

June 2023

Dear resident,

## **Stakeholder Engagement Event for Affinity Water River Restoration Project - River Misbourne at Barn Meadow and Pondwicks Meadow.**

I would like to invite you to a stakeholder engagement session in Barn Meadow Pavilion on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July 14:00 – 19:00. This session will be split into 15-minute time slots, which you can book onto below. If you have any problems with booking, please email [river.restoration@affinitywater.co.uk](mailto:river.restoration@affinitywater.co.uk). <https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/BarnMeadowsStakeholderEngagementEvent@affinitywaterltd.onmicrosoft.com/bookings/>

The session is open to **all**; it is a great opportunity to ask any questions you may have and for us to get your input in our detailed designs before starting construction. However, if you cannot attend the event, or you do not wish to attend, enclosed in this letter is a leaflet about the works.

You can also visit our website for more information and updates on the project timeline: <https://www.affinitywater.co.uk/corporate/environment/restoration/river-misbourne-restoration>

As you may know, we completed the tree works at Barn Meadow in February this year. We also had the river restoration works at both Barn Meadow and Pondwicks Meadow planned for March 2023, however, due to permitting delays, this has been pushed back to Summer 2023.

### **The importance of chalk streams**

The majority of the world's globally rare chalk streams are located in the Southeast of England and, because of their heritage should be viewed as an English Great Barrier Reef or rainforest. Many chalk streams, including the River Misbourne, run through our supply area. Along with providing high quality drinking water, enhancing the environment is at the heart of what we do. To achieve this, we have reduced groundwater abstraction in the Misbourne catchment by 13 million litres per day since 1998. Moreover, we have been working closely with the Environment Agency and other partners to restore these globally rare chalk streams; on the River Misbourne Affinity Water has delivered restoration works between Amersham Bypass and Quarrendon Mill – improving 1.14km of river. The aim of these restoration works is to re-naturalise these rare habitats; re-introducing the unique characteristics that have been lost, such as gentle meanders, clear gravel beds, pools and riffles. Without these characteristics, it is difficult for the species known to inhabit healthy chalk streams to thrive.

Yours faithfully,

Chloe Bench  
Assistant Project Manager – River Restoration  
Asset Strategy and Capital Delivery