**Coniston Water - Designated Bathing Water Status**

**Public Consultation**

Water based activities are already, and increasingly, extremely popular on Coniston Water. The importance of such activities to people’s physical and mental health is increasingly recognised. But serious concerns have arisen about frequent incidents of inadequate treatment of sewage at, or bypassing of, the sewage treatment works in Coniston and Torver.

The designation of parts of the lake as “bathing waters” would impose a legal requirement on the Environment Agency to carry out regular assessments of the water quality. Such a designation would also make it easier for United Utilities to obtain approval from its regulator OFWAT for any necessary expenditure on improvements to the capacity or effectiveness of the local sewage treatment works. It would also enable more effective public pressure to be applied to United Utilities to upgrade to an adequate level.

Degradation of the water quality in the lake could have immediate effects on the health of those who use it for a wide range of activities*.* It would also have a long-term adverse effect on the ecology of the lake with its rare and internationally important species.

In order to attain Designated Bathing Water Status records must be made of the number of bathers and other undertakers of water based activities on the 20 most busy days at the parts of the lake that are candidates for designation - this process is ongoing. A submission must then be made to DEFRA, this is to be done by Coniston Parish Council.

As part of this application a public consultation has been arranged for

**Wednesday 21st September 2022 at 7pm at the Reading Rooms, Coniston Institute**

Please attend to find more about this process, and share your valuable thoughts and comments.

Tracy Coward - Chair, Coniston Parish Council

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