

BATHING WATER QUALITY UPDATE FOR THE LSP - JULY 2016

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This successful multi-agency project resulted in the bathing water at Pelham being classed as good, and St Leonards as excellent at the end of the 2015 season.

Over winter Southern Water Services(SWS) continued to survey their infra-structure in the borough, particularly on the Eastern side draining into the Ore Stream.

Since last winter the Environment Agency(EA) have experimented with the deployment of continuous in situ monitoring devices, to help identify more sources of pollution.

The Council's environmental health team have continued to liaise with a small number of residents, where remedial works are required to address misconnections. The Council also completed the final phase of sustainable urban drainage works within the Alexandra Park stream and pond system.

Given that the results for last summer were good, and that more work has continued over the autumn and winter, we are hopeful that we may experience even better water quality in years to come. In the circumstances, the justification for an engineering solution such as a long sea outfall is far less than it might have been, and this idea is not currently being actively pursued.

Although the SWS and EA funding for this project have now largely ended, they along with environmental health, have been working to identify the most likely catchments where there may still be relatively high levels of sewage contamination. The Technical Working Group met in May and June to discuss progress with this work. They have now agreed where our limited remaining resources should be deployed. This will involve all 3 agencies working together to survey a limited number of catchments, to try and identify and remedy some of the remaining sources of contamination. This work will be carried out over the next few months and should lead to some further improvements.

The Environment Agency has advised that early results from this season have been encouraging, and it is hoped that this will continue to be the case.

Apart from the work described above, there is nothing more that the multi-agency project team can do, and it is therefore suggested that unless there are any serious developments, the next update should not be until after the next Bathing Water Executive Board meeting, which is scheduled for November, when the season is over and we have the end of season results.