



Cleaning Up The Wharfe at Ilkley.

Eight years of campaigning



2019

Citizen Science and Apply for Bathing Status

Water Testing showed shocking pollution. We took our data to James Bevan CEO of the Environment Agency - he promised quick action **but nothing happened**. Our 2nd Town Meeting to hold authorities to account

2021

Lobby for Faster response

Ofwat visits and the Accelerator Programme follows meaning we can get our river cleaned up more quickly.

We provide evidence to Parliament's Environment Audit Committee.

Jack and Patrick walk from Ilkley to London to raise money for our campaign. We have our 4th Town Meeting.

2023

Super Sewer at Ilkley. National Campaign Group Established

The new Ilkley Super Sewer is constructed.

Ilkley sets up the Sewage Campaign Network supporting hundreds of campaigners nationwide. We hold our 5th Town Meeting.

2025

People's Commission on Water

The government Independent Commission only investigated Regulation. With local philanthropic funding ICRG sets up The People's Commission on the Water Sector and reports to government in July. It finds that water is cleaner, cheaper and fairer in public ownership. Water testing with York University shows massive pollution of our rivers and lakes from chemicals.

2018

Reporting Pollution

...but nothing happened. Massive media campaign and our 1st Town Meeting to hold agencies to account

2020

Awarded Bathing Status

Graded Poor from sewage pollution. Whole Wharfe testing iWharfe shows extent of sewage pollution. Our 3rd Town Meeting to hold authorities to account.

2022

National Spread

Whilst YW starts minor upgrades, we support river campaigners nationally to apply for Bathing Status.

By now we are having regular national media coverage from Countryfile to Channel 4 news.

2024

Public Outrage

Water is an election issue. Rally in Ilkley with Feargal Sharkey a figurehead for the national campaign, to Stop Pollution for Profit. National Campaign Group Conference in Ilkley.

2026

Massive clean up at Ilkley

Four new storage tanks, new nature based solutions. Now no sewage (treated or untreated) is going into the river between Addingham and Beanlands Island New campaign groups start up at Burley, Otley and Bradford. Dirty Business is screened and reignites public outrage. >100 MPs come to our Drop In for Public Ownership in March.