

## **Sedgemoor District Council, Community Scrutiny Committee**

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December**

### **Agenda Item 6 – Bathing Waters**

#### **Julie Girling MEP:**

“I am sorry I cannot be with you today. As some of you may know, I recently met with representatives of Wessex Water and the Environment Agency to discuss current issues regarding water quality concerns at Burnham on Sea following a visit to the town in July. I asked for the meeting in order to discuss the European Bathing Water Directive and other related matters and sought to ascertain what progress Wessex Water and the Environment Agency were making to improve the Water Quality at Burnham in light of standards for water quality being increased by the European Parliament.

I met with Wessex Water and the Environment Agency again in October to find out what they are doing to ensure that the Burnham community will have access to a clean beach and bathing water. Not just for their enjoyment but also for the visitors who are so vital to the economy. Wessex Water explained their comprehensive investment programme and the work they are doing to ensure combined sewer overflows and treatment works which lead into the Burnham jetty area are properly managed to prevent an inappropriate bacterial load being released into the area. Wessex Water is also working with the local community to ensure illegal connections are prevented where possible and agricultural run-off is kept to a minimum. The simple fact remains that, because of the water industry's investment cycle, these steps are coming about a year too late, but this is what we have to work with and I'm happy that they have endeavoured to speed the process up as far as they are able to.

I will continue to work closely with Wessex Water and the Environment Agency on this matter to ensure Burnham receives the priority it deserves”.