

14 November 2017

Yorkshire Bathing Water Partnership statement re: Scarborough South Bay

As part of ongoing efforts to address poor water quality at Scarborough South Bay, a cutting-edge DNA profiling study on water samples was commissioned by the Environment Agency in 2016 to help identify the different sources of pollution.

Data from the study shows that bacterial pollution in South Bay is from a mixture of sources, including humans, seabirds and dogs. Bacteria from industrial effluent may have an occasional impact on water quality, but not a continuous one.

The data suggests that no single factor is responsible for lowering the bathing water quality and that a number of different factors must be tackled to improve water quality.

The Yorkshire Bathing Water Partnership remains fully committed to ensuring that the bathing water quality at Scarborough South Bay improves significantly in the future.

The organisations within the partnership are now using the data in the report as a basis for an action plan aimed at driving forward improvements and achieving real differences across Scarborough for the benefit of the local community and the many thousands of people that visit every year.

Actions already identified include a multi-agency initiative between The Environment Agency, Yorkshire Water and Scarborough Borough Council to work with harbour staff and users to improve facilities for waste disposal at Scarborough harbour, to link in with existing council initiatives aimed at reducing the impact of scavenging seabirds and to reinforce beach dog bans with partner organisations and the public.

Residents and visitors are also urged to help maintain and improve bathing water quality by following some simple steps such as disposing of litter properly, picking up after their dogs and not feeding seabirds. Businesses and households can also ensure they don't contribute to pollution on beaches by not pouring fats down drains and not flushing wet wipes.

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Notes

The Yorkshire Bathing Water Partnership comprises East Riding of Yorkshire Council, North Yorkshire County Council, Scarborough Borough Council, Yorkshire Water, Environment Agency and Welcome to Yorkshire.