



Microplastics Measurements Brief

Reason

The Council had resolved to install an artificial pitch at its sports and recreation ground on Layham Road in Hadleigh, Suffolk in partnership with the Football Foundation. It also resolved that the infill of this pitch should not be rubber crumb but an organic option instead. Due to the Football Foundation's approved contractors not specialising in alternative solutions and the Football Foundation current trials with other solutions, the pitch installation is in abeyance.

Should the project be restarted in the future, it is possible the council may be asked whether or not it wants to go ahead with rubber crumb anyway, eg. for reasons of cost or if organic infill does not pass the Football Foundation's 'tests'. This would not be the recommendation of the Town Council's Projects & Finance Officer who is an IEMA Associate member but Councillors must make the decisions. If a further decision is needed, it would be good to have a measurement of the level of microplastic pollution in the River Brett before the pitch is in place, so it projection analysis can be submitted to council for consideration and so that if there were ever any rubber crumb on that site, it could then be compared to the level later.

We obviously all know that 100% of rivers in the UK are polluted and as we are in a rural area, it would nonetheless be an interesting snapshot for the town to receive.

Aim

The aim is to get a baseline measurement of microplastic pollution before upstream and downstream from the sports ground location.

Budget

This is completely unknown territory for the Council so there is currently no expectation or budget cap for costs. The Full Council has to confirm the approval for all costs to the council of over £1,000. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month. When submitting your cost estimate, please note that the council is able to recover VAT.

Timescale

Undefined by client. Not urgent. Would like to take your lead on when the best time to do the work would be and how long it would take.

Location

Three points upstream, middle and downstream in the River Brett flowing past Layham Road Sports Ground. Suggestions are mapped overleaf for consideration, but open for alternative recommendations.

Questions

- Can you teach the Projects & Finance Officer how to conduct measuring of microplastics in rivers as part of the scope of this work? If so, please detail that cost as a separate line.
- Do you have any baseline measures for the UK in general to compare our results with if we go ahead with getting measurements?
- How long does each location take to measure each individual location?
- Would the baseline be best to be done in each season or just one as a snapshot in time?
- Presumably it's best practice to do these surveys on land that one owns themselves and one should ask for permission if not?



Hadleigh Town Council

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Layham Road Sports Ground Site Plan (outlined in blue):



River location suggestions:

