

Colwick Parish Council 'Motion for the Ocean'

This Council declares an urgent need for Ocean Recovery.

The people of Colwick benefit from our ocean through the air we breathe, the food we eat, and the way our ocean regulates the climate. We all impact our ocean not only if we visit the coast, but every day through what we put down the drain, the litter and pollution that flows into our rivers, through our seafood and consumer choices, and with the carbon emissions we produce. The River Trent is a key feature of our area and is our direct link to the ocean.

The burden of taking care of our ocean often falls to communities at the coast; but they are at the end of the line, receiving pollution and problems from inland communities like ours, and are on the frontline of the impacts of climate change. We know that many of our citizens are concerned about the future of our oceans.

Colwick Parish Council recognises that we have an essential role to play in recovering the health of our ocean through increasing awareness of how local actions can affect the ocean and by acting as responsible custodians of the rivers, streams and waterways that run through our area on their way to the sea.

This Council pledges to:

1. Formulate a roadmap within 3 months to develop actions and projects that will contribute to the protection and recovery of the River Trent and its tributaries and the nature and wildlife that they support within Colwick. Report to Full Council within 12 months on the progress of the roadmap. Tributaries are included in subsequent pledges even if not directly stated.
2. Embed protection and recovery of the River Trent in all relevant consultation responses, strategic decisions, plans, budgets, procurement and approaches to decisions by the Council (particularly in planning, regeneration, waste, skills and economic policy), aligning with climate change mitigation and adaptation requirements (such as protection from surface water and river flooding), and prioritising nature-based solutions in our journey towards a carbon neutral and climate resilient future.
3. Ensure that local planning supports ocean recovery by embedding the protection and recovery of the River Trent in the Neighbourhood Plan at the earliest opportunity.
4. Make a representation to Gedling Borough Council and Nottinghamshire County Council to ensure that Climate Change and Biodiversity Plans strive to support ocean recovery through a focus on the protection and recovery of the River Trent, and the implementation of nature-based solutions that will protect Colwick from flooding.

5. Work with partners locally and nationally to deliver improved water quality and increased sustainability, including other Parish Councils, local community groups, clubs, educational institutions, and other organisations that have a recreational, economic, or other interest in its protection and recovery.
6. Grow ocean literacy and marine citizenship in Colwick, including:
 - a. Work to ensure all primary school aged children in Colwick have a first-hand experience of the ocean or River Trent - striving to include home-schooled children;
 - b. Promote sustainable and equitable access to the ocean or River Trent through physical and digital experiences for all residents; and
 - c. Through these actions, embed understanding of the 'source to sea' approach and how all people, wherever they live, have the power to impact and are impacted by ocean and river health.
7. Use the Council website and other communication channels to update on the River Trent recovery progress, and signpost to opportunities and guidance that enable residents to become more ocean literate and to get involved with river and marine citizenship activities.
8. Recognising that wherever we live we share responsibility for good marine management, we will write to the Government asking them to put the ocean into net recovery by 2030 by:
 - a) Ensuring Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities have the resources they need to effectively research and monitor our growing number of marine protected areas, and to set and enforce appropriate fishing levels that support local economies and deliver environmental sustainability.
 - b) Working with coastal, estuarine, and maritime communities to co-develop marine policy to ensure it delivers equitable and sustainable outcomes in local placemaking.
 - c) Appointing a dedicated Minister for the Coast.
 - d) Embedding ocean and civic literacy into the national curriculum.
 - e) Stopping plastic pollution at source by strengthening the regulations around single-use plastics and set standards for microfibre-catching filters to ensure that all new domestic and commercial washing machines are fitted with a filter that captures a high percentage of microfibres produced in the wash cycle and support the solutions needed to address the threat posed by historic coastal landfill sites.
 - f) Improving the water quality of our rivers, estuarine and coastal waters leading to the ocean to benefit nature and the health and wellbeing of all UK residents, including by stopping the regular pollution of our rivers and seas.

- g) And by listening to marine and social scientific advice to update the Marine Policy Statement and produce a national Ocean Recovery Strategy which will:
- i. Enable the recovery of marine ecosystems rather than managing degraded or altered habitats in their reduced state.
 - ii. Consider levelling up, marine conservation, energy, industrial growth, flood and coastal erosion risk management, climate adaptation and fisheries policy holistically rather than as competing interests.
 - iii. Develop a smarter approach to managing the health of the entire ocean that moves beyond Marine Protected Areas and enables links to be made across sectors towards sustainability.
 - iv. Establish improved processes for understanding the benefits of ocean recovery, leaving no doubt the links between this and human lives, livelihoods, and wellbeing.