

Making sewage discharge 'a thing' in local planning-

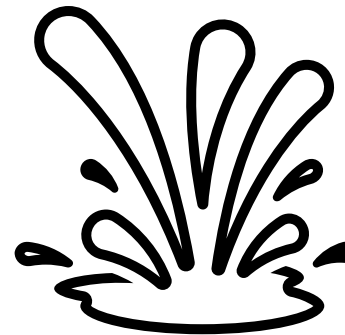
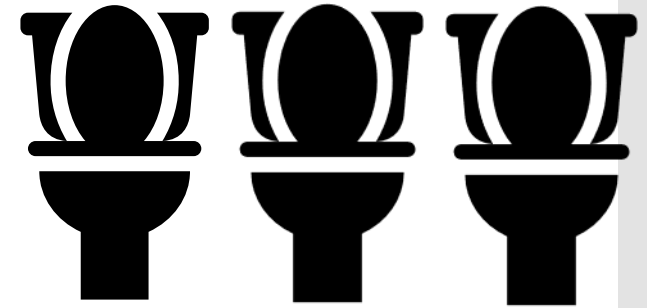
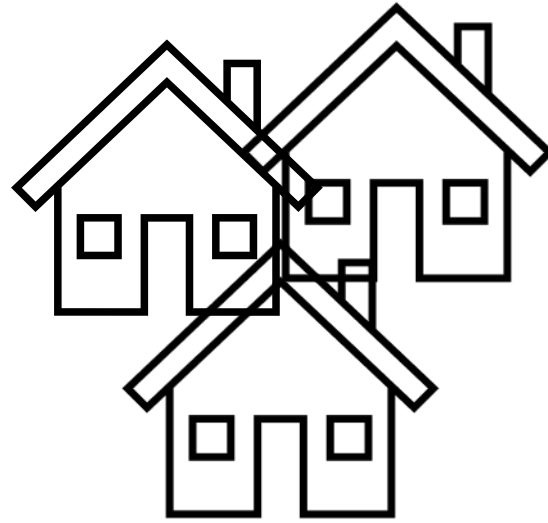
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3 separate but
linked
problems!

1. Shocking state of rivers (less than one in five has 'good' ecological status in England)
2. Overdevelopment – large scale housing in wrong places
3. Illusion of 'local control' in planning- when our hands tied by national rules

Official line = no connection between development and raw sewage discharge into rivers & seas.... BUT clear system overload!



'Duty to connect'

- Clearly Development **has to be** playing a role
- Yet the 'duty to connect' means water companies **REQUIRED** to meet all demand, and planning system therefore **ASSUMES** they will do so
- Basically - local planning authorities have to ignore the problem – despite national policy – and local policy – and reality on ground!

'Duty to connect'

- When water companies respond to planning applications = on 'network' capacity (the pipes) not 'treatment' capacity (the sewage treatment works – which are doing the discharging)
- Local plans probably haven't fully assessed raw sewage discharge in their evidence (and many of us have had our local plans overridden anyway due to housing number issues/ '5 year loophole')

The motion 10 point approach... including

- Asking water companies what affect each major development will have on raw sewage discharge (NB they might not know/ choose to answer)
- Including that information (or lack) in future planning reports = making fully visible = chance for publicising
- Evidence base so next local plan DOES consider this
- 'invite' to Southern Water, Environment Agency & Natural England to attend Scrutiny meeting & commitment to joint working
- Asking Environment Agency to issue a position statement on sewage discharge (similar to those issues re water neutrality – which have halted development elsewhere)



Unanimous Cross-party support + public support



To follow up...

- Press release , Motion and legal advice that informed it on our website [here](#)
- [_Article in Green World here](#)
- Briefing & simplified template motion – (thanks to Association of Green Councillors) - [briefing](#)

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