

The River Char Community Group is a founder member of CROWD (Clean Rivers of West Dorset). CROWD members Dana Assinder, Paul Ramsden and Andrew Carey were invited by Chris Loder to join the Minister for half an hour on the river bridge by Charmouth beach. There we explained to the Minister the CROWD campaign to get the Environment Agency (EA) to restart water quality monitoring in Charmouth and Seatown.

We described how the lagoons at Charmouth and Seatown are used throughout the summer by children and families for boating, paddling, swimming and playing. **But both are currently unsafe for humans**, even though they are only a few metres from the beach, where the seawater quality is rated 'Excellent'.

Until the EA stopped testing the lagoon at Charmouth in 2019, ***E Coli*** levels were regularly more than 3 times the acceptable upper limit. **Intestinal Enterococci** levels at the River Char lagoon were more than 8 times the acceptable upper limit.

Levels at Seatown were more than 10 times the acceptable upper limit.

Intestinal Enterococci and some strains of *E coli* can cause urinary tract infections, meningitis, endocarditis, gastroenteritis, diverticulitis, bacterial peritonitis, colitis and Crohn's disease.

Full details of the visit and CROWD campaign are on the [CROWD website](#).