

# The River Crouch Conservation Trust

## May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2011 Clean up report.

15 members turned up. I detailed 3 members to do a survey from the London Road to the park checking and reporting on problems throughout the Wickford town stretch. The worst blockage was under the by pass road bridge, just east of the Texaco garage.



The river is littered with Iceland and Somerfield shopping trolleys in three piles and when washed together by heavy rain will form a metal beaver dam which collects all forms of other rubbish and quickly blocks the river system. I have said before Wickford could easily be another Cockermouth waiting to happen.

We have also found another sewage leak into the river, one ladies dog nearly died and more have been sick. At least we have located it, let's hope it gets fixed soon. There were also cuttings mainly willow dumped in the river which we cleared most of.

The trailer was only two thirds full at the end of the day, which was good news as it means we are slowly winning with our efforts.

Anglia Water has pledged £10,000 for habitat improvements and £500 to restock the river with fish even though 1500 were killed. Unfortunately dead fish are the only really quick indicator of pollution. My office at Battlesbridge is a really good observation point. We also took proper independent water samples.

Next work party Nov 20th 2011 9am in the memorial Park.

Thanking everyone for turning up. One member fell in and the medical box was opened twice, it's a real pleasure working with a small group of people who all have totally the same aims. The passion is to preserve the river and the wildlife, habitat and to restore the crouch to a pure clean river, free from pollution, with a vibrant fish life.

The press were in attendance and took many photo's, even Basildon Council, offered to provide us with mobile toilets.

The more of nature we destroy and pollute, the sooner we shall destroy what makes our lives worth living.

**Next work Party 20<sup>th</sup> November 9am, usual place, 200 yards east of the Memorial park gates.**

Yours very sincerely

*Ray*