

Scarborough and Whitby Area Committee

Bathing Water Quality

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Why does bathing water quality matter?

- Central to the town's economy, tourism and identity
- Preserving Scarborough reputation as a great seaside resort
- This is frustrating for all of us who care about the town, public health and the environment
- Improving bathing water is about understanding and managing overlapping sources.
- The issues affecting bathing water quality are complex and Scarborough South Bay has struggled to meet the required standard – meaning there is currently advice against bathing in the South Bay, the North Bay quality has deteriorated.
- We need scientific expertise, long term monitoring and long-term cooperation between public bodies, businesses and communities to resolve the problems.

Causes of poor bathing water quality

Complex combination of human and natural factors such as:

Sewage overflows

Animal waste (birds and dogs)

Wildlife (gulls) and pet waste

Misconnected drains

Agricultural runoff – manure and slurry

Urban runoff – roads, roofs, pavements

Because no single factor is the cause no one organisation can solve the issues alone.

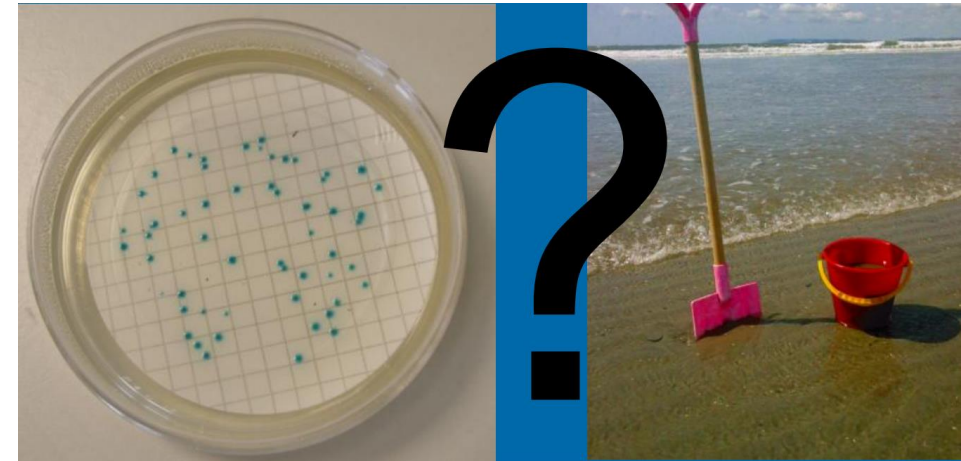
Collaborative working

NYC continues to work collaboratively with YW and the EA to understand the root of water quality problems as members of the Yorkshire Bathing Water Partnership covering our NY bathing beaches.

The Scarborough Bathing Water Summits convened by NYC brought together key stakeholders

- Bathing water sampling
- Setting water quality standards
- Regulating sewage discharges or issue permits
- Classifying bathing waters

These powers sit nationally with the Environment Agency and Defra



NYC has a Statutory Duty to provide public Information and signage

- NYC must display official bathing water signs at each designated site showing :
- Current bathing water classification (Excellent/Good/ Sufficient/Poor)
- Short term pollution warnings
- Advice against bathing when risks are present
- Keep this information up to date during the bathing water season (15 May-30 Sept)
- Defra advises local authorities on what information must be displayed



Supporting pollution prevention and investigations

- Beach cleaning and litter removal
- Dog control orders
- Waste bins and toilet facilities
- Managing wildlife pressures
- NYC cooperates and is a member of the Yorkshire Bathing Water Partnership to assist with partner actions
- Help identify local sources of pollution such as misconnections, surface runoff, small outfalls
- Uses planning powers to prevent developments worsening pollution
- Further investigations: Durham university, Environment Agency, Yorkshire Water

