**Rivers Run Through Us Community Grant Scoring**

The River Axe was described in Victorian times as ‘one of the most beautiful of the sparkling trout streams which contribute to Devonshire’s claims to be the Arcadia of England’. Now, the River Axe Special Area of Conservation is in ‘unfavourable condition’, steadily declining through nutrient enrichment and sediment pollution.

Rivers Run Through Us takes a holistic, collaborative approach to recapturing the natural heritage of the Axe, its tributaries and valleys, through better connections, (between people and heritage, farmers and consumers, rural and townsfolk, soil and water).

Focusing on three themes: River, Soil and People, RRTU aim to support and nurture community action via monitoring river health, restoring soils and habitats, and reaching out to empower everyone to find their own connection with the river and its heritage.

**We hope to support others to help with this mission by offering this Community Grant.**

**Scoring criteria**

A points system will be applied to each application. Points will be allocated to applications that meet the following criteria:

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| **Applicant & accessibility criteria:****All types** of community groups with **a river focus** including **wildlife, education, art & heritage.** Points will be awarded to those which are most accessible in terms of participation and location. | Maximum of 10 points |
| **Environmental criteria:** Jewels of the Axe, Invasive Species Control, River Restoration, Nature Based Solutions, Biodiversity and Monitoring | Maximum of 10 points |
| **Social criteria:** Community engagement, Empowerment, Collaboration, Connection, Wellbeing, Cultural, Understanding & Volunteering | Maximum of 10 points |
| **Economic & Legacy criteria:** Value for money, Ability to deliver in time frame, Legacy (e.g. lasting positive impact, continue for the longer term) | Maximum of 12 points |
| TOTAL (Scores of 20 or more will be considered for funding. (Maximum 42). |

Applications that meet the scoring threshold will be presented to a panel who will further mark, rank and discuss which to take forward.

A consensus will be made, and applicants will then be informed if they have been successful **early September 2025**. Feedback will be provided to applications that do not receive a grant. This is a pilot, and if the whole project is successful there will be more opportunities to bid for support in coming years.

Finally please check you are in the **pilot project area**:

