

Motion submitted by Cllr Roy Briscoe.

This Council notes with deep concern the ongoing environmental damage caused by over-abstraction of water from the river Ems, a rare Chalk stream and recognized special habitat in Chichester. The Ems is of significant ecological and environmental importance and is home to a variety of species and habitats that are vital to the local ecosystem.

Portsmouth Water has been identified as a major contributor to the over-abstraction issue, which is having a detrimental impact on the river Ems and its surrounding ecosystem. It is essential that the Environment Agency, as the responsible regulatory body, takes immediate and decisive action to protect this valuable natural resource and the unique environment it sustains.

I propose that this Council urges the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet member for the Environment to take the following steps:

- 1. Write an official letter to the Head of the Environment Agency, expressing our concerns about the ongoing environmental damage to the river Ems caused by over-abstraction and requesting an explanation for the lack of effective action taken to address this issue.**
- 2. Write a letter to the Minister for Environment, highlighting the significance of the river Ems as a rare Chalk stream and a recognized special habitat, and urging them to intervene and ensure that the Environment Agency fulfils its responsibility to protect this vital resource.**