



Media Release from Richard Benyon

Member of Parliament for Newbury

A: 6 Cheap Street, Newbury, RG14 5DD | T: 01635 551070

 @RichardBenyonMP |  /Richard Benyon

E: richard.benyon.mp@parliament.uk

25 NOVEMBER 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RICHARD BENYON MP WELCOMES BOOST FOR RIVER KENNET

The Member of Parliament for Newbury, Richard Benyon, has today welcomed the news that abstractions are to be reduced from the River Kennet, following an announcement that Thames Water is due to install a £25 million drinking water pipeline.

Since the early 1990s, Thames Water have abstracted water from a borehole in Wiltshire, to supply both homes and businesses in Swindon and the wider Kennet valley. Whilst the water used locally is returned to the Kennet, following treatment at sewage works, the water going to Swindon is never fed back to the Kennet.

However, this new pipeline will significantly reduce the amount of water currently being taken from the River Kennet.

Richard said: "I have been working on this issue both as a constituency MP and also in my previous role as the Environment Minister and this is good news. Credit must go to Action for the River Kennet (ARK) and other campaigners, including the Angling Trust, who have tirelessly campaigned to get abstractions reduced."

He continued: "As a result, the future is brighter for one of Europe's most precious rivers and fragile ecosystems".

ENDS