Making Rivers Better
BROADHEMBURY, EAST DEVON
8th SEPTEMBER 2022
...a fun networking event for citizen scientists...
"we all have rivers, catchments & wildlife in common"
"what does all this DATA ACTUALLY MEAN?"
EAST DEVON CATCHMENT PARTNERSHIP
strategic projects
landscape restoration
wildlife-rich habitats
our VISION
learning from BEST PRACTICE
encouraging long-term COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
engage, educate, empower
value lies in bringing people together
citizen science "improves & enriches all our lives"
"a Solid NETWORK of people who CARE"
river science WALKS & TALKS
IMPORTANT for volunteers to understand how their DATA is used.
Some lessons learned:
the extent of BEAVERS
about RIVERFLY testing
non-native crayfish... loads!
learning from the EXPERTS
feedback on shifting baselines
demos & talks!
monitoring techniques
water quality
wildlife ID
river health
the Environment Agency uses citizen science data to inform its work
the VALUE of CITIZEN SCIENCE DATA
early warning of potential change
better local knowledge
agile approach to gathering EVIDENCE
valid alongside scientific data
can drive behaviour change
helps to TARGET solutions
invaluable
CAPACITY
FUNDING
increase & sustain
how to create trusted, shared resources?
CHALLENGES...
Citizen Science investigations: EMPOWER people to CHANGE behaviour
we test for
PHOSPHATES
AMMONIA
SUSPENDED SOLIDS
CITIZEN SCIENCE MONITORING - what it tells us...
'riverfly'
a GREAT indicator of river health
"the Kit Brook is a special place"
NO ONE is going to make RIVERS better unless we do this ourselves!
citizen science to CITIZEN ACTION!
a community group's journey
B-
ACTION PLAN
co-created by the PEOPLE of the PLACE
involve the people, the politicians, the little ones... build relationships
EA's MONITORING
national-scale decisions
national programmes with local liaison
locally defined
doing the RIGHT thing
need to make enough money to pay for environmental schemes...
FARMING in SENSITIVE water catchments
invest
better grass
PROFIT
managing our soils is key
important for all of us to work together
all EA test sites visible on map
all data is open data: accessible to all
"citizen science in conjunction with other data is an excellent early warning system"
ENVIRONMENT AGENCY monitoring
CASE STUDY: how to tackle himalayan balsam?
get proper ADVICE
survey & write a PLAN
can we get ACCESS to it?
educate & engage locally
learn from others' success
CASE STUDY: what to do with a fallen tree in river?
conflicting views...
use as NATURAL FLOOD DEFENCE
misunderstanding about
vs. CLEARING the river "to support the flow"
how to INCREASE our IMPACT?
fill GAPS on MAPS - approach existing groups?
approach SCHOOLS near water courses
establish new groups where there is motivation over current issues [flooding, beavers etc.]
we'd WELCOME new volunteers!
show, explain, be FACTUAL
engage & EMPOWER
LISTEN!
signpost them direct
tell the TRUTH
well-trained self
6 Recommendations engaging with the Public about river monitoring
East Devon Catchment Partnership
www.blackdownhills.org.uk/makingriversbetter