To your local MP…Bim Afolami, Anne Main or Sir Mike Penning

I love the River Ver as / because (please personalise your letter/email by writing a little about why you value and enjoy the river)………………………………………………………………………………..

However, the current system of water abstraction management left our unique and precious River Ver in a disgracefully sad state this summer with its precious ecology badly damaged. Long stretches of the Ver dried up and the lack of action has highlighted the inadequacy of the Environment Agency and the current system. It is not working and fails to give the environment sufficient protection.

This urgent matter needs your help in persuading the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs that the protection of our chalk streams and environment needs immediate change, especially with the demand for water set to increase dramatically in the near future.

Three things would make a significant difference.

* The Environment Agency taking a stricter stance with water companies to protect chalk streams and the environment - in our case with Affinity Water to better protect the River Ver.
* Substantial investment in a sustained government campaign to promote consumer water saving and reduced personal water use. Ad hoc social media campaigns like #LoveWater and relying on efficiency labelling of washing machines are lightweight and not nearly compelling enough.
* Rapid acceleration of major infrastructure projects, such as reservoirs, to allow less reliance on groundwater abstraction - and a share of the volume to be committed to abstraction reductions. The current projection of 2038 for the South East Strategic Reservoir to come on stream is years too late.

Enough is enough and I would like your assistance in helping save our much loved river, allowing it to become alive and flowing freely once again.