



NORTH TYNESIDE  
COMMUNITY  
INDEPENDENTS

+44 7811 362460

hello@ntcommunityindependents.org

Coble Dene, North Shields, NE29 6DE

To:

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## Chronicle Live

jnl.letters@njcmedia.co.uk

### Don't go in the water

An article in the Daily Mirror (19th Aug) urges swimmers to avoid 19 beaches in England amid serious health concerns. Top of their list is Tynemouth Cullercoats beach. It says that taking a dip in these waters could result in diarrhoea, sickness or other symptoms. Advice to protect against these symptoms includes wearing wetsuits and washing afterwards. In May I joined the paddle-out protest on Tynemouth Long Sands to take a stand against sewage pollution. We want this to be the year for change.

A question on the state of Cullercoats beach and improving water quality was posed by a resident, Ms Pearson, at the Council meeting in July. The Cabinet member for Community Engagement, Hannah Johnson, explained that the Council were working alongside Northumbria Water and the Environment Agency to locate the primary cause of the polluted water.

However, this investigation into the water quality has been ongoing since 2017. An initial investigation concluded, in 2012, that the local sewage system was performing as designed with a discharge in-storm intensity for a 1 in 5-year period. A new drainage pipe was installed to take contaminated water from a disused culvert to the sewage network.

However, after all this time, Cullercoats still remains a cause for concern. Pressure from organisations, such as Surfers against Sewage, and public pressure have resulted in the water companies publishing real-time data of all sewage release from combined sewage overflows. As we all know, the water companies have still been pumping sewage into our waterways under the guise of storm overflows. Fergal Sharkey recently slammed water companies insisting it was "greed, profiteering, financial engineering and regularity incompetence not storms that created the pollution" after it was found raw sewage was pumped into Lake Windermere for 8 consecutive days recently.



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ADDRESS



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If we are to keep our beaches and waterways clean and safe for everyone, we need to have standardised controls. The only way to do that is to take these water companies back into public control and make sure people come before profit.

**Sincerely,**

**Cathy Davis**

North Tyneside Community Independent



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