Fingal County Council

Thursday 17 May, 2018

PRESS RELEASE

Submissions sought for Identification of Bathing Waters

Fingal County Council are asking residents who swim at beaches, lakes and rivers to help identify bathing areas that are commonly used for swimming but are not officially categorised as designated bathing waters so that they can be monitored for safety, water quality and level of use.

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. These laws also require that the local authority prepares detailed descriptions or profiles for each of the identified bathing water sites that describe not just the bathing area but also areas in the surface waters catchment area that could be a source of pollution. The profiles include an
assessment the risk of pollution and what action would be taken if pollution occurs.

If you are a regular swimmer and want to help your Council decide which bathing areas should be classified as such, it might be helpful to consider the following:

- How your swimming area has been used up to now
- How many people use the site
- What facilities exist at the site and how accessible it is
- Any safety issues

To make a submission, please go to https://consult.fingal.ie/

If you wish to propose your favourite beach/river etc as a new bathing water site or comment on an existing site please make your submission by Friday, June 22.

ENDS

Note to editors: Local authorities are required under the Bathing Waters Directive and the Bathing Water Quality Regulations 2008 (SI No 79 of 2008) to identify bathing waters on an annual basis. The Directive requires that water quality at all designated bathing waters meets stringent microbiological standards in order to protect the health of people who choose to bathe there.