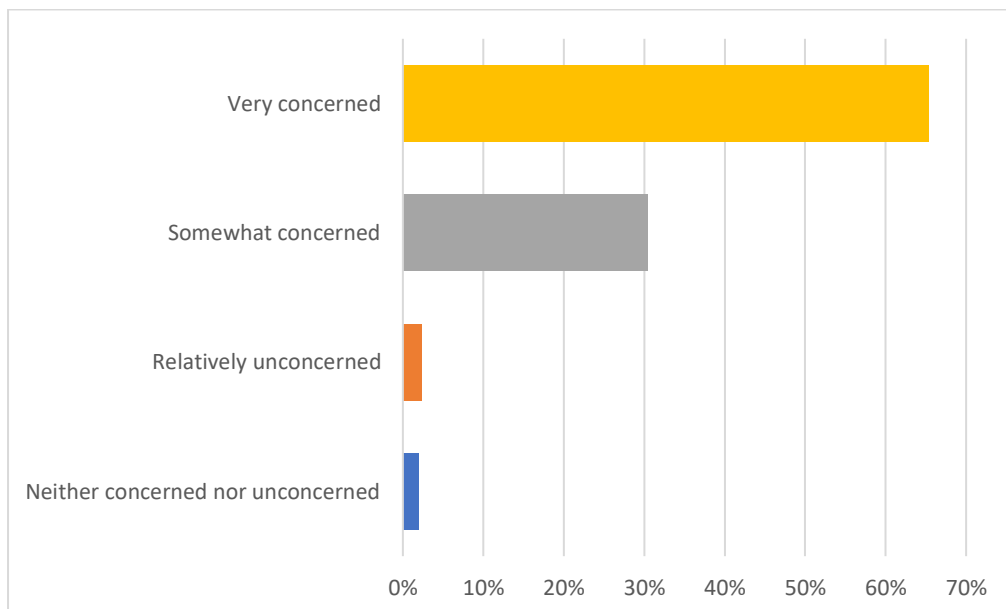
<b>Irregular</b>	Under 10	Under 18	18 - 24	25 - 49	50 - 64	65+
Picnicking/relaxing	0	3	2	30	28	26
Walking the dog	0	1	1	9	7	5
Walking/hiking	0	1	0	19	19	17
Running/jogging	0	2	1	15	14	5
Canoeing/Kayaking	0	1	2	28	13	5
Swimming	0	1	3	32	33	10
Paddling/Playing	0	2	3	33	28	15
Birdwatching/photography	0	1	1	23	25	15
Angling/Fishing	0	3	1	6	2	3
To enjoy the landscape/wildlife	0	0	0	14	22	10
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>111</b>

<b>Never</b>	Under 10	Under 18	18 - 24	25 - 49	50 - 64	65+
Picnicking/relaxing	0	0	0	3	11	6

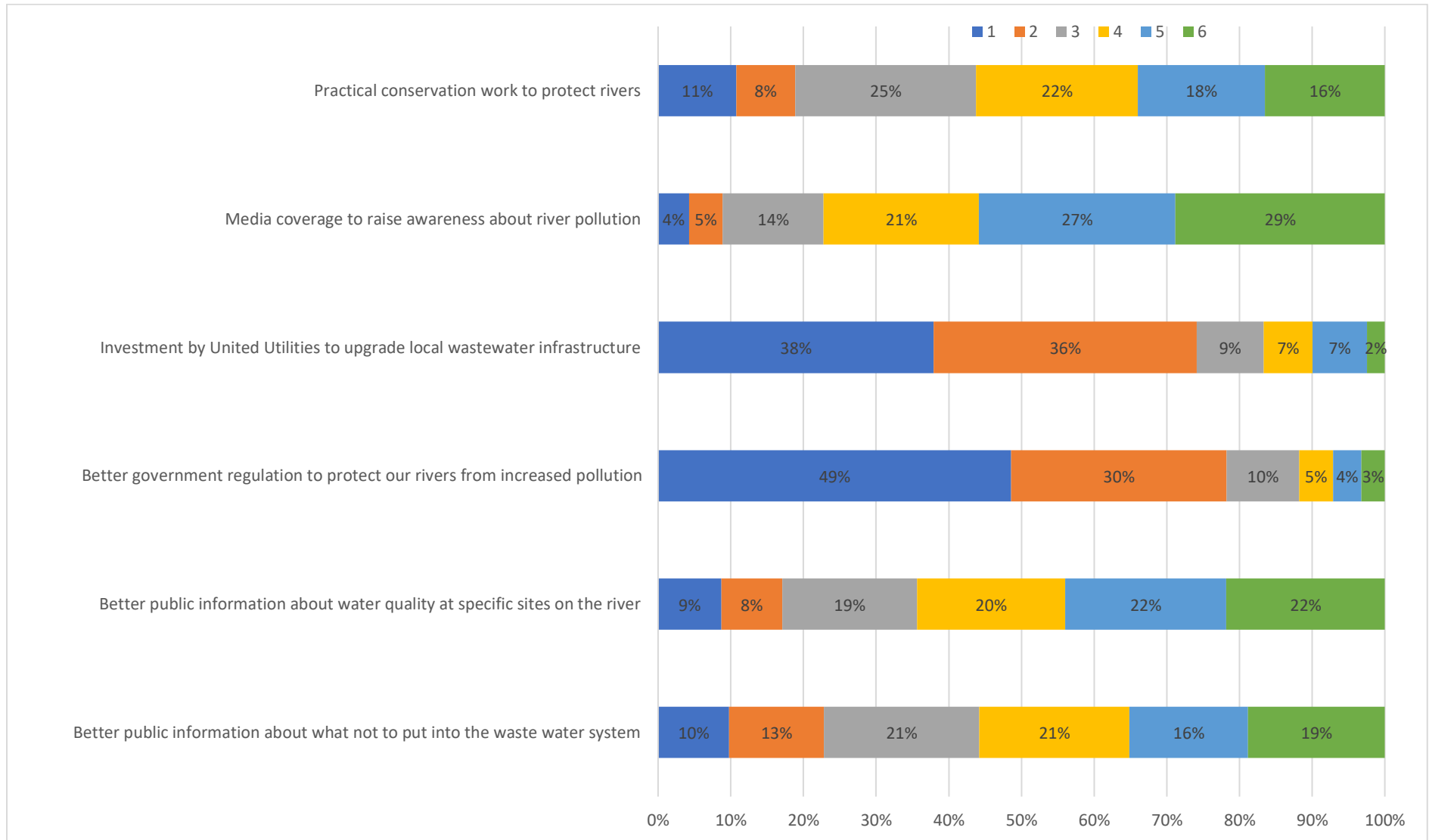
Walking the dog	0	4	1	44	31	30
Walking/hiking	0	0	0	0	3	1
Running/jogging	0	4	3	35	41	32
Canoeing/Kayaking	0	4	3	57	58	40
Swimming	0	1	1	29	35	29
Paddling/Playing	0	0	0	21	25	24
Birdwatching/photography	0	3	3	38	17	11
Angling/Fishing	0	3	5	83	68	41
To enjoy the landscape/wildlife	0	1	0	4	1	1
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>215</b>

#### Q.4 How concerned are you about pollution in the River Kent?

	Number	%
Neither concerned nor unconcerned	6	2%
Relatively unconcerned	7	2%
Somewhat concerned	93	30%
Very concerned	200	65%
<b>Total</b>	<b>306</b>	

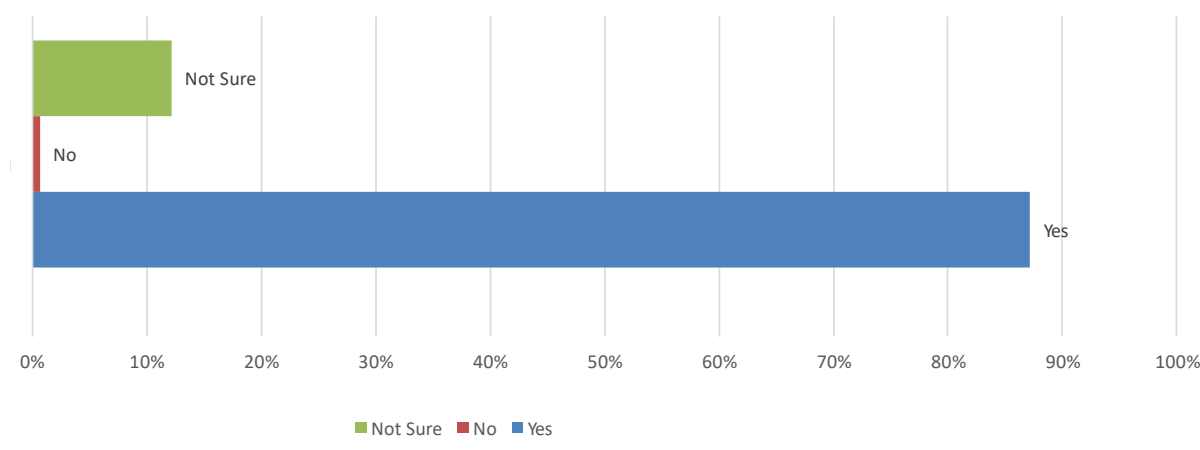


**Q.5 Please rank how important you think the following are (1 = most important) (6 = least important)**



**Q.6 DEFRA safe bathing water designation provides extra protection for a site on a river, including regular water quality testing, signage indicating whether it is safe to use, plus a longer term management plan. Are you in favour of this status for the stretch of river at Staveley Recreation Ground?**

	Recreation Ground	
Yes	265	87.2%
No	2	0.7%
Not Sure	37	12.2%
Total	304	



**Q7 Are there other issues that concern you about the River Kent?**

A snapshot of some of the key issues:

- Patches of ‘scum’ and algae
- Not enough opportunities for young people’s recreation
- Agricultural pollution and run-off from farms
- Dogs disturbing wildlife
- Litter
- Protection of aquatic species
- Flood management plans
- Repeated sewage discharge
- Insufficient dredging to prevent flooding.
- Removal of trees causing erosion



- Insufficient re-naturalising
- Large new housing sites around Kendal and Natland = more sewage

**Full list of free text feedback:**

- Conservation & community engagement sp community care etc - biodiversity - safety for swimmers & wildlife
Absence of lifebelts ? There is or was one on the confluence of the R. Kent and R. Mint
1) Pollution from agri/road runoff, septic tanks 2) Cavalier attitude of United Utilities to spillages/releases of sewage 3) Continuing house-building without considering strain on existing infrastructure
Agricultural pollution. Canalised streams need to be de-culvated. The river needs more room to move
Agricultural run off
Agriculture pollution is a main concern
All work needs to be started asap. So all can enjoy. In a safe manner. And life rings a long the side in certain places would be good again.
Amount of litter left by youths at sandy bottoms and also at Carus Green after any hot spell.
Anything which damages the quality of the water or the habitat concerns me.
Apparently the proposed flood alleviation whilst creating a mess will not work
Are there still the endangered British cray fish in Staveley?
As a visitor I am concerned I will get sick if I go swimming.
Barley bridge weir collapsing. What's being done?
Better enforcement of regulation by Env Agency
Better walkway along the river. This great attraction is let down by poor access for both local + holiday persons. A great loss to all and a waste
Build-up of gravel causing flood risk
Chopping down trees for flood
Continuing to help farmers with better riparian management e.g. watercourse fencing, buffer zones, etc. Already worked on by Catchment Sensitive Farming + Rivers Trust
Cross to lose Bowston weir and don't want to lose any others
Damage of habitats due to flood defence works.
dog poo around the banks near swim/ playing spots
Dogs going in the water due to physical disturbance and effects of their parasite treatments on river wildlife including crayfish
DREDGE IT
Educating society how valuable such water sources are, and keeping them clean.
Education on better use and conservation - I still think the flood defence works are an archaic way to address a highly infrequent issue which could have been resolved by more all-encompassing solutions
Ensuring it is clean
Farm animal excrement washed in Access
Farmers spreading muck close to the river banks (not allowed on an SSSI).
Felling of trees for the flood prevention scheme and proposals for upstream (Kentmere valley)
Flood management

Flood management plans merely moving the problem further down stream. Better prevention upstream ie woodlands on fell sides, Don't know much about it / if it's happening but concerned about plans to put a dam in bellow Kentmere Tarn?
Flood management, weirs, run off from farms, would like to see more re-naturalising, and introduction of beavers
Flood preps harming wildlife and enjoyment of area!
Flood Relief Scheme - impact this will have on the naturalness of the River and surrounding areas as well as access to the River
Flooding
Flooding
Flooding - Aynam Rd used to flood
general maintenance of the river to allow it to be enjoyed by all
GRAVEL BUILD UP
Green algae has been present regularly in low rain times and the occasions have increased so all work that reduce this and enable people and pets enjoy the river safely would be good
Himalayan Balsalm signal Crayfish, flood defences and their negative impact on the biodiversity , constant building on the floodplain
Himalayan Balsam - I help control it along the River Kent, organised by South Cumbria Rivers Trust I am a Kendal resident so also interested in quality of the water south of the town down towards Hawes Bridge and beyond to Levens.
I assume waste water to be the main problem but I do also wonder about agricultural runoff or other pollutants.
I feel that the amount of stone around Sandy Bottoms should be cleared to allow the 'lake' to accommodate more water especially when there is heavy rainfall. This would prevent as much water following through Kendal.
I have only recently discovered the River Kent and find many parts of it truly magical. It is a Cumbrian resource to be proud of and to be nurtured and loved.
I'd like to see more tree planting upstream.
Inadequate sewage system for the size of the village.
Insufficient dredging to prevent flooding. Flood protection plan that fails to account for changes in groundwater levels. Removal of trees in areas where bank erosion is likely.
It needs protecting, like all rivers.
just sewage
Kendal centre
Lack of (visible) fish in the river. UU discharging raw sewerage into the river.
Lack of fish
Lack of water weed
Lack of well-developed vegetation and trees in the upper catchment, meaning water flows into it too quickly. Artificially straightened and embanked watercourses that are not able to function naturally and interact properly with the floodplain.
Large new housing sites around Kendal and Natland = more sewage. Can our sewerage cope? Agriculture use of slurry x3 at least after grass cutting for silage. Extreme ammonia in air is toxic.
Litter
Litter, farm run off,
Littering
Loss of Bowston Weir ? Speed of river when full hitting Bowston Bridge. Loss of landscape above where the weir was
Loss of salmon + brown trout

Loss of trees in Kendal
Need to be careful not to encourage too many swimmers who end up leaving litter behind and scaring wildlife.
No idea how to report obvious issues.
No, it would be good to see areas of river sides planted with more vegetation to encourage the different wildlife
Not dredged regularly enough if this were to happen as it used to wouldn't give s build up which then people seem to see as a dumping ground
Not in favour of cutting down trees in Kendal for flood relief work.
Number of industrial units that have sprung up
Only pollution There should be more emphasis on encouraging kayaking on the river for the youth to have fun and learn to enjoy white water kayaking and rafting when the river flow suits the sport which it often does.
Over abstraction - Staveley & Croppers. All man-made weirs should be removed. Agricultural pollution. UU Pollution - Staveley, CSO, WWTW. Lack of salmonids. Poor bank cover to reduce predation. Think too many goosander
Over grown paths to walk along the river
Patches of 'scum' and algae seen regularly in places where the current takes them. Would like to understand better if these are natural phenomena or of concern
People bringing kayaks from other rivers without cleaning them, thus risking alien crayfish and crayfish plague to the river.
People throwing waste into the river treating it like a dustbin! River levels have dropped due to the build up of rocks and silt
Pollution and water safety for use for recreational purposes eg paddling, swimming are top concerns
Pollution generally especially from agricultural run off
Possible pollution from farming.
Potential damage to wildlife from the flood relief works.
potential flooding risks
Proactively support otters, crayfish, etc.
Protection of aquatic species that have less charisma eg tiddlers and river fly.
Rats
Recreation along its banks not made enough of - it such a beautiful river that could be an Asset to residents + tourists. Manpower to EA to enforce and prosecute
Regular grey/ off white flotsam on Arnside beach
Removal of Bowston weir, which has spoiled the pool above. Water needs to be held back to reduce flooding downstream
Repeated sewerage discharge
Riverside tree planting to hold banks together, particularly in times of flood. De-culverting feed in channels. Canalise flow of rivers allowed to meander
Rubbish being dumped in
Rubbish being swept into river when not collected quickly from streets (better if people didn't litter)
Rubbish dumped on the riverside, especially on Mintsfeet side of Dockray footbridge.
Rubbish in the river and the difficulty/cost of removing it
Rubbish on banks and in water
Run off from farm

Serious concern about lack of respect for people's property being dumped in the river. Dumping ground for youths. E. G. A pedestrians path closed sign erected yesterday in Abbot Hall park is now this morning in the river!
Sewage discharge from the WTP at Watercreek.
Sewage pollution
Sewage works nearby
Sewage works overflowing
Speed at which changes for the better can happen
The amount of silt and rubble being washed into the river as a result of the removal of Bowston weir.
The amount of plastic and other debris and rubbish that I see in the river daily
The amount of rubbish and litter that is left by people at the side of the riverside
The amount of rubbish in the river especially around Sandybottom/green bridge onto Mintsfeet.
The decline in biodiversity in recent years.
The dumping of waste water by United Utilities and the increasing amounts of algae (possibly blue green algae). Plus the removal of trees for flood defences. This will impact on both the flow and the cleanliness of the water down river.
The erosion of some parts of the river bank where people frequent the river.
The fact that it floods!
The flood defence works in Kendal are deeply concerning. Habitat loss, pollution & disturbance from construction... I also find angling an odd hobby and would love it to go out of favour universally.
The impact of the flood protection scheme.
The island above the weir at Barley Bridge needs digging out.
The lack of focus from SLDC on basic river management and ensuring the prime asset running through Kendal is maintained to a high standard
The large dumpy bags in place of the eroded river bank that are on the opposite side of the river from millennium green in Burneside. They are an eyesore!
The overgrowth of weeds and trees bringing the water levels up and increase risk of more flooding on both rivers in Staveley
The preservation of the white claw crayfish. The number of accidental spills into the river and the lack of information about these accidents
The quantity of litter deliberately thrown into the River (mainly from Bridges) that then travels the length of the river through Kendal
The removal of the weir in Kendal is unclear as to whether this is a good thing could do with understanding it better.
The rubbish left by youngsters at weekends more rubbish bins needed
The sewage outlet at Milnthorpe deer park is frankly disgusting. It is not safe to swim and paddle in the estuary as a result of sewage entering the river here. I am very happy to help expand the scope of this campaign further down the river,
the sewage works at Kendal and cleanliness of river
The sewerage plant along Burneside road? What is coming out off there and into the water. People play in the river all the way along that stretch and through bethmickle wood
Time taken for flood defence work
UU Discharge from sewerage clean up into a river that is designated an SSI



Various points have sewage works outputting into the river, I have no idea how clean / dirty this is. Quite a few industrial sections as you go through Burneside and Kendal. No idea what they're putting into the River, either allowable or accidentally or who checks this and how often. I'm much less concerned about run off from farmland, assuming most of this is natural (cow and sheep poop) giving most farm land round here is pasture land. I'd be more concerned about chemical fertilizers and pesticides if arable land bordered the rivers. But also I don't really know if that's a sensible point of view?

Water levels change very quickly, debris can be deposited & moved. I am concerned that people would just see that it is a safe bathing site & assume it is always safe to use. I swim all year round but am also a highly experienced canoeist/coach so have the knowledge to spot & assess risks. I believe education (In various forms) would also be needed.

What about the trees - we don't want environment agency to cut down all the trees. Would like more information about flood relief work

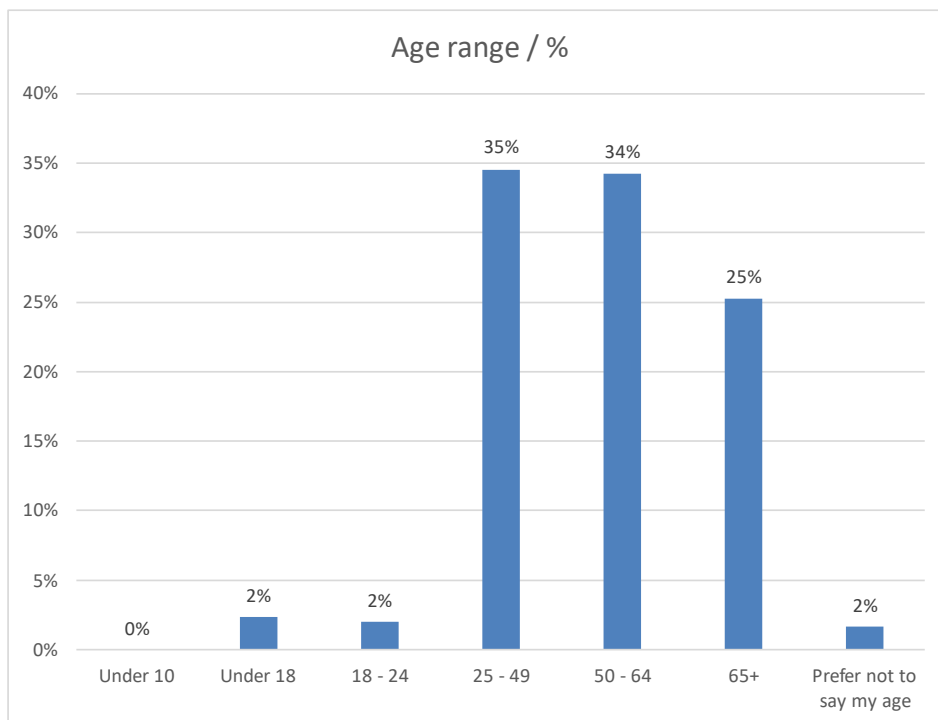
What is industry along river doing to protect the water quality?

With major works riverside in Kendal, how is impact on wildlife and water quality mitigated? It is some time since I have seen an otter on that stretch. Also is it affecting the bats under the bridge?

Would like to see sensible and sensitive flood risk management

Yes the declining in Salmon & sea trout stocks over the past years and the increase in fish predating birds ie cormorants and Goosander.

**Q8 Please tick which apply to you below (as with all the questions, this is optional but will help us identify what groups have taken part in the survey).**



The survey was completed by those using the river between Staveley and Sedgwick and beyond. Some of the comments are not directly relevant to Staveley, but will inform the next stage of our campaign to clean up the river.

These responses include both ideas and observations, and concerns and complaints. Now that this application has been submitted, we will turn to analysing the data, and making it available to relevant partners eg the Environment Agency, United Utilities and the Lake District National Park Authority.

## Appendix 5 - Sample of the paper copy community consultation survey



### Clean River Kent Campaign: SUMMER SURVEY 2022

We are an informal group of local residents from Staveley, Burneside and Kendal. We are interested in protecting the River Kent, for everyone who enjoys the river for all sorts of reasons, from fishing, to swimming, to dog-walking to kayaking. As well as protecting the unique wildlife and landscape of the River Kent.

We are gathering information from communities along the river, to help us better understand what people feel about the river, and some of the threats it currently faces. This information will be really valuable for an application to DEFRA (Department of Environment, Farming & Rural Affairs) to obtain bathing designation for various stretches of the river (Phase 1, 2022 & Phase 2, 2023).

There are just 8 questions which should take about 5 minutes to complete.

All completed surveys will be entered into a prize draw (optional) to win a £50 high street voucher.

THANK YOU!

1. How much do you support having clean water in our river fit to paddle, play & swim in?

- Strongly support
- Somewhat support
- Neither support nor oppose
- Somewhat oppose
- Strongly oppose

2. Are you.....?

- Local resident of Ings, Staveley, ~~Kentmere~~, ~~Bowston~~ or Burneside
- Resident of Cumbria (if from Kendal please specify in Other below)
- Visitor to Cumbria
- Local business
- Other (please specify: .....

3. Please select all of the ways that you/your family currently enjoy the River Kent and its immediate surrounds.

	Frequently (More than twice a week)	Regularly (at least once a month)	Irregularly (less than once a month)	Never
Picnicking / relaxing				
Walking the dog				
Walking/hiking				
Running/jogging				
Canoeing/kayaking				
Swimming				
Paddling/playing				
Birdwatching/ photography				
Angling / fishing				
To enjoy landscape/ wildlife				
Other				

If you ticked 'Other' please briefly describe:

4. How concerned are you about pollution in the River Kent?

- Very concerned
- Somewhat concerned
- Neither concerned nor unconcerned
- Relatively unconcerned
- Not concerned at all

3

5. Please rank how important you think the following are (1 = most important) (6 = least important)

- Better public information about what not to put into the waste water system
- Better public information about water quality at specific sites on the river
- Better government regulation to protect our rivers from increased pollution
- Investment by United Utilities to upgrade wastewater infrastructure
- Media coverage to raise awareness about river pollution
- Practical conservation work to protect rivers

6. DEFRA safe bathing water designation provides extra protection for a site on a river, including regular water quality testing, signage indicating whether it is safe to use, plus a longer term management plan. Are you in favour of this status at the following sites?

	YES	NO	NOT SURE
Stretch of river between beach opposite Wilfs Café, through to the corner of the Recreation Ground, Staveley			
Stretch of river alongside Millennium Green, Burneside			
Stretch of river near Dockray Hall (Sandy Bottoms), Kendal			

Any further comments about your choice, or other locations that you think should be added?:

7. Are there other issues that concern you about the River Kent?

4

8. Please tick which apply to you below (as with all the questions, this is optional but will help us identify what groups have taken part in the survey).

- Male       Female       Prefer not to specify
- Under 10       Under 18       18-24
- 25-49       50-64       65+

That's it – you've finished!

**MANY THANKS** for completing our survey.

Please tick any that apply below.

- I would like to be entered into the prize draw to win a **£50 high street voucher** (closing date: 30th September 2022 midnight)
- I would like to receive the Clean River Kent Campaign newsletter
- I am interested in volunteering for the Clean River Kent Campaign

Please provide your email (**IN BLOCK CAPITALS**) if you ticked any of these boxes so we can contact you.

Please submit completed copies to:

- **Staveley** - through the letterbox at 2 The Abbey Coach House, Back Lane, Staveley LA8 9LR
- **Burneside** - in the box that will be located @ E & IG Seward, 6 Stockes Row, Burneside, Kendal LA9 6PY
- **Kendal** - in the green bin with the Clean River Kent Campaign leaflet stuck on the lid on the doorstep @ 5 Aikings Ave, Kendal, LA9 6DY

Or scan and email to: [senstaveley@gmail.com](mailto:senstaveley@gmail.com)



## Appendix 6 - Sample of the River Kent flyer

# CLEAN RIVER KENT CAMPAIGN (CRKC)



# CLEAN RIVER KENT

**WHO ARE WE?**  
A coalition of volunteers from communities along the River Kent in Staveley, Burneside and Kendal. We were established in Autumn 2021.

**WHAT DO WE WANT TO DO?**

1. Clean up the River Kent for water-based recreation and to protect ecology and wildlife.
2. Reduce the amount of effluent discharged into the River Kent from a variety of sources.
3. Work in partnership with local groups and organisations.

To visit our web site scan the QR code



**WHAT WE ARE DOING?**

1. Counting the numbers of people using the river for any sort of leisure-based recreation.
2. Gathering information about what people feel about the River Kent.
3. Working with local people (citizen scientists) to monitor the water quality of the river.

**WHY ARE WE COLLECTING THIS DATA?**

To secure 'safe bathing' designation for a stretch of the River Kent. This gives the river extra protection from the Environment Agency. If we are successful the River Kent would just one of 3 rivers in the whole of England to get this designation!

**HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?**

- Follow us (Facebook): @cleanriverkent
- Join us – email: [senstaveley@gmail.com](mailto:senstaveley@gmail.com) (ask to be added to CRKC mailing list and/or become a volunteer)
- Complete our questionnaire or survey: [www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/riverkent](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/riverkent) (£50 voucher prize draw!)
- Tell others about us!

**[sustainablestaveley.org.uk/clean-up-the-kent/](http://sustainablestaveley.org.uk/clean-up-the-kent/)**

## Appendix 7 – Clean River Kent Campaign funders



**Plus all the Crowdfunder and individual contributors**

## Appendix 8 – Letters of Support



**South Lakeland District Council**  
South Lakeland House  
Lowther Street  
Kendal  
Cumbria  
LA9 4DQ

Tel: 01539 733333  
[www.southlakeland.gov.uk](http://www.southlakeland.gov.uk)

Date: 20 October 2022

Ranil Jayawardena MP  
Secretary of State for Environment, Food & Rural  
Affairs  
70 Whitehall  
Westminster  
London SW1A 2AS

To Ranil Jayawardena MP,

This pro-active group has mobilised over 100 volunteers, consulting with the local community (both directly and through their representative organisations), and liaising effectively with partner organisations. In addition they have raised funds from scratch to support their work which has included a systematic programme of microbiological testing of river water over a 5 mile stretch from Staveley to Kendal. These local volunteers are a clear demonstration of the strength of our communities here in Cumbria, and of how much we care about nature and the environment.

As you will be aware, the governance of Cumbria is in the process of Local Government Reorganisation. Staveley is within Westmorland and Furness Council, which will come into existence on 1 April 2023. One of its first actions at a shadow meeting of the Council was to declare climate and biodiversity crises:

"Climate change and biodiversity loss will have far-reaching effects on our economy, our society and our environment in the district, across the UK and across the globe .....Council..... urges government to work with local authorities, health services, businesses, farmers, educational institutions and all other interested bodies to address the climate and biodiversity emergencies as quickly as possible."

Although we are unable to commit a new authority ahead of 1 April 2023, we do look to support this application in an appropriate manner next year. Therefore we offer, only in principle at this time, an endorsement of the application, subject to further agreement and legal scrutiny following vesting day next year.

Yours sincerely,

Dyan Jones

Giles Archibald

Jonathan Brook

**Cllr Dyan Jones** - Ward Member for Windermere, Portfolio Holder for Climate Action and Biodiversity, South Lakeland District Council. Portfolio Holder for Customer and Environmental Services, Shadow Authority; Westmorland and Furness Council

**Cllr Giles Archibald** - Ward Member for Kendal Strickland and Fell, South Lakeland District Council & Portfolio Holder for Climate and Biodiversity, Shadow Authority; Westmorland and Furness Council

**Cllr Jonathan Brook** – Leader South Lakeland District Council & Leader, Shadow Authority; Westmorland and Furness Council





*Far Park • Staveley • Kendal • LA8 9QT*

TELEPHONE 01539 821288

9 October 2022

Dear Mr Jayawardena

Congratulations on your recent appointment.

You will have much to worry about, and to think about, but I am writing to you today about the pollution of one of the most beautiful rivers in the country, and in support of the application by the Clean River Kent Campaign for Designated Bathing Status for a section of the River Kent as it passes through Staveley.

Ninety years ago my forebears freely gave to Westmorland County Council the right to construct a large diameter sewage pipe for half a mile across our land to the newly constructed sewage works to serve the village of Staveley—not one of the most famous villages in the Lake District, but a serious working village, and one of William and Dorothy Wordsworth's favourites.


Today that sewage works regularly and frequently discharges untreated sewage into the river—you will have access to the statistics, incomplete though they are. Other forms of pollution from farms, from septic tanks and from industrial run-off are seldom investigated and never prosecuted by the Environment Agency.

The river, however, is at the heart of the village and it is much used and much loved by local people, who swim in it, fish in it, walk by it and occasionally canoe down it. It is a SSSI and one of the few remaining habitats of the native freshwater crayfish, and of fresh water pearls. In my father's day it was a fine salmon river and brown trout were plentiful.

Our land abuts the Eastern edge of the river for the greater part of its passage through the village, and a significant part of its western edge as well. It is over fifty years since we abandoned dairy farming with the associated slurry run-off issues, and the land is now managed under the terms of a Countryside Stewardship Agreement, with a commitment to manage it for the benefit of wildlife, bio-diversity, carbon sequestration and flood mitigation. Apart from the upland and floodplain hay meadows, the pasture is grazed by pedigree cattle and sheep which provide grass-fed organic meat on a realistic scale. There are rights of way across the fields and down to the river which are widely used by locals and by visitors. We have recently donated land to the Lake District National Park for them to establish the 'Staveley Riverside' 'miles without stiles' walk which is one of seven celebrated in video on their website.

It is in your power, and within your remit, to deal with the pollution and to enhance the well-being of what is already a flourishing village by granting Designated Bathing Status to the river and I and countless others would be grateful if you would do so.

Yours Sincerely

 (John Nicoll)



## Staveley with Ings Parish Council

Clerk: Mrs June Lee  
31 Wattsfield Road  
Kendal, LA9 5JN

Tel: 01539 729382  
Email: [staveleyings.parish@gmail.com](mailto:staveleyings.parish@gmail.com)

Ranil Jayawardena MP  
Secretary of State for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs  
70 Whitehall  
Westminster  
London SW1A 2AS

20/10/22

Dear Secretary of State

I am writing on behalf of Staveley with Ings Parish Council in support of the application for Designated Bathing Status for a section of the River Kent as it passes through Staveley. The Parish Council is actively involved with the protection of our river having established a Flood and Sewage Management Task Force several years ago. The Parish Council has been active in supporting the development of this application by funding water microbiological testing, attending Clean River Kent Campaign events/meetings, and working with Clean River Kent campaign representatives on joint approaches to the Environment Agency and United Utilities.

The River Kent in Staveley has been used for generations for recreational swimming and paddling, fishing and other river activities including kayaking. The banks are heavily used by walkers and runners and there is an important 'Miles without Stiles' accessible route nearby.

It is an invaluable 'blue' space in the heart of our vibrant village that attracts a lot of visitors – both local and national. It is particularly important that the river remains clean and protected given it's SSSI designation for two internationally endangered species – the white clawed crayfish, and the freshwater pearl mussel.

There have been incidents of sewage spills in the village that we are working hard to prevent, in partnership with United Utilities. Whilst the water sampling results suggest that the river water quality is currently satisfactory it is vital that it stays this way in the future.

Achieving Designated Bathing Status would be an important next step in ensuring a regulatory environment for the river that will protect current and future users, and the aquatic environment itself.

There is widespread support across the community for this application.

Mark Kidd  
Parish Council Chairman

Arthur Capstick  
Sewage and Flood Management Task Force lead / Parish Councillor

Ranil Jayawardena  
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
Seacole Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

Dear Secretary of State,

I am writing on behalf of Staveley Village Association, as landowner, in support of the application for Designated Bathing Water Status for the River Kent at Staveley.

Staveley Village Association is a registered charity proud to continuously support and provide our thriving community with social, sporting, cultural, educational, and recreational facilities for all to enjoy. This includes owning and maintaining Staveley Village Hall, Institute, Recreation Ground, Pavilion, Children's Playground and Allotments. These property assets are important to life in our community and are valued at more than £3m.

Staveley has many attributes including the River Kent. We fully support the Clean River Kent Campaign in their aims to enable people to enjoy the range of water-based recreation in and on the river, and equally importantly to protect our scientifically important wildlife as well as human health.

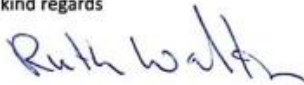
The local campaign group and their volunteer team have worked hard over the summer to build the case for this application, and they provide information to demonstrate how the river is loved and used by local people and by many of the visitors to this area the National Park.

Bathing Water Designation would support the overall aims of our organisation as well as those of the Staveley with Ings Parish Council. As the landowner of the land on the SW and then NW of the downstream stretch of river we write to give our full support. This stretch of water is particularly popular with families and local people as the adjoining land has a sports ground and playground.

We are aware that recent applications for Bathing Water Status for the River Wharfe at Ilkley in 2020 and the River Thames near Oxford in 2021 have both been successful.

We hope that your Department will consider this application favourably and grant Designated Bathing Status to the River Kent in Staveley.

With kind regards



Ruth Walton

Secretary to Staveley Village Association

**TIM FARRON MP**

*Liberal Democrat Member of Parliament for Westmorland & Lonsdale*



**HOUSE OF COMMONS**

**LONDON SW1A 0AA**

To: Ranil Jayawardena, SofS DEFRA

Dear Ranil

I am writing to give my strong support to the application for Designated Bathing Status on the River Kent (Cumbria) in Staveley, in the heart of my constituency.

The River Kent is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest at a national level, and as a special area of conservation at a European level because of the unique ecology including freshwater pearl mussels, white clawed crayfish, and bullhead.

In addition as the application shows the river is much loved by local people and by those who visit this corner of the National Park. This application is strongly supported. It has provided a vital local amenity for those who enjoy water-based leisure pursuits, including walks and picnics on its banks. On warm summer days it is a place for families to relax and spend time together, and some local swimmers can be found all year round. And whatever the weather there is a steady stream of walkers enjoying either the shorter or the longer circular walks along the river banks.

This application follows the successful applications for the River Wharfe at Ilkley in 2020 and the River Thames near Oxford in 2021. I trust that your Department will also grant Designated Bathing Status to this beautiful and ecologically important river.

Best Wishes,

Yours sincerely

**TIM FARRON MP**

*Please reply to Constituency Office*

Acland House, Yard 2, Stricklandgate, Kendal, Cumbria LA9 4ND

Tel: 01539 723403 Email: [tim@timfarron.co.uk](mailto:tim@timfarron.co.uk)

While Tim Farron MP will treat as confidential any personal information that you pass on, he will normally allow staff and authorised volunteers to see it if this is needed to help and advise you. He may pass on all or some of the information to external agencies if this is necessary to help with your case. Tim Farron MP may wish to write to you from time to time to keep you informed on issues which you may find of interest. Please let him know if you do not wish to be contacted for this purpose.

## Cumbria County Council

Public Health • Cumbria House • 107-117 Botchergate • Carlisle  
Cumbria • CA1 1RD •  
E: [colin.cox@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:colin.cox@cumbria.gov.uk)

4 October 2022

The Rt Hon Ranil Jayawardena, MP  
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
Seacole Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

Dear Mr Jayawardena

I am writing in my capacity as Director of Public Health in Cumbria and chair of the Cumbria Nature Partnership to express my support for the application for Designated Bathing Water Status for the River Kent at Staveley, which is being submitted by the Clean River Kent Campaign.

The River Kent is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest at a national level, and as a special area of conservation at a European level because of the unique ecology including freshwater pearl mussels, white clawed crayfish, and bullhead. It is important to ensure we have a clear and unpolluted river in order to protect this unique wildlife, as well as to protect human health.

The campaign group and their volunteer team have worked hard over the summer to build the case for this Bathing Water Status application. In the bid they provide a lot of information to demonstrate how the river is loved and used by local people and by many of the visitors to this area, the National Park. Through their extensive consultation and surveys, they have clearly evidenced a high level of local support for action to be taken to ensure that the river is clean for water-based recreation. The site is ideal for obtaining Bathing Water Status. Granting this status will bring many benefits including improved monitoring and public information regarding the quality and safety of the water.

Recently I have been encouraged to see successful applications for Bathing Water Status for the River Wharfe at Ilkley in 2020 and the River Thames near Oxford in 2021. I hope that your Department will consider this application favourably and grant Designated Bathing Status to the River Kent site in Staveley.

Yours sincerely



Colin Cox  
Director – Public Health





Lake District  
National Park

Isobel Stoddart  
Clean River Kent Campaign

**By email:**  
[istoddart@gmail.com](mailto:istoddart@gmail.com)

25 October 2022

Dear Isobel

**Our Reference:** ExBd/SR/CM  
**Subject:** Application to DEFRA for bathing status for River Kent in Staveley

The Lake District National Park Authority looks after this unique corner of England, encouraging people to enjoy and understand its beauty and helping those who live and work here. The National Park (within the 1951 boundary) was also designated, by UNESCO, as the English Lake District World Heritage Site in July 2017. Our purpose is to inspire a sense of freedom and wellbeing for the nation so people and this spectacular landscape flourish. We are also the managing authority for the English Lake District World Heritage Site (WHS).

Importantly, we do not manage the National Park in isolation, The Lake District National Park Partnership was formed in 2006. Now with 25 members from the public, private, community and voluntary sector organisations. They have developed the Partnership's Plan – The Management Plan for the English Lake District 2020 – 2025.

Your innovative leadership through the Clean River Kent Campaign, taking a community science led evidential approach is inspiring. It is a great example of community action that we want to support, to help you and the campaign to look after and maintain what is special about the National Park.

The Lake District National Park Authority is supportive of your application on the basis of assisting with monitoring and improving water quality in the River Kent, enabling the Lake District National Park Partnership to better understand the health and condition of our rivers more widely in the National Park. It will also support the delivery of actions that may come from that monitoring, aligning with the Partnership Plan's Strategy "Improved water quality and resources in lakes, tarns, rivers, ground waters, and sea." Furthermore, it will support our plans and proposed actions for freshwater nature recovery in the National Park's nature recovery prospectus.

May I wish you every success with your application. If you require any further assistance, please do get in touch with my colleague Tim Duckmanton, Team Leader Strategy and Environment, 0777 627 4450, [tim.duckmanton@lakedistrict.gov.uk](mailto:tim.duckmanton@lakedistrict.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely



**Steve Ratcliffe**  
Director of Sustainable Development  
Direct: 01539 792622  
Email: [Stephen.Ratcliffe@lakedistrict.gov.uk](mailto:Stephen.Ratcliffe@lakedistrict.gov.uk)





## South Cumbria Rivers Trust

The Refinery, The Clock Tower Business Centre, Low Wood, Ulverston, Cumbria, LA12 8LY.  
Tel: 015395 30047 • Email: [admin@scrt.co.uk](mailto:admin@scrt.co.uk) • Web: [www.scrt.co.uk](http://www.scrt.co.uk)

Ranil Jayawardena MP

Secretary of State for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs

70 Whitehall

Westminster

London

SW1A 2AS

Dear Ranil Jayawardena,

### Application to Ranil Jayawardena MP to gain bathing water status on the River Kent

On behalf of South Cumbria Rivers Trust (SCRT), we support the Clean River Kent Campaign application to DEFRA for bathing water status for the River Kent at Staveley. As an organisation which monitors, conserves, and protects the biodiversity of the lakes, rivers and streams of South Cumbria including adjacent waters for public benefit, we value any work to protect and monitor water quality in our rivers.

The EU LIFE R4ever Kent project aims to carry out restoration, revitalise habitats and improve water quality to ensure a more resilient River Kent. As a delivery partner SCRT will work to improve water quality and habitats within the Kent catchment. The R4ever Kent project currently works closely with the Clean the River Kent Campaign, and the actions carried out by the group are directly complementary to the aims and objectives of South Cumbria Rivers Trust. Therefore, we support their application for bathing water designation.

Yours sincerely,

Mike West,

Projects and Technical Manager





**United Utilities Water Limited**  
Haweswater House  
Lingley Mere Business Park  
Lingley Green Avenue  
Great Sankey  
Warrington WA5 3LP

Telephone: 01925 237000

[unitedutilities.com](http://unitedutilities.com)

**By email:**

Clean River Kent Community Group

26<sup>th</sup> September 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

**RE: Inland Bathing Water Application – Staveley Recreation Ground, Staveley**

United Utilities is aware of the plans by the Clean River Kent community group to seek designation of the Staveley recreation ground as a bathing water site.

As part of our Better Rivers: Better North West plan, we have committed to play our part in creating and promoting additional inland bathing waters in the North West. As such, and subject to prospective sites being verified as safe to access and use, we promote and support opportunities for communities to enjoy their local rivers.

Yours Sincerely



Simon Holding

Area Business Manager (Wastewater North)



Ranil Jayawardena MP  
Secretary of State for Environment Food & Rural Affairs  
70 Whitehall  
Westminster  
London  
SW1A 2AS

0300 0119 500

[info@britishcanoeing.org.uk](mailto:info@britishcanoeing.org.uk)

[www.britishcanoeing.org.uk](http://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk)

National Water Sports Centre

Arbolton Lane  
Holme Pierrepont  
Nottingham  
NG12 2LU

14<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Dear Sir

### **Application for Bathing Waters River Kent, Staveley, Cumbria**

British Canoeing is the National Governing Body for paddlesports in the UK, ranging from the recreational participant to the international athlete and the membership body for England and is responsible for developing the sport within England. The purpose of British Canoeing is to inspire people to pursue a passion for paddling for health, enjoyment and friendship, challenge and achievement. We are committed to protecting the places we paddle and enhance the freedom to paddle and promote the interests of all paddlers.

There has never been a more important time to enable people to be active and to connect with nature. There is a growing body of evidence that demonstrates that greater access to green and blue spaces can help tackle some of the biggest challenges we face, from the climate emergency to rising obesity and the mental-health crisis. Covid-19 has brought into even sharper focus the importance of people being active outdoors.

Participation in paddlesports (kayaking, canoeing and stand up paddle boarding) during the Covid-19 pandemic has seen a dramatic increase. British Canoeing membership rose from 38,500 to 91,500, with females and families showing the strongest growth. It is estimated that 5.6million people took part in paddling activities in 2020.<sup>1</sup>

Yet pollution in our rivers and waterways is threatening the health of recreational waterway users as well as harming our precious natural environment. Our health and wellbeing is being put at great risk by the potential transmission of viruses carried in raw untreated sewage that has been discharged into our rivers

British Canoeing support the application for a designation of bathing water at Staveley because the River Kent is paddled, with this particular stretch of the River Kent being popular with more experienced paddlers. The designation will clearly require the Environment Agency to monitor the water quality for harmful bacteria which pose a risk to the health of recreational users and protect the quality of the water. Recreational users of the river will benefit from clear publicly available information about the water quality and pollution sources during the bathing season, along with an annual classification, information which is not currently available.

Yours sincerely

*C Grundy*

Chantelle Grundy

Access and Environment Lead British Canoeing

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<sup>1</sup>Watersports Survey 2020 - the Nursery research and planning (Nov 2020)

Ranil Jayawardena MP  
Secretary of State for Environment,  
Food & Rural Affairs  
70 Whitehall  
Westminster  
London SW1A 2AS

4/10/22

Dear Ranil,

I am writing on behalf of **Lakeland Canoe Club** in support of the application for Designated Bathing Status for a section of the River Kent as it passes through Staveley.

**Lakeland Canoe Club** is a strong and active supporter of this application, attending Clean River Kent Campaign events/meetings, and working collaboratively on volunteer activities including river clean-ups, water quality sampling and attentions raising in the Community.

Lakeland Canoe Club has almost 200 members, many of whom use the River Kent regularly in high water along its length from Kentmere Village through Staveley and Kendal, right down to the sea at Arnside. Across Cumbria there are approximately four thousand registered paddlers drawn from local clubs, many of whom will make a trip to the Kent when other rivers are too low to paddle.

The Upper sections of the Kent are fantastic introductory sections, and are often used for taking relative novices onto moving water for the first time. The lower sections through and below Kendal are a classic Grade 4 run for more seasoned paddlers. The Kent runs into the sea near Arnside, where local sea-kayakers ride the Arnside Bore upstream when conditions allow.

The River Kent in Staveley is well known, not only by locals but nationally, it features in most kayaking guidebooks and receives lots of visitors all year round. Many Canoe and Kayak clubs across the North of England will use the Kent because of the quality of the paddling, and the relatively simple and straightforward access to the water. When the river levels are right, it's common to meet groups of paddlers from as far afield as London

It is an invaluable resource for paddlers and others, in a beautiful part of the country and deserves protection.

There is widespread support across the local canoeing community for this application.

Kind regards,

Phil Clayton

Deputy Chair – Lakeland Canoe Club





11 The Banks,  
Staveley,  
Kendal,  
LA8 9NE

18 September 2022

Ranil Jayawardena MP  
Secretary of State for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs  
Seacole Buildings  
2 Marsham Street  
London SW1P 4DF

Dear Secretary of State

**In support of application for bathing status by the Clean River Kent Campaign**

Gowan Stop & Go is a small group of village residents who have taken on the upkeep of the public toilets in Staveley's village centre, raising ongoing funds to this end. The toilet block, which includes a multi-access toilet space with changing facility, as well as separate facilities for men and women, is in fact integrated with a bus stop. We see the toilet facilities being important for residents, people travelling through with work and also for visitors. With good transport links, places to work and to relax, the village is a vibrant place with significant community projects that look after the community and its environment.

In practice, we see community projects being mutually supportive and very much support the various strands of the community engagement that the Clean River Kent Campaign has already taken.

Yours sincerely,

Kay Colley

(Secretary of Gowan Stop & Go)



**From:** [tomhodgkin@me.com](mailto:tomhodgkin@me.com) <[tomhodgkin@me.com](mailto:tomhodgkin@me.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 26, 2022 7:05:50 AM

**To:** Rosie Law <[rosie\\_law@hotmail.com](mailto:rosie_law@hotmail.com)>

**Subject:** Letter of support

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to express my support for the Clean River Kent Campaign (CRKC) and its application for bathing status for the river Kent. The river Kent is a critical habitat for all manner of aquatic life, which is extremely vulnerable to the effects of pollution, whether it be sheep dip, factory effluent, or sewerage. As secretary of Staveley Angling Society, I fully support the testing and monitoring of the river's waters. It is important that those responsible for discharging into the river are held accountable on a continual basis in order to help keep the river clean for all its users.

Yours faithfully,

Tom Hodgkin

## Appendix 9 – Water quality monitoring results

Our citizen science project was designed to work with Volunteers to assess water quality systematically.




We have tested the water at the corner of Staveley Recreation Ground on 14 occasions between February and September 2023. E coli was not measured on one occasion due to an error in the lab.

The E coli count appears to have been high, and thus the water quality Poor, on two occasions. However, we do not have enough samples to be able to calculate the 90th percentile as defined in the Bathing Water Regulations, 2013.

We have also tested the water at five other locations from Beckmickle Ing Wood to Sedgwick (just south of Kendal) either 8 or 13 times, with E coli measured 7 and 12 times respectively. The E coli count has been high at every site on either one or more occasions. These results are summarised below.

We shall discuss these results with academic partners, and plan to publish our findings and discuss their implications in the near future.

### KEY

Parameter	E coli cfu/100ml
Excellent	
Good/Sufficient	
Poor	

*As defined in the Bathing Water Regulations, 2013*

	Weather	River Flow visual observation	River Level data/m (EA) (Staveley)	Rainfall data (Staveley)(mm) day before	Rainfall data (Staveley) (mm) on the day	Staveley Recreation Ground	Beckmickle Ing Wood	Burneside Millennium Green	Sandy Bottoms	Hawes Bridge	Sedgwick
2 Mar	Raining, stopped	Low	0.425		March total: 75mm, only 55% of the average of 137mm						
15 Mar	Sunny, cloud cover	Low/ Medium	0.408								
18 May	Sunny, breezy	Medium	0.318	4.2	5.0						
25 May	Light clouds	Low/ Medium	0.316	6.4	3.1						
9 Jun	Overcast, drizzle	Low	0.389	0.8	2.6						
30 Jun	Sunny	Low/ Medium	0.386	10.2	0.2						
13 Jul	Sunny	Low	0.305	0	0						
27 Jul	Sunny	Low	0.296	0.1	2.8						
2 Aug	After 24 hrs heavy rain	High	0.609 (min: 0.396, max: 0.746)	45.0	1.4						
10 Aug	Sunny, hot	Low	0.324	0	0						
24 Aug	Sunny, cloudy	Medium	0.3	10.0	0.7						
7 Sep	Fine, part cloud	Low/ Medium	0.311	11.7	4.4						
14 Sep	Dry, part cloud	Low	0.322	0	0						

*Water quality sampling results for the River Kent, including Staveley Recreation Ground*

**Microbiological analysis of River Kent Water at 6 locations between 2 March and 14 September 2022 - E coli Colony Forming Units/100 ml**