

Byelaws – Update Statement for the Somerset Rivers Authority Board

The question was raised at the SRA Board regarding local authorities putting byelaws in place on ordinary watercourses in line with what the Environment Agency and the Internal Drainage Board have already put in place.

Officers have sought legal opinion and a draft business case was prepared for consideration by the Management Group and the Flood Risk Advisory Group on 12th June 2015. It is possible for byelaws to be produced and for each of Somerset's Councils to adopt them, however it is important that the implications of putting byelaws in place are fully considered by each authority prior to doing so. Simply putting byelaws in place is not the end of the story; there is a legitimate expectation that the authorities (either individually or by delegating to one Council) will then put a system in place for consenting any works and enforcement.

Work is ongoing to explore all implications of putting byelaws in place and the Board will be presented with a further report in due course.