

Councillor Barry Anderson  
Scrutiny Board Chair Environment,  
Communities & Housing  
By email

**Councillor Norma Harrington**  
**Councillor Alan Lamb**

2nd Floor East  
Civic Hall  
Leeds LS1 1UR  
Tel: 0113 37 88557  
Fax: 0113 33 67008  
21 November 2019

Dear Cllr Anderson,

As you will be aware a deputation came to the full Council meeting on 13 November 2019 from members of the community in Wetherby. It raised concerns about plastics, raw sewage and wider pollution in the River Wharfe.

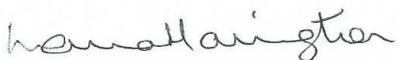
A number of key concerns were raised about the volume of pollution in the river network in Yorkshire but with a particular focus on Wetherby and the River Wharfe which is of course a key feature of Wetherby town and the wider Wetherby Ward.

This is an issue that we have been aware of for some time and have been working with local stakeholders to try to resolve. However, given the deputation and the serious issues it raised we would like further consideration to be given to this through a formal scrutiny inquiry by the Environment, Communities and Housing Scrutiny Board, under which these issues fall.

We would like the inquiry to look in more detail at how plastic pollution can be reduced in the River Wharfe, how relevant agencies such as the Council, Environment Agency and Yorkshire Water can co-ordinate their efforts more effectively, whether the local treatment plant upgrade is operating effectively to deal with sewage, how effective storm collecting tanks are and how the public and businesses can be encouraged to reduce plastic waste getting into the river network.

The Council has been focussing on climate and environmental issues in recent months and this inquiry clearly touches on that agenda. It is vital that we maintain cleanliness in our river network and this deputation offers an opportunity for the Council to lead the way in improving and preserving our rivers for future generations and to make them safe for people now.

Yours sincerely,



**Councillor Norma Harrington**  
**Wetherby Ward**

**Councillor Alan Lamb**