**Public Participation: Identification of Bathing Waters**

Local authorities must identify official bathing areas in their area every year so that they can be monitored for safety, water quality and their level of use.  To help with this process, **Dublin City Council** are asking people who swim at beaches, lakes and rivers to tell them if they think they should maintain existing designated bathing waters designations or give a new official bathing area designation to areas that are commonly used for swimming, but not identified at the moment.

Under European and Irish law, Irish local authorities must identify bathing waters each year so that these areas can be monitored to ensure they meet stringent microbiological water quality standards. In some cases, the official bathing areas are also the areas where local authorities focus their resources providing lifeguards during the summer season*.*  These laws also require that the local authority prepares detailed descriptions or profiles for each of the identified bathing water sites that describe not just the bathing area but also areas in the surface waters catchment area that could be a source of pollution. The profiles include an assessment the risk of pollution and what action would be taken if pollution occurs.

Dublin City Councils existing designated bathing waters are:

* Dollymount Strand
* Sandymount Strand
* Merrion Strand

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

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

EPA guidance on public submissions and the identification process is available at <https://www.beaches.ie/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Public-Advice-Identifying-Bathing-Waters.pdf>. If you wish to propose your favourite beach/river etc as a new bathing water site or comment on an existing site, please make contact as follows;

By post to:

Administrative Officer,

Culture Recreation and Amenity Department,

Parks & Landscape Services Division,

Dublin City Council,

Civic Offices,

Block 4, Floor 0

Wood Quay,

Dublin 8.

Or by email to bathing.water@dublincity.ie

Closing date for submissions to Dublin City Council is 22 June 2020.