

The Seat on the Board for the River

During the development of the new governance arrangements for the Nutrient Management Board it was agreed by all parties that we would have a seat on the board for the river.

This is a pioneering effort to translate into reality the concept behind rights for nature.

The board welcomed the input of Paul Powesland and Lawyers for Nature who were willing to assist in developing the idea and a working group met with Paul to discuss it further. The working group comprises: Cllr Charlton, Cllr Maby, Cllr Swinglehurst, Andrew McRobb and Sarah James.

At that meeting we agreed to draft a set of criteria to best describe the person we are looking to recruit. Once the criteria are agreed with the board the next step will be to advertise through social media. The initial selection may remain with the working group with a final selection being made by the board. We are seeking agreement on this process and on the proposed criteria.

1. Someone who cares about the river
2. Someone who understands the science
3. Someone who knows what has already been done and has a strong, balanced sense about what needs to be done
4. Someone who will not politicise
5. Someone who is a skilled advocate
6. Someone who has knowledge of existing legislative frameworks
7. Someone who can work constructively with others

It is not proposed that there is any remuneration for this person although reasonable expenses might be considered.

Proposed timescale

Agree the criteria with the board. October 2024

Advertise the position. November 2024

Consider candidates. December 2024

Shortlist by the next board meeting

Elect candidate at the next board meeting or soon after.

This is an innovative development and, as such, there is every expectation that we will have to navigate our way through carefully. All suggestions for candidates are welcome and need to be relayed to the Chair at the earliest opportunity.

Councillor Elissa Swinglehurst
Chair of the Wye Catchment Nutrient Management Board