

Taw and Torridge River Champions:

A website has been established. <https://www.taw-and-torridge-river-champions.org/public/landing.php> Emily Clark is group Secretary. Westcountry Rivers Trust provided training on the 4th October, this being the first of many. It was a fascinating presentation and many joined as new members. The aim is to make monitoring a social activity to encourage greater participation, particularly to encourage families' and community engagement. Katy Lee represents the Biosphere as an active member of the group. Andy Bell from the Biosphere is supporting the project. This project is seen as a leading example which should encourage other groups to set up river monitoring groups.

On the 4th October the group signed up to Westcountry River Trust's Citizen Science scheme and were assigned two testing locations. The plan is to meet as a group once a month and test both those sites, we are hoping the first meeting will be on 1st November, this however is subject to insurance being sourced. It was also thought it would be nice to go to a café afterwards.

The group are looking at joining CAG and sourcing funding to pay for insurance.

A constitution is being written and a bank account needs to be opened. The intention of TTRC was to have a champion in each parish so this aligns perfectly with the Biosphere water quality project.

Nominally one kit is allocated per mail address, however WRT recognise that groups may require more than one and so TWO have been provided. One hi vis is included with each kit.

The group are keen to fund more kits and the suggested donation per kit is £35. Because WRT is a not for profit they can only *ask* for donations, there is no obligation to buy the CSI testing kits but of course the more donations they receive the longer they can continue to rollout the scheme.

Katy Lee is doing some research on the options re legal framework for setting up a community group. Considering the ambitions of TTRC the group is keen to make sure certain things are set in place to put you them a good position to apply for small grants and to be taken seriously when approaching parish and district councils. It doesn't have to be complex, an unincorporated Association for example just has a constitution and bank account in the association's name.