

Proposed Bathing Water Application Queen Elizabeth Gardens, Salisbury



Supporters



Why this Matters

Our Concerns

- River Avon water quality is poor.
- Risk to nature and public health.
- Community uses rivers more than ever (swimming, paddling, kayaking).

The Goal

- Apply for Bathing Water Status at Queen Elizabeth Gardens.
- Improve river health and safety.



The Problem

The State of UK Rivers

- Only 14% achieve *good ecological status*.
- 0% reach *good chemical status*.

Hampshire Avon

- A globally protected river.
- Still fails Environment Agency & Natural England targets.

Public Risk

- 1 in 6 have tried wild swimming.
- 55% of those became ill (Surfers Against Sewage).
- 52% are afraid to enter rivers due to water cleanliness concerns.





The Solution

Bathing Water Designation

- Monitors for harmful bacteria/viruses.
- Legal pressure on polluters to clean up.
- Empowers the public with data for informed decisions.

Benefits

- Safer recreation.
- Accountability for polluters.
- Drives infrastructure upgrades.

Queen Elizabeth Gardens

Why QE Gardens?

- Popular with families and children.
- Likely to meet DEFRA's site suitability criteria.
- Shallow area ideal for designation.

No conflict with existing use

- Avoids deeper water used for angling downstream.





Application Process

Who Applies?

- Typically led by local authorities for coastal sites.
- Inland designations often led by communities.

Our Proposal:

- We will carry out all application requirements:
 - Public consultation
 - User counts
 - Community engagement

What we hope to achieve

- Inform the public about water quality
- Push for improved river health
- Empower citizens to make safe choices
- Align with Salisbury's Green & Wellbeing strategies



An underwater photograph of a person with reddish hair, wearing a black t-shirt and blue swimming goggles, crouching on a rocky riverbed. The water is clear and greenish-yellow. A blue horizontal line is positioned above the text.

What we need from you

- A letter of support from Salisbury City Council as landowner.
- Help obtaining support from Wiltshire County Council.

Contact

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