

Think Big, Act Nidd



Public outrage about the state of our waterways, particularly the vast amounts of sewage dumped into our rivers resulted in the creation of and activity by environmentally-focused local groups, including the Nidd Action Group (NAG)

- This public concern about the health of our rivers has resulted in a huge expansion in YW investment in the Nidd, and recent collaborative NAG projects offer some hope for local water quality improvement [outfallsafari](#)
- Multiple government committee reports have already established in some detail the Water system's deficiencies in legislation, regulation, and in practical action
- An Independent Commission on Water Sector Regulation (Cunliffe Commission) [Independent Water Commission: interim report](#) commenced in October 2024, and is due to report soon
- The focus of this Commission was on improving the system that we have rather than:
 - taking the opportunity for a radical evidence-based strategic review, and
 - fully involving the public whose concerns have led to the need for a commission.

In response to this limited scope [The Sewage Campaign Network](#) which NAG is a member of, established [The People's Commission on the Water Sector](#)

- This work involved public face to face meetings nationally this year – including one in Knaresborough on 'resilient water systems'. [General 2 — The People's Commission on the Water Sector](#)

The People's Commission reviewed wide-ranging evidence from acknowledged experts and case studies and produced a rapid, practical and far-reaching report **published on July 7th 2025**, presented to MPs in Westminster (NAG will be present)

- All the evidence that forms the basis of the report's recommendation is available on the web '*people's commission on the water sector*'
- The report identifies six core issues and makes six clear recommendations, many of which would be more easily implemented through a transition to public ownership of the water system.

David Clayden, NAG Chair, says

"While there is no 'silver bullet' to solve our current crisis in the water sector, I believe that this People's Commission report shows the way to a cleaner, cheaper and fairer water system.

The Cunliffe Commission's failure to address alternative ownership models is shown to limit our ability to define and establish a water system operating in the interests of society **and** the environment.

The recommendations by the People's Commission to establish regional water bodies and catchment- based scrutiny would give Nidd Catchment citizens a bigger say and an even greater involvement in maintaining the health of our river Nidd and its tributaries.

I recommend everyone to read this report's executive summary and the evidence behind the report for a greater understanding of how we can all play our part in improving our beloved river".