Making Rivers Better Proposed Actions

Following the Making Rivers Better event, we have pulled together a list of proposed actions outlined below.

If you are able to help deliver any of these actions, please complete the form below and return it via email to tim.youngs@devon.gov.uk. We are also interested in hearing from you would like to challenge or add to any of the proposed actions.

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| **Name:** |
| **Email:** |

Please tick any of the actions you would like to help with:

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| 1. **Continue to support citizen science groups** with obtaining the kit they need for monitoring and help provide training (budget permitting). What do groups need? |  |
| 1. **Engage South West Water** at all levels, in water quality related impacts. |  |
| 1. **Liaise with the Environment Agency (EA) citizen scientist lead and senior staff to further develop the use of citizen science data** in EA monitoring and reporting. Potentially use the East Devon Catchment Partnership (EDCP) area as a pilot for this. |  |
| 1. **Form an EDCP citizen scientists’ discussion group** that feeds back actions needed to the EDCP. Some possible topics could include:    * **Working with the Environment Agency and other organisations to help volunteers set objectives for their monitoring**: What do they want to achieve? Why are they doing it? What do they expect to do with the data they collect? What do volunteers need from organisations, to help them achieve their aims with the monitoring they undertake?    * **Workshop-style events to work through specific questions** – for example: What does my data mean? When is something bad? – **and site-based focus sessions**. This could involve bringing in experts. This could also be a place to decide together how to move forward to tackle issues highlighted by citizen science data.    * **Tackling issues and problems affecting East Devon Catchment Partnership (EDCP) catchments at source and build catchment resilience**, rather than 'sticking plaster' approaches. What does this look like?    * **Creating a citizens science toolkit.** Building on the Making Rivers Better case study to better explain:    * What citizen science water-quality readings mean    * Biological monitoring including beavers    * Nature-based solutions    * Flood risk and invasive species.   We need to be aware of local variation due to geology, soils, land use, etc.  What already exists? |  |
| 1. **Look to fill gaps in CSI and Riverfly monitoring in the EDCP area.** |  |
| 1. **Explore options for nature recovery at all scales** including:    * River (and stream) restoration projects    * Wetland and other habitat creation/restoration    * Restore natural processes at reach, holding, catchment and landscape scale, including rewilding approaches and linked networks of habitats.   Use all of the above to restore functioning ecosystems.  Are there volunteer opportunities in this? |  |
| 1. **Liaise with Environment Agency and local authority flood risk teams** to incorporate flood monitoring into citizen science activity. How do we link to flood wardens? |  |
| 1. **Support Local Catchment Plan activity, piloting innovative and integrated nature-based solution approaches**. Which roles suit volunteers and which are better suited to organisations? Where does the risk/liability lie? |  |
| 1. **Engage and involve the farming community** at all stages, in terms of explaining what citizen science activity is being carried out and why, plus gaining a better understanding their farm businesses. What support tools are needed? Farmer champions? What land-use change is possible/needed (alongside other measures) in order to get the water environment into recovery? |  |
| 1. **Aim to have an annual citizen science Making Rivers Better gathering/ celebration/skill-sharing event** in the East Devon Catchment Partnership area (resources permitting). These would be hosted locally and held at different locations on rotation. |  |
| 1. **Create a match-maker service between keen volunteers and volunteer opportunities.** Create a live list with signposting to the main contacts. |  |

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| If you are able to volunteer to support any of the actions above, please give details of the contribution you hope to make: |
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| Do you have any other observations on the proposed list of actions? Please refer to the full description of each action at [www.blackdownhills.org.uk/makingriversbetter](http://www.blackdownhills.org.uk/makingriversbetter) |
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| Are there any actions that you feel are not included in the list above but are nevertheless important next steps? |
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| Did you attend the Making Rivers Better event at Broadhembury Memorial Hall on 8 September 2022? |
| Yes  No |
| If you did attend, please remember to [complete our event feedback form](https://forms.gle/bqKwy9FwirVLLcGZ9). Thank you. |

Text

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