

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Identification of Bathing Waters for 2022 season

Under European and Irish law, Irish Local Authorities must identify bathing waters each year so that these areas can be monitored to ensure they meet stringent microbiological water quality standards. In some cases, the official bathing areas are also the areas where local authorities focus their resources providing lifeguards during the summer season. Fingal County Council facilitated an exercise in public participation on the identification of bathing waters for 2022 between 19th May and 17th June 2021. The public consultation was publicised via a Public Notice on the Fingal County Council Website and information was circulated via Council meetings and social media.

Eighty-four submissions were received from individuals and groups in relation to this consultation. Approximately 60% of all submissions received were requests for infrastructural improvements or installations at currently designated beaches such as changing facilities, improved toilet facilities, playgrounds, tennis courts, diving platform and an outdoor swimming pool. There were also requests for year-round water sampling of beaches in the greater Dublin area, year-round Lifeguarding of beaches, the removal of seaweed, security at car parks and managing the UV treatment facility at Ringsend.

The locations recommended for identification as Bathing Waters were:

- Barnageeragh beach, Skerries
- Tower Bay Beach, Portrane
- Rush Harbour Beach, Rush
- Low Rock, Malahide
- The Captains, Skerries
- The Springers, Skerries

The Council reviewed each proposed site against the criteria set out in the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 2016 publication 'A framework to assist Local Authorities in the assessment of submissions for the identification

of new bathing waters'. No new bathing areas were identified as a result of the public participation campaign. All individuals and groups who had made a submission will be notified of the decision; as will the Environmental Protection Agency.