



## MY TAMAR – PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT WORK IN MILLBROOK

The village of Millbrook is surrounded by beautiful countryside and boasts a fantastic array of green space within the village itself. The community in Millbrook are very keen to take actions that will protect and enhance the natural and cultural assets they have in the surrounding landscape.

### Flooding in Millbrook

Millbrook has a long history of being flooded and the location of the village, being so close to the Tamar Estuary, has always made it vulnerable to tidal surges. Following repeated severe flooding in the 1970s - when Millbrook flooded as often as four or five times a year – a tidal barrage was constructed across the estuary, significantly reducing flood risk. Subsequently, there had been no flooding in Millbrook since 1981.

Unfortunately, in 2012, Millbrook was affected by two rainfall-related flood events in November and December of that year due to too much water and infrastructure failure – including a blockage in the main drain culvert under the village and the unprecedented volume and flow-rate of water running off from the land surface of the catchment into the heart of the village.

In the aftermath of the flooding, the Environment Agency carried out extensive research into why Millbrook flooded and, as a result, the infrastructure within the village has been significantly upgraded

### Public Engagement

In 2016, Westcountry Rivers Trust (WRT) were engaged by the local community in Millbrook to help them identify and take-up the opportunities available to them and to ensure that the environmental issues experienced in the village do not begin to overshadow the many wonderful things about living in Millbrook.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> September, WRT held a Community Drop-In Session & Workshop in Millbrook's Scout Hall, during which the local community discussed the environmental challenges they are facing and how they could manage them in the future. The day culminated with a presentation and workshop in the evening, with over 60 people attending throughout the course of the day. WRT were overwhelmed by the commitment and community spirit shown by the Millbrook residents, their engagement with the local environment and eagerness to continue to build on the wealth of natural resources on their doorstep. Work is ongoing to identify and fund deliverable projects from this public engagement process. A fuller report written by WRT is [available to download](#).