



# River Nidd bathing water application

OCTOBER 2023



**Contents**

Foreword from Andrew Jones MP ..... 2

Criteria met..... 3

People and organisations we consulted:..... 3

Our details ..... 4

Where people bathe ..... 5

Location map ..... 6

History of the River Nidd..... 7

The River Nidd today ..... 8

Number of bathers ..... 9

Photographic evidence ..... 10

Photographic evidence ..... 11

Historic use of the site ..... 12

Site details ..... 13

    Shops, cafés and toilets ..... 14

    More shops and cafés..... 15

    Other facilities at the site..... 15

    Facilities at the bathing area..... 16

Consulting local people, organisations and businesses ..... 17

    Questionnaire..... 18

    Conclusion from questionnaire..... 21

    Community outreach event ..... 22

    Community action day..... 22

    Media coverage ..... 23

Letters of support ..... 24

Summary ..... 66



## Andrew Jones MP



### Foreword from Andrew Jones, Member of Parliament for Harrogate and Knaresborough

Knaresborough is a beautiful town with a rich history and the River Nidd is one of its most iconic features. The Lido Leisure Park is a popular spot for locals and visitors to enjoy the river.

Bathing water designation would mean that the Environment Agency will monitor the water quality at the Lido Leisure Park during the bathing season and classify it as excellent, good, sufficient, or poor. This would enable people to make informed decisions when they swim in the river so they can enjoy the many benefits of wild swimming.



Critically, improvements to the water quality would have to be made much sooner than they otherwise might be and Yorkshire Water would be limited to a maximum of one spill per bathing season. Indeed, they have already created a five-year plan to improve their assets upstream of the Lido.

Wild swimming has been shown to have several physical and mental health benefits, including improved cardiovascular health, reduced stress levels, and increased mood. It is also a great way to connect with nature and appreciate the beauty of our local environment.

The Lido Leisure Park meets all the criteria for bathing water designation. There is easy access to the river, toilet facilities, lifebuoys on site and the lovely Watermill Café to provide refreshments. There are also transport links close by too.

Approval of this application and designation of the Lido Leisure Park as an official bathing water would be a major step forward for wild swimming in Yorkshire and would benefit the local community and the wider region.

In addition to the benefits mentioned above, bathing water designation would help to promote Knaresborough as a tourist destination. People from all over the country are interested in wild swimming and bathing water designation would make Knaresborough an even more attractive destination for swimmers.

I would like to thank all the people who have worked hard to make this application possible. I am particularly grateful to those who spent time counting the number of bathers for their efforts and to David Clayden for leading Nidd Action Group's efforts on water testing and assisting this application.

I hope it is clear that site has been used and loved by so many people for generations and this application to designate the Lido Leisure Park as an official bathing water is approved.

**Andrew Jones MP**

Member of Parliament for Harrogate and Knaresborough



## Criteria met

- ✓ The River Nidd is an inland waterway
- ✓ Over 100 bathers a day have been recorded
- ✓ The site has toilet facilities bathers can use during the bathing season, within a short distance of up to about 500m from the site
- ✓ There is a map and Ordnance Survey grid references showing the exact area where most people bathe
- ✓ Included is a letter of support for designation from the local authority and landowner
- ✓ There is information about toilet facilities up to 500m from the site
- ✓ The survey results of the number of bathers on 2 busiest days are included
- ✓ The photographs of the site on the busiest days have been provided
- ✓ The results from the local consultation are shown in this application
- ✓ The surveys were conducted in person
- ✓ There is parking nearby and disabled parking on-site
- ✓ The site has good public transport links
- ✓ Easy access to the Lido (including step-free disabled access)
- ✓ The landowner has given permission to use changing facilities
- ✓ There is first aid on site
- ✓ There are several bins dotted around the site with enough capacity for the busiest days
- ✓ There are two cafés, two shops, a pub and a laundrette on site

## People and organisations we consulted:

- ✓ Landowner
- ✓ Local authorities
- ✓ Bathers and local bathing groups
- ✓ Owners and operators of waterside facilities and businesses
- ✓ Residents
- ✓ Chamber of commerce
- ✓ Tourist office (North Yorkshire Council)
- ✓ Environmental organisations
- ✓ Farming businesses or a farming representative body – if the site is on a river, include farmers upstream of the proposed bathing water
- ✓ Water users and water sports clubs
- ✓ Visitors
- ✓ Business representative groups
- ✓ Civic groups



## Andrew Jones MP



### Our details

#### **Applicant:**

Andrew Jones – Member of Parliament for Harrogate and Knaresborough

Andrew Jones MP  
57 East Parade  
Harrogate  
HG1 5LQ

01423 529614  
[andrew.jones.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:andrew.jones.mp@parliament.uk)

#### **Landowner:**

Mr Frank Maguire  
Owner  
Lido Leisure Park  
Wetherby Road  
Knaresborough  
HG5 8LR

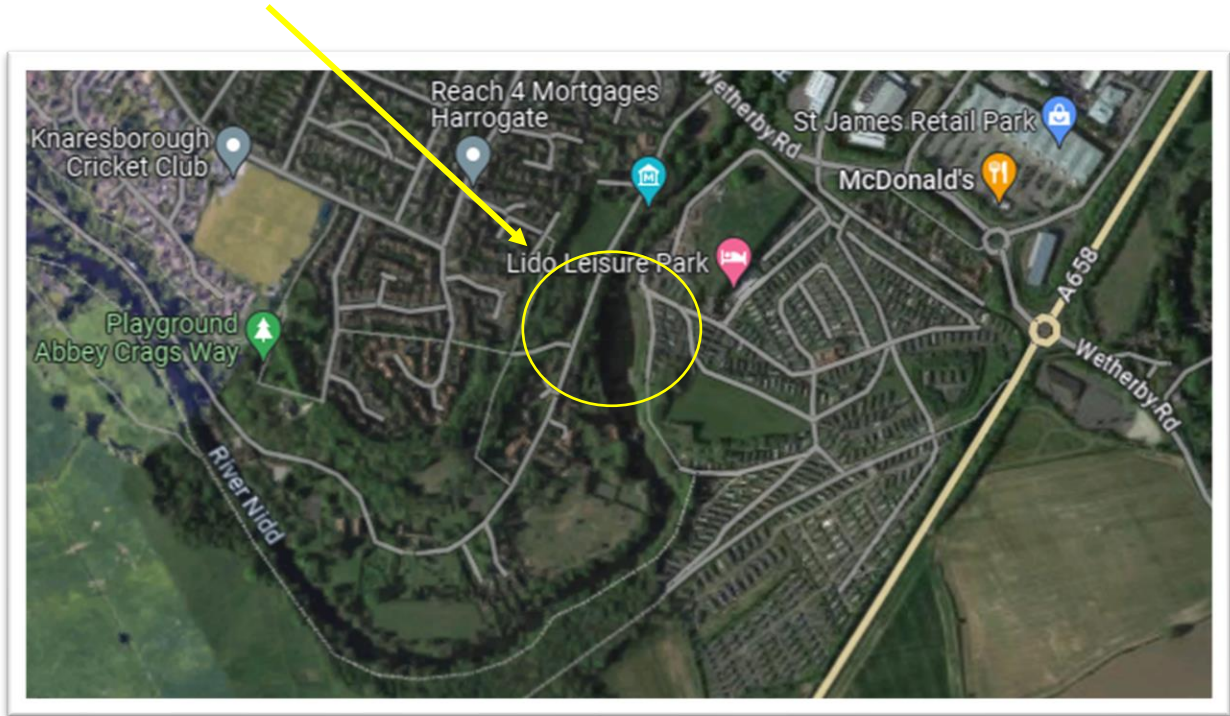
01423 865169  
[frankmaguire40@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:frankmaguire40@yahoo.co.uk) and [billymaguire46@icloud.com](mailto:billymaguire46@icloud.com)





**Where people bathe**

The application is for the stretch of water at the Lido Leisure Park in Knaresborough. To be clear, this is part of the River Nidd and is not a public swimming pool as the term “Lido” might suggest. Lido Leisure Park is the name of the holiday park run by Meridian Parks. At any point when we refer to “the Lido” we mean the stretch of water highlighted on the map below:



**The address and grid reference for the site is:**

Lido Leisure Park  
Wetherby Road  
Knaresborough  
HG5 8LR

**Ordnance Survey grid reference:**

SE361559

**Weir upstream (bottom of the circle indicated above):**

53.996789100891974, -1.4514243161351243

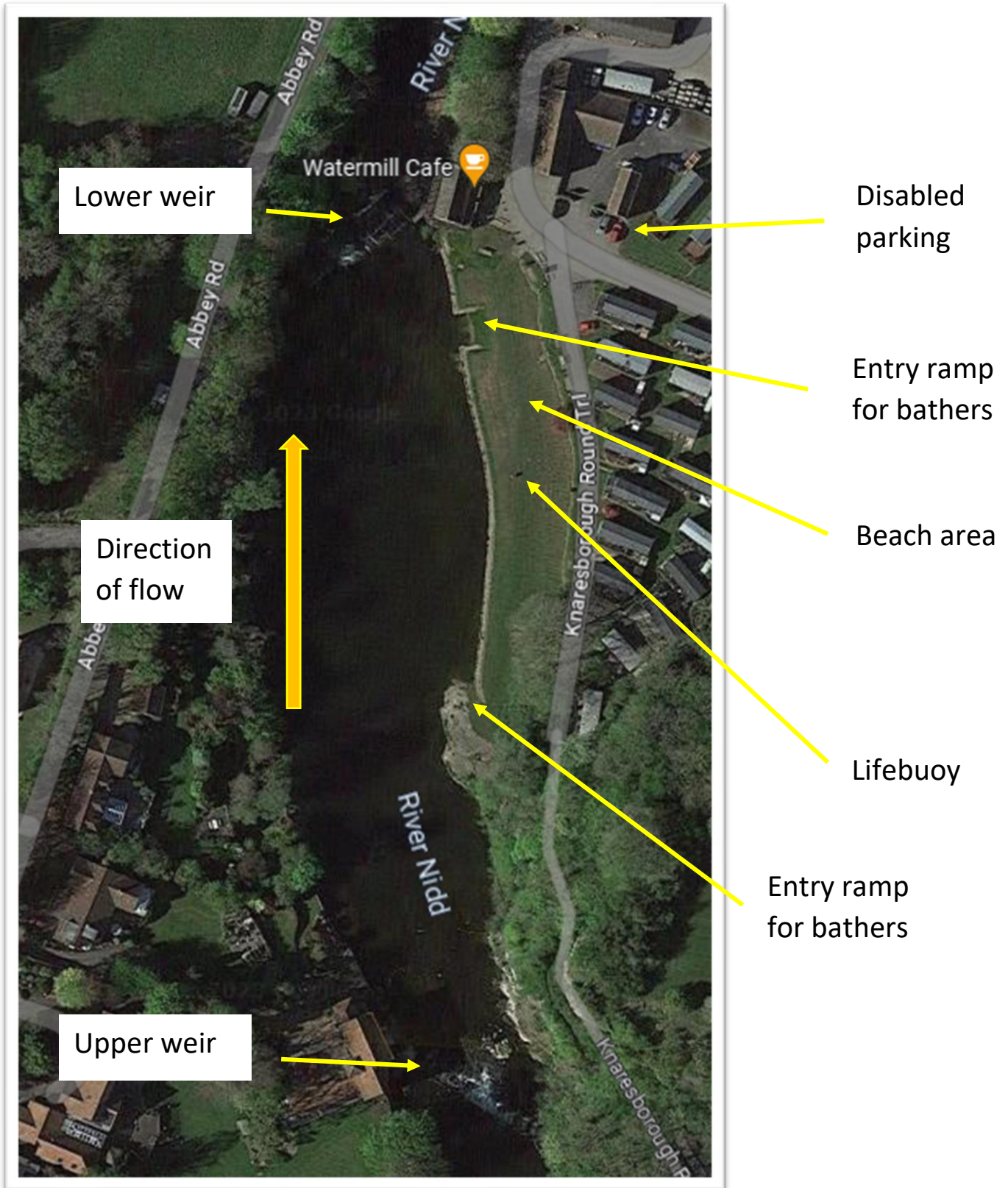
**Weir downstream (top of the circle indicated above):**

53.99837907425791, -1.451647595266347



Location map

Below is a diagram of the Lido. The swimming area is contained in between two weirs which were put in place for the two watermills at each end.







## History of the River Nidd

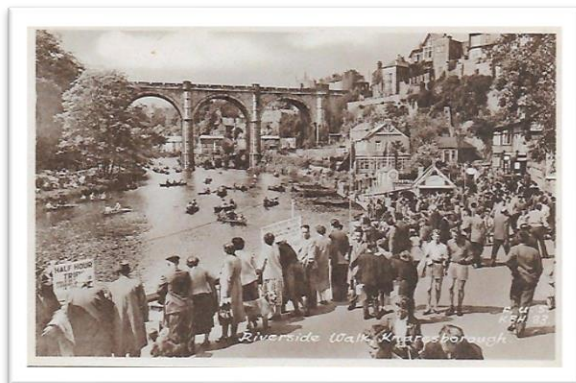
The River Nidd is located in North Yorkshire, rising at Nidd Head Spring on the slopes of Great Whernside, on the border of the Yorkshire Dales and Nidderdale AONB.

The name Nidd is thought to be of Celtic origin, meaning "brilliant" or "shining". The river catchment has been inhabited for thousands of years, with evidence of Mesolithic and Neolithic settlements along its banks. During the Roman era, the Nidd played a crucial role in the empire's vast network of roads, with several Roman forts and settlements dotting its course, testament to its strategic importance.



*Watermill on the River Nidd c.1912*

In the Middle Ages the Nidd was an important waterway for trade and transport. The river was also used to power mills and other industries. Knaresborough Castle, which stands on a cliff overlooking the Nidd, was built in the 12th century and was an important strategic stronghold.

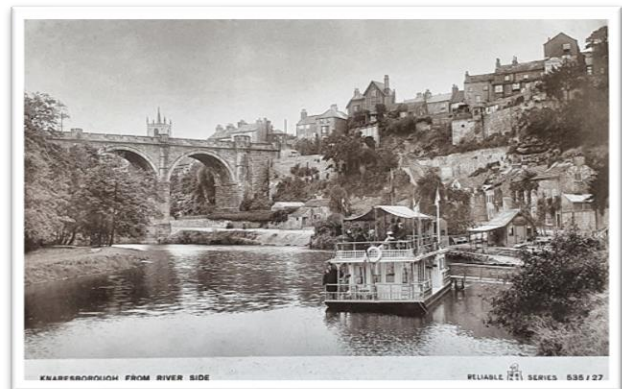


*Waterside Knaresborough early 20<sup>th</sup> century*

During the Industrial Revolution, the Nidd was further exploited for its power and transport potential. Several textile mills were built along the river, and the river was also used to transport coal and other goods. As such, the Industrial Revolution had a negative impact on the river, as pollution

from factories and mills damaged the water quality. Many of these mills remain today but have been converted into housing and cafés.

Since at least the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, Waterside in Knaresborough has been used for recreation. Blenkhorn's Boats, a boat hire business on the Nidd, has been operating there for over 100 years. During the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century there was also a floating restaurant on the water called the House Boat Café. Unfortunately, it is no longer there but highlights the historical importance of the Nidd and the tourism it has generated both past and present.



*Knaresborough House Boat Café c.1902*





## The River Nidd today

Today, the River Nidd is a vital part of the Yorkshire Dales ecosystem. The river supports a wide variety of wildlife. There are many angling clubs up and down the river. The Nidd is also an important source of drinking water for the region.

The Nidd has a rich and varied history, and it continues to play an important role in the lives of the people of North Yorkshire. Several events take place every year in Knaresborough which attract thousands of visitors to the town.

This includes the New Year's Day Duck Race and the Great Knaresborough Bed Race. As well as these events, businesses continue to hire out boats as they have done for over a century, along with paddle boarding clubs and kayakers, it means Waterside is as busy as ever.



*The source of the River Nidd on Great Whernside*



*Knaresborough Bed Race c.1960s*

The Great Knaresborough Bed Race is a renowned annual event that takes place in Knaresborough. This quirky and entertaining event typically occurs in June and has been a beloved tradition since its inception in 1966. The Bed Race is a unique combination of athleticism, creativity, and community spirit, attracting participants and spectators from all over the region and beyond.

Participants form teams of six to push creatively-themed beds on wheels along a 2.4-mile course through the town, facing challenges like hills and, most notably, a river crossing. This playful race cultivates a strong sense of community and raises funds for local charities, showcasing Knaresborough in a lively and colourful spectacle.

The participants, of which there are over 500, cross the River Nidd just before the finish line at Conyngam Hall. This race is part of the wider activity on the Nidd at Knaresborough. It is worth mentioning as the benefits and improvements brought by the bathing water application at Lido just downstream would positively impact those using the River at Conyngam Hall and Waterside.



*Bed Race teams crossing the Nidd*



### Number of bathers

Our methodology followed the Defra guidance throughout. When the methodology was updated by in early July, we changed with it.

For the first half of the season, we had volunteers counting for an hour in the morning and an hour in the afternoon. This was following the guidance which required 20 days of data, so we asked volunteers to do short sessions over many days to show the trend of usage.

One of our busiest days, data below, was in June. We only had volunteers there for one hour in the morning and one hour in the afternoon which almost certainly means we missed out on counting a higher number, as again, at that point we were focused on getting a twenty-day trend as the guidance at the time requested – not a one day high.

Below are the numbers from our two busiest days:

Details when survey took place			Number of Adults		Number of Children		Overall
Date	Time	Weather	Swimming	Paddling	Swimming	Paddling	Swimming/paddling
11-Jun	10-11, 2-3	28C, Sunny	44	40	56	67	<b>207</b> (2 hours only pre guidance change)
9-Sept	12-2, 2-4	28C, Sunny	79	107	60	98	<b>344</b>



Photographic evidence

11 June 207 people counted in the water







Photographic evidence

9 September 344 people counted in the water





## Historic use of the site

People have been swimming in the Nidd at the Lido for a great many years. There is photographic evidence of its use throughout the twentieth century as seen below.



*The Lido in the 1950s*



*The Lido in the 1990s*





## Site details

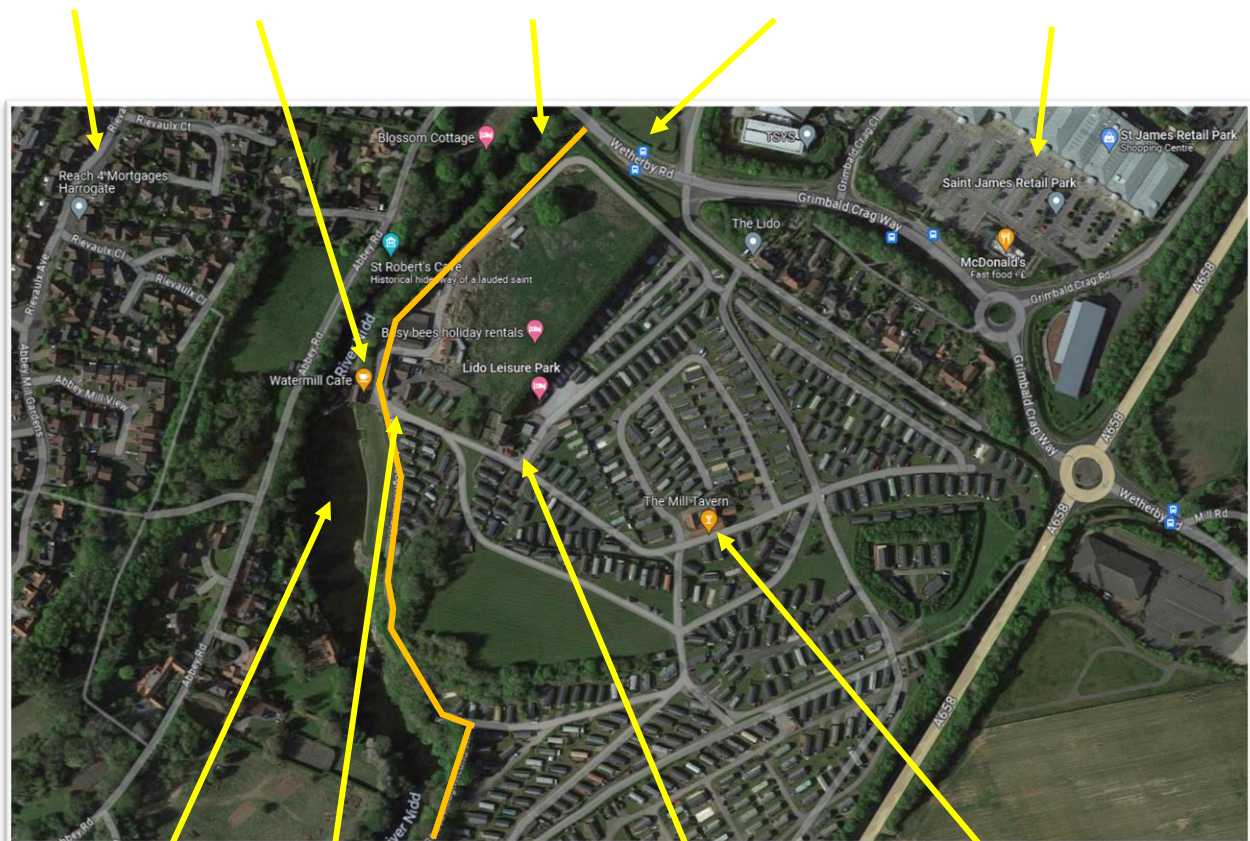
There are several ways of getting to the Lido. The best ways to do so are to drive, walk or by bus. You can also walk from Knaresborough train station which takes about 30 minutes.

The Lido has a public footpath running through it (as indicated by the yellow line below) and this footpath is part of the Knaresborough Round walk.

There is parking nearby including at St James' Retail Park, on-street parking as indicated and at Waterside Car Park a little further out. There is on-site disabled parking and elderly visitors can use this too.

The Harrogate Bus Company's 1A service and 8 service stop at Grimbald Bridge bus stop just outside the Lido entrance, a 2-minute walk from the Lido. The 1A runs from Harrogate to Knaresborough every 30 minutes. The 8 goes to Wetherby and Harrogate.

On-street parking	The Watermill Café	Public footpath	Grimbald Bridge bus stop	St James' Retail Park car park
-------------------	--------------------	-----------------	--------------------------	--------------------------------



The Lido	Disabled parking	The Cupboard shop, café and laundrette	The Mill Tavern (Toilets)
----------	------------------	--	---------------------------

## Facilities and other measures to promote bathing

### Shops, cafés and toilets

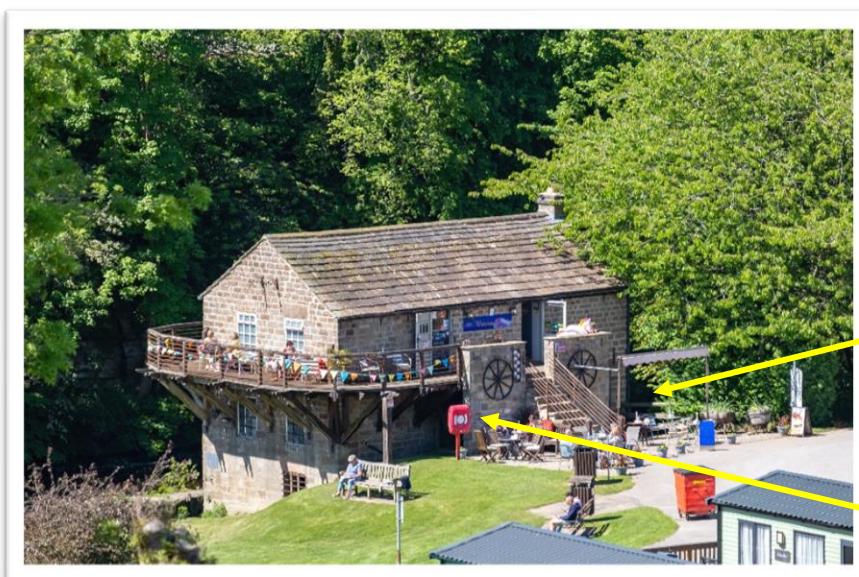
The owner of the Lido Leisure Park, Frank Maguire, has said the toilets in the Mill Tavern on the park (about 300m from the water) are free for anyone to use and can be used as changing facilities. You will also see in the pictures below there is a defibrillator. First aid equipment is in both the Mill Tavern and the Watermill Café. Both are open every day so the toilets and first aid are always accessible to bathers.



Defibrillator

*The Mill Tavern – Lido Leisure Park*

There are also toilets in the Watermill Café. However, due to the small size of the café, the toilets in there are only available to customers. From spending time at the site many of the swimmers buy something from the café and as such can use their toilets.



The Watermill charity shop

Lifebuoy

*The Watermill Café*





## Andrew Jones MP



### More shops and cafés

As well as the Mill Tavern and the Watermill Café the site also has the Cupboard. Here you can buy coffees, sandwiches, ice cream and cakes as well as beach toys.

There is also a small charity shop underneath the Watermill Café. The proceeds go to Alder Hey Children's Hospital.



*Charity shop underneath the Watermill Café*



*The Cupboard shop, café and laundrette*

### Other facilities at the site

Around the bathing area there are several benches, bins and two lifebuoys. There is also step-free access to the site. Photographs of the bins and lifebuoys are on the next page.



*Seating area at the Watermill Café*



*Bins and step-free access*





Facilities at the bathing area



*Lifebuoy by the water*



*Lifebuoy by the Watermill Café and the entrance to the Lido*



*There are several bins and benches at the site*



### Consulting local people, organisations and businesses

Nidd Action Group was formed following meetings between local angling groups, Leeds University, Nidderdale AONB, Yorkshire Water, along with local councillors and Andrew Jones MP. At the second meeting it was agreed that an application for official bathing status would be made.

As a result of Nidd Action Group being a community-led organisation it was a goal to get as many people as possible in the community on board with the campaign.

The campaign was advertised in several different ways:

- Nidd Action Group's website [www.niddactiongroup.org](http://www.niddactiongroup.org).
- Nidd Action Group's Facebook page [www.facebook.com/NiddAction](https://www.facebook.com/NiddAction).
- Andrew Jones MP's leaflet which was delivered to residents included information about the bathing water application and a return slip requesting feedback.
- A consultation questionnaire was hand delivered to all residents on Abbey Road and Waterside whose properties back onto or face the River Nidd.
- An email was sent to Andrew Jones MP's 7500-strong mailing list to inform them of the campaign.
- A community educational event was held at the Gracious Street Methodist Church in Knaresborough in March 2023.
- Local media covered the campaign throughout including the *Harrogate Advertiser*, the *Stray Ferret* and the *Harrogate Informer*.
- *BBC News* ran a story on the application.
- We directly contacted many organisations and individuals to ask for supporting letters. The full list is in the letters section on page 24.
- An online consultation was also shared on local Facebook groups and the local wild swimmers' groups. The results of this consultation are on the next page.
- Andrew Jones MP also held an Adjournment Debate in the House of Commons to discuss bathing applications, specifically this application for the River Nidd.



**Questionnaire**

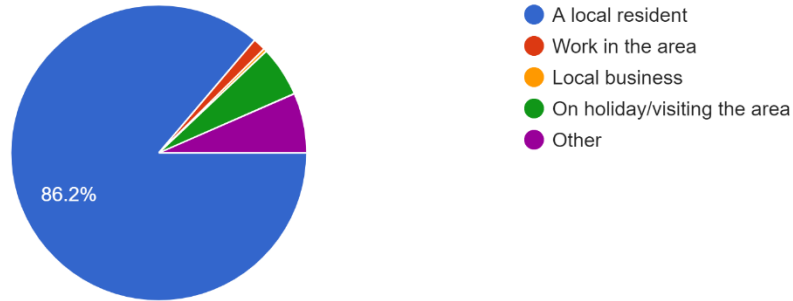
A consultation questionnaire was created so that we could seek views from members of the public. An online version and print version were made. Overall, we had 345 responses - 290 online and 55 hard copy. All respondents supported the bathing water application.

Residents made up 86 per cent of respondents and the rest a mixture of businesses, visitors and people who work in the area.

The results of this are below:

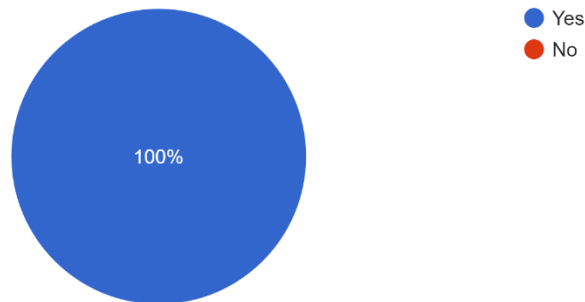
About you

290 responses



1. Do you support the bathing water designation application?

290 responses







**2. Please explain why you do or do not support the application.**

290 responses

I swim there very regularly and have done since I was a child going back to 1950 .

I swim regularly in the river and would like to know the condition of the water I am swimming in, and if it is poor I would like to see measures put in place to improve the quality of the water. Knaresborough's river and riverside is a huge factor in tourists attraction to visiting knaresborough and in turn an important part of our local economy. Having clean water status can only improve this.

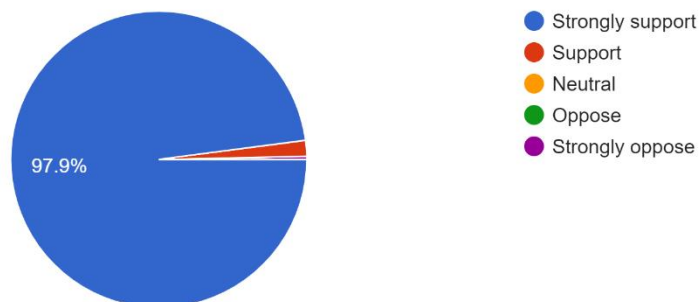
I work in the environmental and water sector and support the extra focus a bathing water places on all of society to better care for their rivers and waters. I am also an open water swimmer who swims there.

My children and i swim in the river regularly (me, all year round) I think we should protect our rivers and ensure they are safe and healthy for both humans and animals. They are amazing habitats for lots of wildlife.

This stretch of water is an important recreational area for local swimmers, families using the lido as well as wildlife. Poor national governance over the care of UK rivers put this at risk. Monitoring and protecting the quality of this stretch of river is essential to enable it's continued safe use.

**3. How much do you support having clean water in which to swim and play in the river?**

290 responses







4. Please explain why you chose this answer for question 3.

275 responses

Having swimming access in rivers is vital to the wellbeing of communities. Having a healthy river also supports the entire eco system and local wildlife critical to the area

Because of the importance of having a safe river to swim in. Both personally and for the many visitors.

The benefits of spending time outdoors on mental and physical health are well documented, as are the benefits of connecting with nature and thus increasing how much society cares for nature around them. My only concern is that it remain a balanced conversation where people continue to respect the nature where they swim and not take it as a cartblanche we have a right to be here and litter and disturb wildlife.

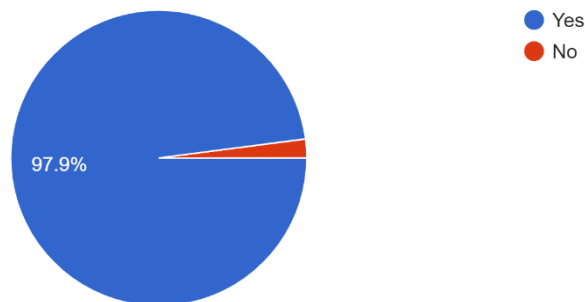
The river is a wonderful natural resource for the community.

This stretch of water is an important recreational area for local swimmers, families using the lido as well as wildlife. Poor national governance over the care of UK rivers put this at risk. Monitoring and protecting the quality of this stretch of river is essential to enable it's continued safe use.

I think additional costs on sewage treatment are proportional to limit its effect on the environment.

5. Do you use the river or surrounding riverbanks to swim, canoe, paddleboard, row, fish, walk or any other activity?

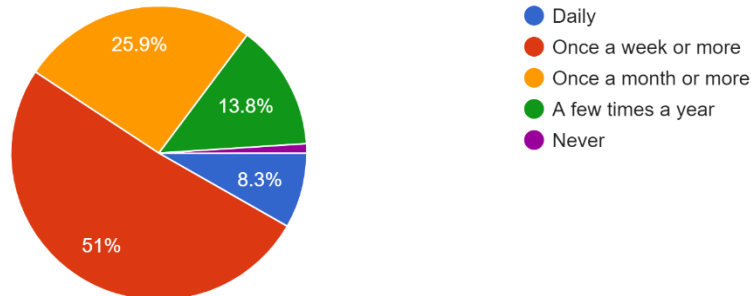
290 responses





6. How often do you use the river and riverbank?

290 responses



**Conclusion from questionnaire**

From the online consultation it is clear there is widespread concern about the water quality of the River Nidd. People would like to see the water monitored so they are better informed before choosing to get in the river. For most though it is about bringing forward improvements to the water quality. Residents and many visitors know the history of the River Nidd in Knaresborough. They know the Lido, and Waterside further upstream, have been used for recreation for centuries, so it is obvious to them that the Lido should get bathing designation.

It is also evident that there are many wild swimmers who swim in the river frequently. Many of them helped with surveying and told us that outside of bathing season there are still groups in the river several times a week.

Most of the responses were from residents in Knaresborough followed by residents of Harrogate and the wider Harrogate district. Interestingly there were several responses from visitors to Knaresborough. Many of them have said they visit the Lido Leisure Park partly because Knaresborough is a beautiful town but also because they can swim in the river there. They would welcome water quality improvements.



## Community outreach event

On 14 March 2023, Nidd Action Group, the University of Leeds and Bilton Conservation Group led a community education event to showcase the work taking place along the River Nidd including the University's research, Nidd Action Group's water testing and the bathing water application. About 100 people attended the afternoon event.



*A member of Andrew Jones MP's team briefing residents on the application process*

## Community action day

As well as the consultation in March, Nidd Action Group held a community action day at the Lido on 3 September. They spoke to swimmers, residents and visitors to raise awareness of the water quality campaign and seek further support for the bathing application.



*Andrew Jones MP talking with Nidd Action Group Chair David Clayden at the 3 September event*





## Media coverage

### The Stray Ferret:

- MP to 'submit case' for River Nidd bathing water status - [tinyurl.com/535p7932](https://tinyurl.com/535p7932)
- Council leader backs River Nidd bathing water campaign - [tinyurl.com/ydtm25fr](https://tinyurl.com/ydtm25fr)
- River Nidd bathing water bid to be sent next month - [tinyurl.com/2p85dzjy](https://tinyurl.com/2p85dzjy)
- MP appeals for help at 'critical time' for River Nidd bathing water bid - [tinyurl.com/4n2c384e](https://tinyurl.com/4n2c384e)
- Public meeting to save River Nidd from 'ecological disaster' - [tinyurl.com/52e7p33k](https://tinyurl.com/52e7p33k)
- MP 'confident' of achieving bathing water status for River Nidd - [tinyurl.com/2dsbt2rv](https://tinyurl.com/2dsbt2rv)
- Parliament debates bathing water status for River Nidd - [tinyurl.com/523jxz9j](https://tinyurl.com/523jxz9j)
- Campaign launched to achieve bathing water status on River Nidd - [tinyurl.com/yr9pckud](https://tinyurl.com/yr9pckud)
- Meeting called to hear concerns about state of River Nidd - [tinyurl.com/ptn7mjex](https://tinyurl.com/ptn7mjex)

### BBC News:

- Calls for polluted River Nidd to be designated bathing site - [tinyurl.com/5n94ykp](https://tinyurl.com/5n94ykp)

### Harrogate Advertiser:

- MP looks to next stage of campaign to improve water quality in Nidd - [tinyurl.com/49rr7xak](https://tinyurl.com/49rr7xak)
- Boost for battle to tackle poor water quality in Nidd as Harrogate MP briefs minister on problem - [tinyurl.com/3p328dsk](https://tinyurl.com/3p328dsk)
- MP warns that Nidd water quality campaign needs 'big effort' - [tinyurl.com/4ru3mdtx](https://tinyurl.com/4ru3mdtx)
- MP is calling for more action on water quality in River Nidd - [tinyurl.com/mr6n54ye](https://tinyurl.com/mr6n54ye)
- MP launches new water quality campaign for the Nidd - [tinyurl.com/mu9kff6s](https://tinyurl.com/mu9kff6s)
- Duck Race may help campaign to improve Nidd water quality - [tinyurl.com/yc7s76s5](https://tinyurl.com/yc7s76s5)
- Yorkshire Water's £4.3bn plans hailed by Harrogate MP as 'step up' - [tinyurl.com/yupd4udr](https://tinyurl.com/yupd4udr)

### Harrogate Informer:

- Commons debate to highlight campaign for River Nidd - [tinyurl.com/bdct6z9e](https://tinyurl.com/bdct6z9e)
- Campaign for bathing water quality for the River Nidd - [tinyurl.com/yc6xknkx](https://tinyurl.com/yc6xknkx)
- MP welcomes council's support for water quality campaign - [tinyurl.com/ym645ncs](https://tinyurl.com/ym645ncs)
- "Let's mirror Ilkley's bathing water status success" - [tinyurl.com/44mn762v](https://tinyurl.com/44mn762v)
- Yorkshire Water back water quality campaign - [tinyurl.com/3f3cjin8](https://tinyurl.com/3f3cjin8)
- Jones's ducks race for water quality awareness - [tinyurl.com/4vu2xt3x](https://tinyurl.com/4vu2xt3x)
- MP raises Nidd water quality with Environment Minister - [tinyurl.com/4fe8kuwy](https://tinyurl.com/4fe8kuwy)
- MP and holiday operator team up on Nidd campaign - [tinyurl.com/muwnxk3e](https://tinyurl.com/muwnxk3e)

### Yorkshire Post:

- Second Yorkshire river could be granted bathing status - [tinyurl.com/ybu5622x](https://tinyurl.com/ybu5622x)
- Wild swimming in Yorkshire - [tinyurl.com/mr3n6m3z](https://tinyurl.com/mr3n6m3z)



## Letters of support

The following stakeholders provided letters of support:

- The landowner
- Local authority, North Yorkshire Council (who run the tourist office)
- Nidd Action Group
- The Rt Hon Alec Shelbrooke MP
- The Rt Hon Julian Smith MP
- Chief Executive of Yorkshire Water
- Swimmers Group
- Knaresborough Chamber of Commerce
- The Countryside Charity
- Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust
- Gouthwaite Reservoir Management Board
- Nidderdale AONB
- The Woodland Trust (who are responsible for maintaining the forests near the Lido)
- The University of Leeds – James McKay Manager EPSRC Centres for Doctoral Training
- Mr Alan Inman, Moorcock Hall Farm (nearest farm upstream of the Lido)
- Nidd Gorge Advisory Partnership
- Zero Carbon Harrogate
- Bilton Conservation Group
- Blenkhorn's Boats
- The Watermill Café
- The Ugly Duckling Tearooms
- Knaresborough Town Council
- Hampsthwaite Parish Council
- Kirk Hammerton Parish Council
- Moor Monkton Parish Council
- Chair of Darley and Menwith Parish Council
- Goldsborough and Flaxby Parish Council
- Scotton and Lingerfield Parish Council
- Little Ribston Parish Council
- Bewerley Parish Council and Hartwith cum Winsley Parish Council
- Birswith Parish Council
- Mayor of Pateley Bridge (the town near the source of the Nidd)



Andrew Jones MP



Dear Secretary of State

I am writing to you as the landowner of the Lido Leisure Park in Knaresborough to express my full support for the application for official bathing water designation for the River Nidd at this location.

I have been running the Lido Leisure Park for many years and I have seen firsthand the positive impact that the Lido has on the many hundreds of people who use the site to bathe. The park is a popular spot for locals and visitors alike to enjoy the river, and it is a major asset to our town.

I believe that bathing water designation would be a significant step forward for the Lido Leisure Park and for Knaresborough as a whole. A great many people swim there every year and it would give people the opportunity to make informed decisions about going in the water, bring forward requirements to improve the water quality and mean more people can enjoy the benefits of wild swimming.

I am happy to give my permission for bathers to use the toilets and other facilities at the Lido Leisure Park.

I hope you approve this application. Bathing water designation would be a major boost for Knaresborough and the River Nidd. It would help to improve the quality of life for local residents and visitors alike, and it would promote the town as a tourist destination.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Frank Maguire

**Meridian Parks**



Lido | Wetherby Road, Knaresborough, HG5 8LR | T|01423 865 169 | E|lido@meridianparks.co.uk

Registered Office: Wetherby Road, Knaresborough, HG5 8LR | Company registered in England and Wales No. 3014094 | VAT No. 477444000

[www.meridianparks.co.uk](http://www.meridianparks.co.uk)





Andrew Jones MP



The Rt Hon Thérèse Coffey MP  
Secretary of State Environment, Food  
and Rural Affairs  
2 Marsham Street  
LONDON  
SW1P 4DF

**Councillor Carl Les**  
Leader of the Council  
North Yorkshire Council  
County Hall  
Northallerton  
North Yorkshire  
DL7 8AD  
Tel: 01609 532192  
Email: [clr.carl.les@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:clr.carl.les@northyorks.gov.uk)

21 August 2023

*Dear Secretary of State,*

**Application for designated bathing water status for the River Nidd at Lido Leisure Park in Knaresborough.**

North Yorkshire Council, as the local authority, supports the application for designated bathing water status for the River Nidd at Lido Leisure Park in Knaresborough

The River Nidd has been used by residents and visitors to Knaresborough for generations. In the summer, the Lido has the feel of a beach resort, with many people flocking to the Nidd to swim, paddle, boat, paddle board, as well as being used by several angling clubs up and down the river.

The application for bathing water status has widespread support in Knaresborough and across the local area from residents, businesses, and local representatives. North Yorkshire Council passed a motion at on 19 July 2023 to unanimously support the bathing water application in the hope that increased monitoring and investment from Yorkshire Water will improve the water quality for the many people who use the river.

Yorkshire Water have already said they have set aside £180m of investment if the application is successful, so I hope you can see from the evidence in the application that designated bathing status would be a great benefit to Knaresborough.

Thank for your consideration and I look forward to hearing the result of this application.

Yours sincerely,

Carl Les  
Leader of the Council

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL



**Andrew Jones MP**



14, Wayside Walk,  
Harrogate,  
HG2 8NN

077 4877 5407  
info@niddactiongroup.org

**For the attention of the Secretary of State for the Environment, Rt Hon Thérèse Coffey MP**

I write as Chair of the Nidd Action Group to support the application for official bathing water status at the Lido Leisure Park on the River Nidd in Knaresborough.

Nidd Action Group (NAG) have been supported by Andrew Jones MP and his staff in our joint concern to improve the water quality in the river Nidd, our local river. [About Us -Nidd Action Group](#)

**Our aims are:** *a Cleaner Nidd, Fit for Life:*

- *to make rivers safe for all*
- *to stop sewage pollution*
- *to end the illegal release of untreated sewage into the River Nidd*
- *to improve standards, so legally discharged waste doesn't harm the River Nidd*

The goal of the application for official bathing status is to speed up the process of improving the Nidd's water quality.

NAG was instrumental in organizing public meetings in Knaresborough in 2022 and 2023 at which it was agreed that NAG should attempt to achieve its aims by bidding for designated status, with its promised investment to monitor and improve the river water quality in safety terms while undertaking citizen science activities including taking water samples all along the river to establish its current ecological as well as human health status.

The initial results have been published on the NAG website, and further surveys and citizen involvement are underway.

[iNidd Flyer August 2023 \(niddactiongroup.org\)](#)

[River-Nidd-Chart-Aug.png \(3275x1608\) \(niddactiongroup.org\)](#)

I think it will be clear to you that the 100 plus members of Nidd Action Group support improvement of the river Nidd, in Knaresborough and all its 59 kilometres of length plus its many feeder tributaries.

Points we would make include:

- The central importance of the Nidd to Knaresborough in particular. It is its central visual attraction, even its reason for being there. Cleanliness and safety are fundamental to residents and tourists alike



## Andrew Jones MP



- The Lido itself is a hidden gem, used by generations of local families to learn to swim and to enjoy our lovely river, as do the residents of the local leisure park. Locals make daily or weekly visits to the Lido to swim and play in the water.
- The regionally famous annual great bed race, crossed by competitors just upstream of the Lido is a great advert for the town and mandates clean, safe river water.
- Local wildlife is plentiful and contributes to the attraction of the waterside in Knaresborough. By improving waters for bathers we also help nature thrive.

I therefore present Nidd Action Group's whole-hearted support for the application for official bathing water status at the Lido Leisure Park on the River Nidd in Knaresborough

Yours sincerely

David Clayden

Nidd Action Group Chair.





Andrew Jones MP



Rt Hon. Alec Shelbrooke M.P.  
Conservative Member of Parliament for Elmet & Rothwell



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Dr Thérèse Coffey MP  
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
Seacole Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

6 October 2023

*Dear Thérèse*

I would like to add my support to Andrew Jones and Nidd Action Group's work to try and bring water quality improvements to the River Nidd.

I know how much time Nidd Action Group's volunteers have put in over the summer to count the number of bathers at the Lido Leisure Park in Knaresborough and raise the profile of this issue. Yorkshire Water are also planning to invest money up and down the River Nidd which lends further weight to the application.

The River Nidd is an asset to communities across its catchment, and much like the River Wharfe, which runs through my constituency, I know many residents and visitors travel to the River Nidd to bathe, swim, and fish. As such, a great many people will benefit from official bathing water designation at this site.

I hope you will carefully consider the application and see that granting bathing status will benefit communities across the Nidd's catchment but particularly residents and businesses in Knaresborough.

*Yours ever,*

*Alec*

The Rt Hon Alec Shelbrooke MP

*Proudly serving my home constituency of Elmet & Rothwell*

Telephone: 01937 589 002

Email: [alec.shelbrooke.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:alec.shelbrooke.mp@parliament.uk)

Website: [www.alecshelbrooke.co.uk](http://www.alecshelbrooke.co.uk)



Andrew Jones MP



RT HON JULIAN SMITH CBE MP

Skipton & Ripon



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Dr Therese Coffey MP  
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
Seacole Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

Our Ref: JU74528

10 October 2023

*Dear Theresa,*

I would like to express my wholehearted support for the application for official bathing water status for the Lido on the River Nidd in Knaresborough.

Andrew Jones MP and Nidd Action Group have worked immensely hard over the last year to campaign for better water quality up and down the River Nidd.

The source of the Nidd is, of course, in the beautiful hills in my constituency so I know the river is a valuable asset to residents across its catchment and beyond. Many people travel to the Lido to bathe and swim. This is a mixture of families and local wild swimmers many of whom swim there all year round.

Improvements to the water quality of the Nidd following a successful bid would benefit far more than just the bathers and swimmers. It will benefit businesses along the river, anglers, paddleboarders, boaters and, of course, the wildlife.

I hope you grant this application as you will see that this site is enjoyed by large numbers of people and that all stakeholders in the local community, including Yorkshire Water, are behind this bid.

I look forward to hearing the result of the application.

Yours sincerely

**Rt Hon Julian Smith CBE MP**

Tel: 020 7219 7145 · Email: [julian.smith.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:julian.smith.mp@parliament.uk) · Website: [www.juliansmith.org.uk](http://www.juliansmith.org.uk)



**Andrew Jones MP**



Yorkshire Water  
Western House  
Halifax Road  
Bradford  
BD6 2LZ

Tel 01274 318451  
[www.yorkshirewater.com](http://www.yorkshirewater.com)

**For attention of:**

The Rt Hon Thérèse Coffey MP

Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural  
Affairs

Seacole Building

2 Marsham St

London

SW1P 4DF

13<sup>th</sup> October 2023

*Dear Secretary of State,*

**Application for bathing water designation at the Lido Leisure Park on the River Nidd,  
Knaresborough**

Andrew Jones MP and community groups have been in contact with Yorkshire Water since 2022 regarding the campaign for bathing water designation on the River Nidd. As they move to submit their application, I am pleased to confirm that Yorkshire Water's Business Plan submission for 2025-2030 includes investment designed to improve water quality at the relevant location on the River Nidd.

I've met Mr Jones twice regarding this issue, including a visit to the River Nidd in Knaresborough. Our meetings made clear to me the determination of Mr Jones and the community to submit a bathing water application, and therefore the need for Yorkshire Water to include investment to support that ambition.

Following that engagement, our final PR24 business plan submission included the following proposals for investment:

- An investigation into bathing water quality on the relevant stretch of the River Nidd to understand the catchment dynamics and upstream impacts on bathing water. This will include:





## Andrew Jones MP



- Collection of river samples for analysis both upstream and downstream of Yorkshire Water assets
- Collection of samples at Yorkshire Water assets
- Investigations into bacterial rates within the river
- River flow monitoring
- Construction or upgrade of hydraulic sewer models where applicable
- Construction and calibration of a dynamic river model where applicable –

If approved by our regulators, this investigation is due for completion under the Water Industry National Environment Plan (WINEP) by 30/04/2027.

Our PR24 submission also included proposed investment to ensure the following assets meet the 1 spill per bathing season requirement for designated inland bathing waters as set out under the Storm Overflow Discharge Reduction Plan:

- ABBEY ROAD/NO 2 CSO
- WATERSIDE 47/CSO
- WATERSIDE 48/CSO
- WATERSIDE 49/CSO
- BOROUGHBIDGE ROAD/CSO
- CRAGG TOP/CSO
- ABBEY MILL/CSO
- SPITAL CROFT/CSO

If approved by our regulators, this asset investment is due for completion under the WINEP by 31/03/2030

Our team remain in close contact with Mr Jones and community groups and will continue to provide support with the aim of improving the health of the River Nidd.

If you require any further information then please do let me know.

*Yours sincerely,  
Nicola Shaw*

Nicola Shaw CBE

Chief Executive, Yorkshire Water



**Andrew Jones MP**



**FAO: Secretary of State for the Environment, Rt Hon Thérèse Coffey**

Dear Dr Coffey,

I am writing to you regarding the application for Bathing Water Designation for the River Nidd at Knaresborough Lido, North Yorkshire. This campaign is being led by our local MP, Andrew Jones.

I am a long-time resident of Knaresborough and a keen outdoor swimmer. For several years I have been part of a large and vibrant community of swimmers who regularly use this part of the Nidd. There are hundreds of local residents who swim there more than once a week (some swim on a daily basis) and there are many more who travel from further afield to bathe in the river and to spend time in the many shops, cafes and tourist attractions that our town offers.

I am also a member of the local Nidd Action Group and we have been collecting and analysing data regarding e-coli and phosphate levels at different points along the river over the past year. Sadly, due to the number of combined sewer overflows situated upstream, and the fact the Nidd flows through a predominantly rural and farming area, these levels have been (and continue to be) unacceptably high. An official Bathing Water Designation for the Nidd at Knaresborough Lido would mean these levels of bacteria would be properly monitored and the information provided to swimmers so they can make informed decisions about how to use the water safely.

Due to the high presence of e-coli bacteria, it is generally accepted amongst swimmers that we will not risk putting our faces in the water or ingesting any water at all whilst in the river. I am also aware of many people who would love to swim there, but who are too frightened of becoming ill to do so. Cleaner water along The Nidd would make an enormous difference to many, many people. This also includes the hundreds who swim across the river annually as part of the town's historic Bed Race, which brings in a large amount of revenue for local businesses and also raises thousands of pounds for charity.

In terms of the wild swimming community who use the river, the benefits are huge; not just for physical health and fitness, but for mental health too. We have a number of swimmers in our group who find the mindful experience of being immersed in cold water helps them to cope with very difficult things going on in their lives. Additionally, there are swimmers for whom the cost of living crisis means that they cannot afford to use an indoor pool, and therefore the river is a perfect (and free) alternative.

The swimmers regularly clean up the river and its surroundings ourselves. We remove plastic debris from the water and pick up litter that is left along the riverbank. We are proud of our river and will continue to do this, but we need the Government, the water company and the local farming community to do their bit too in terms of reducing the amount of pollutants entering the river, so that we and our children can use the water safely for many years to come.

Yours sincerely,

**Megan Godden**

(Knaresborough Wild Swimmers Group / Nidd Action Group)



Andrew Jones MP



18<sup>th</sup> October 2023

**For the attention of the Secretary of State for the Environment, Rt Hon Therese Coffey MP**

I am writing on behalf of the Knaresborough & District Chamber of Trade to express our support for the Nidd Action Group in seeking **official bathing water status at the Lido Leisure Park on the River Nidd in Knaresborough**. As a town centred on the river that attracts locals and visitors alike to take advantage of the leisure options given by the river, particularly at this location, the health of our river is vital to our local and tourist economy.

There are many wild swimmers in the town and the location attracts people from wider afield due to its amenities and ease of access. Clean water also enables our local wildlife to thrive, something that those who take walks along what is over 2 miles of river running through the town will benefit from.

We are also home to the long established, though quaint, Great Knaresborough Bed Race which, once a year, takes a route through the river at great risk to life and limb, although supported by volunteer divers. However, there is no defence against a dirty river and given that the population of the town swells by around 10,000 on the day of the race anything that brings its continuation, such as river pollution, poses a real threat to the town's vibrant visitor economy.

Several of our businesses front the water side, including Old Mother Shipton's cave, a renowned local tourist site, and the view over the river is in the top three instagrammable views in the whole of Yorkshire. The river is therefore at the heart of our town physically, economically, and environmentally.

We do hope that official water bathing status can be given.

Regards

Peter Lacey  
Exec Member of Knaresborough & District Chamber







Andrew Jones MP



PO Box 189  
York  
YO7 9BL  
[www.cpreney.org.uk](http://www.cpreney.org.uk)  
Tel: 07983 088120  
Email: [info@cpreney.org.uk](mailto:info@cpreney.org.uk)

Branch Chair  
Mrs Jan Arger

12<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Dear Rt Hon Therese Coffey MP

Subject: The Campaign to Improve the Water Quality for Bathing Status of the River Nidd, Knaresborough, and Harrogate, North Yorkshire!

The poor quality of river water across the UK is causing significant concerns. Here in Harrogate, we are delighted to support the efforts of the Nidd Action Group and our local MP Andrew Jones in improving the local water quality, and hopefully gaining Recognised Bathing Water status for the Lido Leisure Park here.

The local community are passionate about the river here and have been really involved in safeguarding the natural qualities of the river, for wildlife and for people's health and wellbeing. Local businesses benefit from the river as a huge tourism draw, with boating, cafes, pubs, and shops flourishing within the local area. Wild swimming and paddleboarding are hugely popular locally and the success of the annual Bed Race is testament to the attraction of the river, but the existing poor water quality limits the potential of these activities. Improved water quality of our local waterways would make a huge difference in making the area more sustainable for all and the local economy would benefit too, with hopefully even more people encouraged to become more active and enjoy a better quality of life.

CPRE North and East Yorkshire give our full support to this project and hope for a successful outcome in improving the river water quality and gaining official bathing status for the river Nidd. We commend the proposal to improve the water quality of the river Nidd.

Sincerely yours,

Jan Arger

Chairman

CPRE North and East Yorkshire

The North Yorkshire branch of Campaign to Protect Rural England

Registered charity number: 1174989  
Registered address: PO BOX 189, York, YO7 9BL



Andrew Jones MP



8 Kings Court, Pateley Bridge, HG3 5JW

13<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Rt Hon Thérèse Coffey MP  
Houses of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

For the attention of the Secretary of State for the Environment, Rt Hon Thérèse Coffey MP

Re: Bathing Water Application at the Lido Leisure Park on the River Nidd in Knaresborough

On behalf of the Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust I am happy to support the application for Bathing Water Designation on the River Nidd at the Lido Leisure Park in Knaresborough – this site is popular for public enjoyment and swimming in the River Nidd. The application demonstrates that the local community and council are actively seeking to deliver recreational and community enhancements in the Nidd catchment. This closely aligns with our mission to enhance and protect the rivers Swale, Ure, Nidd, Wharfe and Ouse and neighbouring catchments by delivering practical and educational projects, engaging with communities and working in partnership.

In 2019, The Rivers Trust publicised the wish of having Rivers Fit to Swim In – with all our rivers being rich in wildlife and enjoyed by people without worry of what is in the rivers. The application for bathing water status links into this aspiration and into our iNidd project where we are working to improve the health of the River Nidd.

I hope that the application is successful, and I look forward to seeing the outcome.

Yours Sincerely

Dr. Marie J Taylor  
Chief Executive Officer  
Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust

Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust – Charity Number 1107918  
Company Registration: 5220147



**Andrew Jones MP**



## **GOUTHWAITE BOARD OF MANGEMENT**

Incorporated by Act of Parliament - Bradford Corporation Waterworks Act 1890 for the management of Gouthwaite Compensation Reservoir, River Nidd.

The Rt Hon Dr Therese Coffey MP  
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
Seacole Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

19 October 2023

Dear Secretary of State

As Chair of the Gouthwaite Reservoir Management Board, I support the application for official bathing water designation at the Lido Leisure Park on the River Nidd in Knaresborough.

Fur over 110 years our Board has long been committed to maintaining the River Nidd's water level and flow, recognising its importance for both wildlife and the communities that neighbour it.

Bathing water designation would align with our efforts, ensuring regular water quality monitoring, fostering confidence in the river's cleanliness and boosting its recreational appeal, attracting visitors and enhancing the local economy. It would also encourage responsible behaviour and further improvements in water quality management practices.

I believe the improvements this designation will hopefully bring would benefit the river's ecosystem, recreational opportunities, and economic offering. I hope you will approve this application and join us in safeguarding the River Nidd's future.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Hawkesworth  
Chair, Gouthwaite Reservoir Management Board.  
07802-352815.

Clerk to the Board – Sarah Turnbull 01423-711956. Gouthwaiteclerk01@gmail.com





Andrew Jones MP



Nidderdale AONB  
The Old Workhouse  
King Street  
Pateley Bridge  
Harrogate  
HG3 5LE  
T: 01423 712950  
E: NidderdaleAONB.har@northyorks.gov.uk  
www.nidderdaleaonb.org.uk



The Rt Hon Therese Coffey MP  
Secretary of State for Environment,  
Food & Rural Affairs  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

23 October 2023

Dear Secretary of State

**Re: Application for bathing water status, Knaresborough**

I am writing in support of the application for designated bathing water status for the River Nidd at the Lido Leisure Park in Knaresborough.

Knaresborough lies a few miles downstream of the boundary of Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The River Nidd rises in the north-west of the AONB and flows through the protected landscape before reaching the Lido Leisure Park at Knaresborough.

I am aware of widespread support for the application for bathing water status, including from North Yorkshire Council as the local authority. The designation should enable further investment from Yorkshire Water to improve water quality, which will have significant benefits for people using the river and the river's wildlife, both at Knaresborough and upstream in the AONB.

Thank you for considering this application and I look forward to hearing the outcome.

Yours sincerely,

Iain Mann  
Nidderdale AONB Manager

OFFICIAL



Andrew Jones MP



**The Woodland Trust**

Kempton Way  
Grantham  
Lincolnshire  
NG31 6LL

**Telephone**

01476 581111

**Facsimile**

01476 590808

**Website**

[woodlandtrust.org.uk](http://woodlandtrust.org.uk)

16 Oct. 23

Dear Secretary of State

As the UK's largest woodland conservation charity, The Woodland Trust is pleased to offer our full support for the proposal to designate a section of the River Nidd at Knaresborough as an official bathing area. This is an excellent initiative that will provide many benefits for both people and nature.

At The Woodland Trust, we recognize the immense value of healthy rivers and streams, not just for wildlife but for human wellbeing too. Allowing public access to the River Nidd for bathing and swimming will encourage more people to connect with this natural resource right on their doorstep. Spending time in and around water has been proven to reduce stress, improve mood and boost overall health and happiness.

Designating the River Nidd as an official bathing area will also provide the incentive to maintain and improve water quality. This is vital for the health of the river ecology, including fish populations, aquatic plants and insects. Good water quality will also benefit our own ancient woodland site at Nidd Gorge, through which a section of the river flows. The trees and wildlife here are reliant on unpolluted water to thrive. Native broadleaf trees, especially alder, line the banks of the Nidd as it winds through our site. Protecting water quality will help safeguard the future of these majestic trees.

As a nature conservation charity, we fully support initiatives that enable people to connect with the natural world while also conserving and enhancing biodiversity. Providing public access to the River Nidd for bathing ticks both these boxes. We hope the proposal to designate this important river as a bathing area will receive your full backing too. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can provide any further information on this.

Yours sincerely,

Al Crosby   
Regional Director, North of England  
The Woodland Trust

The Woodland Trust is a charity registered in England and Wales (No. 294344) and in Scotland (No. SC038885).  
A non-profit making company limited by guarantee. Registered in England No. 1982873.  
The Woodland Trust logo is a registered trademark. FSC® Certified Paper.



**Andrew Jones MP**



**FACULTY OF ENGINEERING & PHYSICAL SCIENCES**  
**SCHOOL OF CIVIL ENGINEERING**  
**LEEDS, LS2 9JT, UK**



**UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS**

**For the attention of the Secretary of State for the Environment, Rt Hon Thérèse Coffey MP**

I write as manager of the Water-WISER Centre for Doctoral Training [www.waterwisercdt.ac.uk](http://www.waterwisercdt.ac.uk) , a research centre led by the University of Leeds, to support the application for official bathing water status at the Lido Leisure Park on the River Nidd in Knaresborough.

The goal of the application is to speed up the process of improving the Nidd's water quality as we believe this will unlock tens of millions of pounds of investment in infrastructure by Yorkshire Water.

University of Leeds students, as part of our Centre for Doctoral Training (funded by the Engineering & Physical Sciences Research Council) have played a central role in monitoring, understanding and communicating the pollution issues affecting the river, as part of a University-local community collaboration.

Working with both Nidd Action Group [About Us -Nidd Action Group](#) and University of Leeds researchers, I helped facilitate public meetings in Knaresborough in 2022 and 2023 at which it was agreed that the best strategy for protecting the river from pollution would be to bid for designated bathing water status. This bid was then led by Andrew Jones MP and his team.

This unique collaboration between the University academic researchers, the local community, business stakeholders, and political figures demonstrates the importance of the health of the river to all stakeholders in the local region.

Tourism plays a central role in the local economy, with many businesses being based along the waterside, not to mention the large holiday park at the proposed Lido bathing site, and the famous 'Bed Race' which crosses the river brings in thousands of spectators each year. The views of the river at Knaresborough are iconic and regularly feature in the media as one of Yorkshire's most recognisable views.

All of the local businesses and wider economy are under threat from increasing river pollution issues and subsequent health scares. Over the last couple of summer bathing seasons there have been many reported cases of local residents, their pets, and tourists falling ill from paddling in the river. Each of these cases, when shared and amplified on social media, represents a blow to the local economy as families lose interest in going to the river for a day out. Thus millions of pounds of income into the local economy are lost.





## Andrew Jones MP



Tourism based on appreciation of the natural beauty of the area is also important along the whole length of the river, from Nidd Gorge Woodland Trust woodlands near Harrogate and sites of Special Scientific Interest (e.g. Birkham Woods) to Pateley Bridge and up into the dales. The river is the foundation of the growing nature-based tourism economy, while at the same time being impacted by increasing numbers of visitors and residents who are outstripping the ability of existing water treatment infrastructure to keep up. Thus, investments by Yorkshire Water are urgently needed.

In addition to my role working with the academic researchers who are contributing to our efforts to protect the river (and thereby the local community and economy), I have a personal interest as a resident of Knaresborough who regularly swims at the proposed Lido bathing site, and therefore present my whole-hearted support for the application for official bathing water status at the Lido Leisure Park on the River Nidd in Knaresborough,

Yours sincerely

James McKay  
Manager, EPSRC Centres for Doctoral Training ([Water-WISER](#) and [Bioenergy](#))  
Faculty of Engineering & Physical Sciences  
University of Leeds  
Woodhouse Lane, Leeds, LS2 9JT  
[j.mckay@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:j.mckay@leeds.ac.uk)



Andrew Jones MP



Tel: (01423) 863338

Moorcock Hall Farm,  
Scotton,  
Knaresborough,  
North Yorkshire,  
HG5 9HN

F.A.O. Andrew Jones MP, and whom it may  
concern, Rt Hon. Therese Coffey MP.

I farm up the River from Knaresborough.

It is imperative that Rivers are clear.

for the Wildlife. Also the Rivers must.

be cleaned up for the Canoes, boaters.

and also for the bathers.

Worryingly visitors, children, a like will continue  
to visit the River Nidd, Regardless of the quality.

of the water, I feel we have a joint responsibility.

to ensure it is safe for its users, which currently.

I do not believe it to be so.

A Inman

A. F. Inman.



## Andrew Jones MP



15<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT,

Rt.Hon. Therese Coffey M.P.

Re: Bathing Water Quality for river Nidd at Knaresborough [2023].

Dear Secretary of State,

The Partners of the Nidd Gorge Advisory Partnership will resume their next meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> October at the Harrogate Civic Centre (former Harrogate Borough Council offices) after a moratorium since October 2019, due to the COVID Pandemic followed by some dislocation on the demise of the former Harrogate Borough Council and North Yorkshire County Council.

1983 to 1992

The original Nidd Gorge Steering Group comprised representatives of Harrogate Borough Council, Countryside Commission (then), Woodland Trust, CPRE, Ramblers, Cyclists, Harrogate & District Naturalists Society, (then) Manpower Services Commission, (then) National Farmers Union, Knox Valley Residents Association and Bilton Conservation Group.

The Steering Group managed Public Funds (£52K+) to conserve the woodlands, open areas and watercourses of the river Nidd and Nidd Gorge between Harrogate/Bilton/Knaresborough from 1993-1992.

1993-2019

When the main Publicly-Funded 'Nidd Gorge Project' completed in 1992 the baton was passed to a re-formed 'Nidd Gorge Advisory Partnership for Conservation' when the various initiatives were left to constituent partners to find funds to keep the many conservation activities running (e.g. £30,000+ in 2000-2006); with the overall coordination and support of the 'NGAPC' which was eventually re-named 'Nidd Gorge Advisory Partnership' (NGAP). The group follows its traditional pattern of meeting in October and March each year to share, explore and resolve matters arising – from pollution to managing visitor numbers, school visits, biodiversity/conservation projects and antisocial behaviour etc. These meetings are complemented by at least one field visit to different locations within the group's sphere of interest (see attached map). The group presently has no funds of its own to manage but this may be reviewed later.

2019-2023 (ongoing)



The voluntary partnership today comprises representatives of: North Yorkshire Council (having a public land ownership interest), Knaresborough Town Council, Woodland Trust (land ownership), CPRE, Ramblers, Cycling Lobby (Nidderdale Greenway interest), Harrogate District Naturalists Society,

Knox Valley Residents Association, Bilton Conservation Group, Dog Walkers representative, Equestrian representative (under review), Knaresborough Nidd Gorge Conservation Group (since 2006), Longlands Common (social non-profit wildlife area – since 2017), Private landowner representative (2019), Knaresborough Forest Park (social non-profit wildlife area – adjacent to, and imminently merging with Longlands Common – imminent request for NGAP involvement), River Nidd Angling interest (expressing interest in NGAP in view of water pollution – 2023).

The NGAP and its previous incarnations have consistently sought to conserve the countryside and watercourses between Harrogate and Knaresborough since 1983 and those prime objectives remain.

**'Bathing Water Quality for the river Nidd at Knaresborough' is entirely consistent with what the partnership is trying to achieve in the interests of its constituent partners and the wider public.**

**I have been canvassing the partners on an informal basis throughout 2023 in preparation for the resumed meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> October and I am completely confident that I can speak on their behalf on this specific issue and say that we commend this campaign to you.**

What would be the benefits of achieving Bathing Water Quality for the river Nidd at Knaresborough?

#### PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELL BEING

Adults, parents, children, schools and community groups (e.g. knaresborough, bed, race), wild, swimmers, canoeists, kayakers, and anglers, would have greater confidence in pursuing their traditional water activities, safely with minimal risk of infection and illness.

#### GREEN TOURISM

Knaresborough is a favourite North Yorkshire destination for tourists, along with Upper Nidderdale locations, such as Ripley and Pateley Bridge. Again, the cachet of "Bathing Water Quality" status would restore and enhance the reputations of those locations as clean, healthy places to visit.

[The Nidderdale Greenway (new Public Bridleway) 2013 – between Harrogate Railway Station and Ripley Castle is proving to be a magnet for walkers, cyclists and others seeking access northwest towards Nidderdale and east to Knaresborough and its attractions].

**[Conversely, the declining water quality will damage the reputation of Nidderdale as a prime tourist destination and deter visitors].**





**Andrew Jones MP**



PERIPHERAL BUT SIGNIFICANT

The designation would focus a spotlight on the quality of all those major tributaries to the river Nidd such as Oak Beck (river) and Bilton Beck, flowing from Harrogate above Knaresborough, and raise the standards for all forms of pollution discharges.

Yours sincerely

Keith Wilkinson MBE  
Honorary Chairman  
Nidd Gorge Advisory Partnership  
5 Knox Chase  
Harrogate  
HG1 3HZ



Andrew Jones MP



Zero Carbon Harrogate

e: [hello@zerocarbonharrogate.org.uk](mailto:hello@zerocarbonharrogate.org.uk)  
w: [www.zerocarbonharrogate.org.uk](http://www.zerocarbonharrogate.org.uk)



---

Date: 19 October 2023

For the attention of the Secretary of State for the Environment, Rt Hon Thérèse Coffey MP

**Bathing Water Status at the Lido Leisure Park on the River Nidd in Knaresborough**

Dear Ms Coffey,

I am writing in support of the Nidd Action Group's submission for Bathing Water Status at the Lido Leisure Park on the River Nidd in Knaresborough.

This initiative will have a catchment wide impact, improving water quality and ecosystems along each of the tributaries of the River Nidd.

As a local climate action group, we understand the importance of and support nature based solutions that help to sequester carbon and draw us closer to the net zero carbon local economy that we urgently need. There is no path to net zero that does not include sufficient nature recovery and cleaner water can definitely support this.

We would point you to the government's own "The Economics of Biodiversity: The Dasgupta Review" 2021, the whole thrust of which is that natural capital, through ecosystem services, delivers the means to sustain life, including regulating services such as water, carbon, nitrogen and oxygen cycles.

Additionally, providing a local clean water bathing environment offers another opportunity for residents to interact with nature. Greater nature connection is essential to enable us all to value and care for the local environment.

Kind regards

Jemima Parker  
Chair, Zero Carbon Harrogate


---



Andrew Jones MP



# BILTON CONSERVATION GROUP

<p>Honorary Chairman</p> <p>Mr Warren Considine 85 Knox Avenue Harrogate HG1 3JF</p>		<p>Honorary Secretary</p> <p>Mr Keith Wilkinson MBE 5 Knox Chase Harrogate HG1 3HZ</p>
<p>Established 19<sup>th</sup> May 1982</p>		

11<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT,

Rt.Hon. Therese Coffey M.P.

Re: Bathing Water Quality for river Nidd at Knaresborough [2023].

Dear Secretary of State,

The Committee of the Bilton Conservation Group met on Wednesday, 11 October 2023, to discuss, inter alia, the proposal to seek "Bathing Water Quality for Knaresborough".

#### 1982-2022

Our volunteer group has worked since 19th of May 1982, to conserve the environment of the Nidd Gorge, river Nidd and its tributaries Oak and Bilton Becks after removing literally tons tonnes of solid debris over the four decades. It has been heartening to see water quality and biodiversity Improving (the river Nidd supports fourteen species of fish, otters, and about six species of waterfowl). Unfortunately, there has been a significant deterioration in the last 10 years with pollution from agricultural slurry, industrial, construction, and domestic waste, road, run-offs, and sewage releases.

#### Public Health

Our concerns for the health of children in particular lead us to suspend our regular stream/river dipping activities with primary schools, brownies, scouts, etc since 2018, because of the risk of waterborne infections such as E. coli.

#### 2022

You may call I wrote to your office in September 2022 to report our concerns about a complex, serious pollution event involving gasworks residues, raw sewage, and agricultural slurry.

#### 2023

On 14th of March 2023, I attended the inaugural meeting of the 'Bathing Water Quality for the river Nidd at Knaresborough' project at C. O. G. S. In Knaresborough and was met by two young girls aged 9 and 11 who were part of a larger group which had paddled and swum in the river Nidd at Knaresborough in July 2022. The whole group had ingested E. coli and became very ill with gastroenteritis. [The two girls were still suffering from recurrent bouts of illness].

Inspired by the strength of local feeling and funded by two North Yorkshire Council Locality Budget Grants, we embarked on testing for water quality along the Oak Beck (technically river), Bilton Beck and a further critical location on the river Nidd (all upstream of Knaresborough).

**Bilton Conservation Group is affiliated to TCV and the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England, member of the Nidd Gorge Advisory Partnership for Conservation and Friend Member of the Environmental Law Foundation.**



Andrew Jones MP



## *BILTON CONSERVATION GROUP*

3<sup>rd</sup> August 2023.

Laboratory results from our first sampling are very disconcerting with high pollution from Nutrient Chemistry (phosphates, nitrates, heavy metals) and an incredible Ecoli reading of 130,000 c.f.u.(colony, forming units per 100 millilitres) on the Bilton Beck, which is a significant tributary of the river Nidd above Knaresborough.

Our second water sampling of the same locations is scheduled for 17th October 2023 (standard, recognised, protocols are followed, and the principal volunteers are all trained).

What would be the benefits of achieving Bathing Water Quality for the river Nidd at Knaresborough?

### **PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELL BEING**

Adults, parents, children, schools and community groups (e.g. knaresborough, bed, race), wild swimmers, canoeists, kayakers, and anglers, would have greater confidence in pursuing their traditional water activities safely, with minimal risk of illness or infections.

### **GREEN TOURISM**

Knaresborough is a favourite North Yorkshire destination for tourists, along with Upper Nidderdale locations, such as Ripley and Pateley Bridge. Again, the cachet of "Bathing Water Quality" status would restore and enhance the reputations of those locations as clean, healthy places to visit.

**[Conversely, the declining water quality will damage the reputation of Nidderdale as a prime tourist destination and deter visitors].**

### **PERIPHERAL BUT SIGNIFICANT**

The designation would focus a spotlight on the quality of all those major tributaries to the river Nidd such as Oak Beck (river) and Bilton Beck, flowing from conurbations like Harrogate above Knaresborough, and raise the standards for all forms of pollution discharges.

The Bilton, Conservation Group supports this once in a lifetime opportunity to secure the designation for 'Bathing Water Quality for the river Nidd at Knaresborough'.

Yours sincerely

Keith Wilkinson MBE  
Honorary Secretary  
Bilton Conservation Group.

**Bilton Conservation Group is affiliated to TCV and the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England, member of the Nidd Gorge Advisory Partnership for Conservation and Friend Member of the Environmental Law Foundation.**

2





**Andrew Jones MP**



**Blenkhorn's Boats**  
**Knaresborough**

**07494 700 540**  
info@knaresboroughbp

**BLENKHORNS BOAT HIRE LTD**  
**HIGH BRIDGE GARDENS**  
**WATERSIDE**  
**KNARESBOROUGH**  
**HG5 9AZ**

10 October 2023

For the attention of the Secretary of State for the Environment,  
Rt Hon Thérèse Coffey MP

I would like to state my support for the campaign to improve the water quality of the River Nidd in Knaresborough.

Our business has operated on this river for over 100 years helping to bring many tourists to the area. It is obviously beneficial for our staff and customers for the water to be as clean and safe as possible. Reports of sewage getting into the river are not the best way to attract visitors to enjoy the water.

Yours sincerely,

Steven Kirkley

Director



Andrew Jones MP



## THE WATERMILL CAFE

Lido Leisure Park , Knaresborough, North Yorkshire, HG5 8LR

For The Attention of;  
The Secretary of State for the Environment  
Rt Hon Therese Coffey MP  
House Of Commons  
London SW1 0AA  
October 1st 2023

Dear Madam,

I am writing to you in support of the campaign to grant bathing water status for the River Nidd , at the Lido Leisure Park in Knaresborough, North Yorkshire.

Hundreds of people from the local area already use this area for recreation , these include; wild swimmers, paddle boarders, anglers, canoeists , boaters, photographers, holidaymakers,

Once in Knaresborough these people contribute to the local economy by using the towns shops, pubs, restaurants and cafes such as mine. My cafe in particular is hugely dependant on the river for it's success as it is on the riverbank.

Granting bathing water status to this area would bring huge benefits in several ways, Firstly by making the river a safer and pleasanter place to use for the above mentioned activities and also by improving the habitat and ecosystems for wildlife. This would then create an even better place for people to come to enjoy such activities and thus help increase footfall and trade for business' such as mine in the town.

Knaresborough's economy depends on tourism and for this to be sustainable, a healthy river is absolutely essential to keep people coming back and using our business' .

Yours Sincerely

Rachel Wills  
Proprietor



Andrew Jones MP



**S.M. BRISCOMBE ELECTRICAL ENGINEER LTD.**

DOMESTIC • AGRICULTURAL • COMMERCIAL

Registered Office:  
6 The Chase,  
Knaresborough  
North Yorkshire  
HG5 0SY

Phone/Fax: 01423 862441  
Mobile: 07767 264864  
E-mail: [simon.briscombe@ntlworld.com](mailto:simon.briscombe@ntlworld.com)

For The Attention of;  
The Secretary of State for the Environment  
Rt Hon Therese Coffey MP  
House Of Commons  
London SW1 0AA  
October 1st 2023

Dear Madam,

I am writing to you in support of the campaign to grant bathing water status for the River Nidd , at the Lido Leisure Park in Knaresborough, North Yorkshire. Our MP, The Hon Andrew Jones and the Nidd Action Group are doing a sterling job of leading this campaign and have the support of the local community in this endeavour.

Hundreds of people from the local area already use this area for recreation , these include; wild swimmers, paddle boarders, anglers, canoeists , boaters, photographers, holidaymakers,

Once in Knaresborough these people contribute to the local economy by using the towns shops, pubs, restaurants and cafes, this then creates work to support business' such as mine bringing jobs and opportunities for local people.

Granting bathing water status to this area would bring huge benefits in several ways, Firstly by making the river a safer and pleasanter place to use for the above mentioned activities and also by improving the habitat and ecosystems for wildlife. This would then create an even better place for people to come to enjoy such activities and thus help increase footfall and trade for business' such as mine in the town.

Knaresborough's economy depends on tourism and for this to be sustainable, a healthy river is absolutely essential to keep people coming back and using our business' .

It is very rare for the business case and moral imperative to be so closely aligned in any campaign but in this case , the morally correct thing to is the same as the business point of view. That is to grant bathing water status to this area and in so doing look after our natural resources as well as peoples livelihoods.

Yours Sincerely

Simon Brisco  
Managing Director

Director: S.M. Brisco  
Company Reg No. 5007429  
VAT Reg No. 734 4880 17



Andrew Jones MP



The Ugly Duckling Tearoom  
52 Bond End  
Knaresborough  
HG5 9AX  
01423 868090

For the attention of the Secretary of State for the Environment  
Rt Hon Thérèse Coffey MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

Dear Rt Hon Thérèse Coffey

Our tearoom directly overlooks the River Nidd in the beautiful town of Knaresborough. However, we are very concerned about the water quality of the river and write to request support.

Boating, paddleboarding and swimming are very popular amongst our visitors as well as dog walkers allowing their pets to paddle and swim. However, we often get reports from visitors that either they or their dogs have fallen ill because they have taken in water from the river being unaware of the pollution lying within it.

We also have lots of wildlife here such as Mandarin Ducks, Kingfishers and Otters and our visitors are often amazed at the wealth of species seen which attracts visitors near and far including photographers. We strongly wish to preserve this.

The towns annual Bed Race is held within the grounds of our tearoom and attracts many tourists which is fantastic for our economy, especially in this current climate. Part of this race, which has been held for decades, is a final swim through the River Nidd to the finishing post. At present with the pollution in the river this obviously lends itself to health risks, but it is an integral part of the race.

North Yorkshire is a beautiful county and deserves to be treated with respect by ensuring that our rivers are clean and fit for people and wildlife to enjoy it.

We hope you will offer your support in ensuring the quality of water in our river is greatly improved.

With kind regards

**Juliet and Paul Crowther**





## Minutes from Knaresborough Town Council Meeting 18 September

### 9.1 Councillor K Davies (seconder Cllr J Batt)

'A motion calling for support for a bathing water application for the river Nidd.'

That this council supports a bathing water application to the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) for the Lido on the River Nidd in Knaresborough and that Knaresborough Town Council endorses and adds its support to the resolution passed by North Yorkshire Council on Wednesday the 19th of July 2023. Knaresborough Town Council also believe that:

- 1) the river Nidd at the Lido is an important resource for the people of Knaresborough
- 2) that improving the quality of the river Nidd would have significant benefits for the environment, public health, recreation and the local economy
- 3) that supporting the bathing water application for the river Nidd is in the best interests of the people of Knaresborough

**RESOLVED:** That KTC supports a bathing water application to the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) for the Lido on the River Nidd in Knaresborough and that Knaresborough Town Council endorses and adds its support to the resolution passed by North Yorkshire Council on Wednesday 19th of July 2023.

**For:**

J Batt  
A Bell  
K Davies  
M Flood  
D Good  
H Gostlow  
M Longhurst  
M Walker  
H Westmancoat

**Against:**

K Lacey

1) Town Council also believes that the river Nidd at the Lido is an important resource for the people of Knaresborough

**RESOLVED:** KTC also believes that the river Nidd at the Lido is an important resource for the people of Knaresborough – carried unanimously.



**Dr John Carney**

Chair

Hampsthwaite Parish Council  
Hampsthwaite  
North Yorkshire  
parishcouncil@hampsthwaite.org.uk  
07784520820

28 September 2025

For the attention of  
Hon Threse Coffey  
Secretary of State for the Environment  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

Dear Secretary of State for the Environment,

I write on behalf of Hampsthwaite Parish Council, in support of the Nidd Action Group's campaign for official bathing water status, at the Lido Leisure Park, on the river Nidd in Knaresborough.

Improvement of the water quality is essential, to allow the safe use of the Lido for swimming, Paddleboarding, Boaters, and river crossers by whatever means during the annual Knaresborough Charity Bed Race.

There is also a need to improve water quality further up stream, throughout the Nidd Gorge, a very popular area for walkers and wildlife enthusiasts, where at times, run off pollutants cause overgrowth of blanket weed, suffocating the other vegetation, and causing fish to suffer lack of oxygen, not what the local anglers appreciate.

Cleaner water in the Nidd in Hampsthwaite, will also encourage more swimming in pools along our stretch of the river, and encourage more wildlife, increasing the otter population, and wildfowl habitat.

We cannot have too clean a river, and it needs our help immediately.



Andrew Jones MP



Yours sincerely,

*John Carney*

Dr John Carney

*[Faint, illegible text from a scanned document, likely a letter or report, with several horizontal lines.]*



**Andrew Jones MP**



FAO The Rt Hon Therese Coffey MP  
Secretary of State for the Environment

Kirk Hammerton Parish Council  
clerk.khpc@gmail.com  
11 October 2023

Dear Secretary of State

**Improving Water Quality – River Nidd, North Yorkshire**

Kirk Hammerton is a rural village in North Yorkshire close to the river Nidd, a few miles downstream from where the river passes through the town of Knaresborough.

There are two stations on the York to Harrogate railway line in our parish. This means that Knaresborough is the nearest location with a wider choice of amenities which is accessible by public transport (about 10 minutes away). The numbers of local residents visiting Knaresborough is likely to increase substantially once construction is underway of a new settlement of 3,000+ homes for which provision is made in the Local Plan, in accordance with Government policy.

The river Nidd does not flow directly through the village, but there is an attractive walk along the riverbank and through a nature reserve which is widely used not only by Kirk Hammerton residents but also by people from nearby villages. This became a well-known route during the Covid lockdown period and has remained popular. From time to time the river develops sandy, beach-like areas which are sometimes used by swimmers on warm summer days.

We are concerned at recent reports of very poor water quality in the river Nidd in the centre of Knaresborough. Not only does this make Knaresborough a much less attractive place for KH residents to visit, but it is bound to have an adverse effect on the number of visitors generally. Since Knaresborough attracts a significant number of tourists, a downturn in visitor numbers risks affecting the viability of local businesses and, ultimately, the amenities available to KH residents travelling to Knaresborough.

If water quality a short distance upstream is poor, it follows that there is also a risk to local residents who choose to swim in the river near Kirk Hammerton. The attraction of our riverbank walk will also be affected, especially as the river





Andrew Jones MP



## Moor Monkton Parish Council

The Rt Hon Dr Therese Coffey MP  
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
Seacole Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

20 October 2023

**For the attention of the Secretary of State for the Environment,  
Therese Coffey MP.**

Dear Secretary of State

I write to you in my capacity as Chair of the Moor Monkton Parish Council in North Yorkshire.

As a Parish Council that has the River Nidd flowing through our village, we wholeheartedly support efforts to clean up the river upstream in Knaresborough. This will, no doubt, have a beneficial effect on the quality of our river water locally, which can only be of benefit to our residents and local flora and fauna.

Regards,

*Roderick Goddard*  
**Chair, Moor Monkton Parish Council**



# Andrew Jones MP



*Susan Welch  
Chairman of Darley & Menwith Parish Council  
Green Acres, Sheepcote Lane  
Darley HG3 2RP*

18<sup>th</sup> October 2023

**For the attention of the Secretary of State for the Environment,  
Rt Hon Therese Coffey MP**

I write to express my support for the application for official bathing status at the Lido Leisure Park in Knaresborough

The River Nidd flows through Darley and we can see that it has become increasingly polluted due to the frequent discharges from storm drains. I have attended meetings set up by local angling groups who are very concerned that their leisure activity is suffering. The Parish Council has expressed its concern at the current state of the river in our area.

Walking along the river is a popular pastime in Darley, and during good weather it is common to see families picnicking on the bank and paddling in the water seeking wildlife hidden under stones. While not generally deep enough for swimming in this area, it is still essential that the water is of good quality to avoid any problems with infection. Good quality water also encourages a greater variety of wildlife, which in turn maintains a good ecological balance for the area.

While this application does not precisely affect the Nidd through Darley it is obvious that cleaning up the river will need to take place further upstream, thus benefiting Darley and neighbouring villages.

I therefore appeals to you to take this application forward and make the river Nidd better for everyone.

Regards

Susan Welch  
Chairman, Darley & Menwith Parish Council



Andrew Jones MP



**GOLDSBOROUGH AND FLAXBY GROUPED PARISH COUNCIL**

Chairman: Neil Taylor  
Highfield, Church Street, Goldsborough,  
North Yorkshire, HG5 8NR  
E-mail: [neiltaylor2000@gmail.com](mailto:neiltaylor2000@gmail.com)

For the attention of the Secretary of State for the Environment, Rt Hon Therese Coffey MP

13<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Dear Miss Coffey,

River Nidd – Official Bathing Water Status

The River Nidd suffers from pollution. The Lido Leisure Park is just a few miles upstream of where the River Nidd then runs beside the southern boundary of Goldsborough Parish Council. Consequently we fully support the Nidd Action Group and Andrew Jones MP in their campaign to apply for bathing water status of the River Nidd at the Lido Leisure Park.

We want to see a return to a cleaner River Nidd as it flows near us. We want to see the return of birds and wildlife in abundance along this River and a return to a river full of fish and people enjoying fishing. A cleaner River Nidd, will enhance the tourist attraction of the area and in turn improve business and prosperity for the area as well as an improved quality of life for the local residents.

We believe a cleaner River Nidd is the answer and we hope that you can support this campaign.

Yours sincerely

P.P. Neil Taylor

Chairman  
Goldsborough & Flaxby Parish Council



Andrew Jones MP



SCOTTON AND LINGERFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Chair Rachael Mackenzie

1 Hillside Cottages

Main Street

Scotton

Knaresborough

HG5 9HS

19<sup>th</sup> October 2023

FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT THE Rt Hon THERESA COFFEY MP

Dear Ms Coffey

I am Clerk to Scotton and Lingerfield Parish Council, and the matter of wild swimming in the River Nidd at the Lido Leisure Park at Knaresborough was discussed at the last Meeting and the conclusion was that any improvement in the quality of the water would be a good thing for the whole community. There is a stretch of the river running through the Parish which residents can fish with permission and the quality of fish caught remains high thanks to careful husbandry of the river at that point. The Nidd Gorge, part of which is in the Parish provides an opportunity for people to take leisure in a beautiful part of the country.

I have lived in this area for nearly fifty years, even swimming in the Nidd during the hot summer of 1976 after playing tennis in the grounds of the Straw Boater pub. The water was fine then but the low state of the river gave a chance to contract Weills disease. Both my daughter and son enjoyed visiting the Lido and swimming in clean water and both thrive to this day.

Although Scotton is well upstream of the Lido any impurities in the water occur upstream of Scotton at Nidd Bridge ( the old railway viaduct) where sewerage is at times discharged into the river. This should not take place but does.

Knaresborough is a beautiful and ancient town blessed with the River Nidd flowing through it and providing with the railway viaduct and the rowing boats a splendid view from the castle.

The Parish Council is fully supportive of any efforts to improve the quality of the water in the Nidd and I as a former field manager on the bed race, part of who s duties was to ensure the river crossing was achieved safely, hope this is achieved as soon as possible.

Graham Ashmore

Clerk to the Council





**Andrew Jones MP**



## LITTLE RIBSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Working today for a brighter, and better tomorrow

The Rt Hon Dr Therese Coffey MP  
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
Seacole Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

20 October 2023

Dear Secretary of State

Little Ribston Parish Council would like to express our support for the NIDD Action Group and their campaign to improve the water quality of the River Nidd.

Over the years many of the Little Ribston children have played in the River Nidd therefore it is imperative that the water is safe for bathing. Children and their parents enjoy watching the wildlife living around the river and this encourages them to have a more active lifestyle, local wildlife contributes to the attraction of the waterside in Little Ribston.

Improving the waters for bathers will have the added benefit that wildlife will thrive. Cleaner water is better for those using the river and encourages more people to do so.

The residents of Little Ribston regularly travel to the River Nidd to swim. Once in Knaresborough to swim they often then spend time in the town's cafes, restaurants, pubs and shops. The bed race is a local attraction that the residents of Little Ribston enjoy taking part in. Cleaner water for the many competitors who cross the river in the bed race is vital if this tradition is to continue.

Yours sincerely,

*Melanie Spencer*  
**Clerk to Little Ribston Parish Council**



Andrew Jones MP



## Bewerley Parish Council & Hartwith cum Winsley Parish Councils

Parish Clerk: Tracey Dawson  
The Laurels, Street Lane, Harrogate, HG3 5HW, Tel: 07719 181078 / 07464 336124  
Email : [clerk@bewerleyparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@bewerleyparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
[clerkhartwithpc@gmail.com](mailto:clerkhartwithpc@gmail.com)

Rt Hon Thérèse Coffey MP  
Secretary of State for the Environment  
Seacole Building  
4th Floor  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

Date: 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Dear Secretary of State,

### **CAMPAIGN FOR OFFICIAL BATHING WATER STATUS AT THE LIDO LEISURE PARK, RIVER NIDD, KNARESBOROUGH**

We are writing in support of the bid by Nidd Action Group for the awarding of official bathing water status at the Lido Leisure Park on the River Nidd. Beverley Parish Council and Hartwith cum Winsley Parish Council discussed this matter at their most recent meeting and agreed that we fully endorse the aims of this important campaign.

This parish lies some 18 miles upstream from the Leisure Park on the River Nidd and is situated within the beautiful Nidderdale Area of Natural Beauty. The economy of the locality relies heavily on agriculture and tourism, including day visitors and holiday makers for whom the proximity of the River Nidd is a major draw. We have many anglers, wild swimmers, bird watchers, kayakers and other lovers of rivers and wildlife who visit our community. However, the Council has in recent times received a number of items of correspondence from both local residents and visitors raising concerns about the quality of the water of the River Nidd, which have been passed on where appropriate to Yorkshire Water and the Environment Agency.

The River Nidd starts in the upper dale, beyond Beverley, and includes the catchments of Angram and Scar House reservoirs, which supply drinking water to Bradford and its environs. Gouthwaite reservoir, which is also in the Dale, is a compensation reservoir. All three reservoirs are famous for the wildlife they attract, and Gouthwaite is designated as a site of special scientific interest (SSSI). At its



## Andrew Jones MP



upper end there are extensive areas of sedimentation making it important for bird populations, including ospreys which now regularly visit on their summer migration.

The parish councils recognise that the awarding of official bathing water status at the Nidd in Knaresborough would have knock on impacts on the prioritisation of work to improve the quality of the water upriver of Beverley and Hartwith cum Winsley. Such action is long overdue. Improving water quality in this section of the Nidd would have real benefits for the local economy, as well as for the environment and for the quality of life of those who live in or visit the community.

Beverley Parish Council and Hartwith cum Winsley Parish Council urge you to respond positively to the bid from the Nidd Action Group for official bathing water status at the Lido Leisure Park. If there is any other information we can provide in support of the bid, we would be happy to assist.

Yours sincerely,

**Tracey Dawson**  
**Clerk to Beverley Parish Council**  
**Clerk to Hartwith cum Winsley Parish Council**



**Andrew Jones MP**



## **BIRSTWITH PARISH COUNCIL**

Mrs Jenni Worsnop  
Clerk to Birstwith Parish Council  
Beristade Barn  
Clapham Green  
High Birstwith  
Harrogate  
HG3 2JD

Tel: 01423 770654  
Mob: 07855 595984

---

29<sup>th</sup> September 2023

**FAO The Secretary of State for the Environment  
Rt Hon Therese Coffey MP**

Re: Nidd Action Group leading a campaign to apply for official bathing water status at the Lido Leisure Park on the River Nidd in Knaresborough

Birstwith Parish Council would like to support the application to speed up the process of improving the water quality on the River Nidd as we are part of the wider Nidd catchment

I am sure the Private Birstwith Angling Club would welcome a positive change to the quality of our local waterways and it will also help improve local wildlife and nature to survive

Wishing you success

Jenni Worsnop  
Clerk to Birstwith Parish Council





Andrew Jones MP



13 October 2023



**Cllr. Christopher Thompson**  
**Mayor, Pateley Bridge**  
Pateley Bridge Town Council  
The Council Chamber, King Street  
Pateley Bridge, HG3 5LE

Tel: 07751 571 374 Email: [clerk@pateleybridgetowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@pateleybridgetowncouncil.gov.uk)

For the attention of the Secretary of State for the Environment, Rt. Hon Thérèse Coffey MP

As mayor of the largest town and community upstream on the river Nidd from Knaresborough, I am writing in support of the campaign by the Nidd Action Group to apply for official bathing water status at the Lido Leisure Park in the town of Knaresborough. In my opinion this initiative can only be achieved if measures are taken to ensure high water quality along the length of the river Nidd upstream of Knaresborough, which will of course bring huge benefits to our town of Pateley Bridge, and villages in the Nidderdale.

Pateley Bridge is a working yet picturesque market town in the Nidderdale, and being just outside the Yorkshire Dales National Park, is widely considered the jewel within an area of outstanding natural beauty, and which attracts many visitors to the town and area all year round. Tourism accounts for a significant part of our town's economy, and one of the main features of this area of natural beauty is the river Nidd. There are a number of local spots where local people including children, swim, paddle, and play in the river. However, in recent times, our beautiful river has suffered its share of pollution events, including raw sewage dumped into the Nidd at Pateley Bridge.

In my view, for the Knaresborough Lido Leisure Park to successfully become an official bathing water area, these pollution events all the way up the Nidd clearly must stop. As well as helping Knaresborough, this will also result in a safer, cleaner river to both our residents and visitors here at Pateley Bridge and surrounding area.

Sincerely Yours

Cllr. Christopher Thompson  
Mayor of Pateley Bridge and the Parish of High and Low Bishopside

*Please note, the views expressed in this document are mine. The views of Pateley Bridge Town Council on this issue may or may not be expressed in a separate communiqué.*



## Andrew Jones MP



### Summary

I am delighted to submit this application for official bathing water designation for the Lido Leisure Park on the River Nidd in Knaresborough. It has met all the criteria for designation and the application has the unwavering support of the local community.

There have been extensive consultations with the local community, businesses, local councillors and neighbouring MPs.

Notably, North Yorkshire Council has voted unanimously to support this application, demonstrating their strong belief in the benefits that bathing water designation would bring to Knaresborough and the River Nidd. Additionally, we have received the backing of Knaresborough Town Council, as well as parish councils up and downstream of the Lido, further emphasizing the widespread support for this initiative.

Bathing water designation would be a significant step forward for Knaresborough and the River Nidd. It would allow more people to reap the numerous benefits of wild swimming and elevate Knaresborough's profile as a tourist destination and attract investment to the town.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

### Andrew Jones MP

Member of Parliament for Harrogate and Knaresborough