

Communities from all over the world are increasingly turning to expressing their concerns about the state of their rivers and associated habitats through the law

Over the years a number of rivers - the Wanganui in New Zealand, the Ganges in India, the Buringa in Bangladesh and the Atrato in Colombia - have been given '**a say**' in their future as part of local laws.

Most recently the Outes Council of a municipality in the province of A Coruna in Galicia, Spain, has approved a 'Declaration of Rights' for the Tins river – which is affected by pollution, the presence of invasive species and urban planning that has 'turned its back' on the river.

Read about it here

Our own local councils are among our many NAG members, active in supporting the Nidd and its tributaries. Preparing a 'Declaration of Rights' 'would be a good step to help us campaign for, and celebrate our river.

NAG is working with University of Leeds academics from *water@leeds* Sustainability Research Institute, and we hope to start a project focused on the views of local citizens about the Nidd and its environment

There are a lot of elections going on currently (for councillors, a Mayor of York and North Yorkshire, and soon our MPs)

Should our lovely river have a vote too?