

I understand that the bathing water classifications for 2024 may be released by DEFRA on **Tuesday 26th November**, a week earlier than expected.

This will obviously include **the Lido at Knaresborough**, on the river Nidd.

There has been lots of water quality sampling at the Lido since its designation as a Bathing Water in March 2024,

- by Nidd Action Group (NAG), with the University of York / Surfers against Sewage in July. E.coli (including eDNA analysis to distinguish human from animal sewage in the pollution), nutrients and pharmaceutical results are still awaited.
- by The Environment Agency who sampled weekly during 'the bathing season'. It is these results that will be used to determine the official classification of the state of the river water for safe bathing about to be announced.

It is anticipated that the official status will be **'POOR'**, resulting in the erection of signs by North Yorkshire Council at The Lido, warning of the dangers to health of bathing.

Classification of The Lido isn't the end of the story -it has to be the beginning!

Any action **to improve the quality of the water** over the next few years will rely on work by:

- Yorkshire Water(YW) in their proposed business plan for 2025-2030. This is currently awaiting a 'final settlement' decision by OFWAT, who tries to balance improved water quality against the cost to be paid by citizens. This OFWAT decision may be challenged in the law courts by YW, potentially delaying investigative and remedial action
- The Environment Agency on all sources of pollution, including private septic tanks, agricultural, urban and surface water runoff into the Nidd, and

- Individual citizens and environmentally aware organisations like NAG, Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust and North Yorkshire Council

NAG is working hard for the Nidd. Please keep the pressure up for a cleaner Nidd - fit for life!

David Clayden

NAG Chair