

## Concerns about the Cunliffe Report

I have a number of concerns about the implementation of the Cunliffe report:

- How many of the **88 recommendations** will be accepted by govt, and when?
- Will they be **properly funded**? The temptation for Government to agree the words and the ideas but scrimp on the funding may be irresistible.
- The changes will **take time** – the period of years before they are in place might cause confusion & delay. New systems to learn.... Time for it all to 'bed in'!
- The history of Government managing huge commercial companies is not good
- Will existing OFWAT, DEFRA and EA staff simply move to newly created (higher paid?) roles, with no change in attitudes / approach/ impact?
- Will the involvement of **citizen groups** increase? Some of the changes required in water use, waste disposal etc. require individual as well as organizational changes in behaviour
- Will it all get **more complex** rather than less? E.g. there are 4 pages of acronyms in the Cunliffe report's glossary, and that's not complete!
- Can we continue and extend the current **improved collaboration** with the various stakeholders in Yorkshire?

Whatever gets agreed and implemented at government and regulator level there will continue to be the need for citizens who love and benefit from our river-focused environment in Yorkshire to take locally meaningful actions to maintain our wonderful natural surroundings.

That may be:

- keeping an eye on your favourite bits of the Nidd and its tributaries, reporting any pollution that you find
- some 'boots on' work on the riverside,
- helping to organize and deliver collaborative projects with universities, the Environment Agency, Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust and Yorkshire Water, or
- ensuring that the importance of rivers to us all is on the agendas of those empowered to act.

There's work to do!

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