



July 2026

communitysafety@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk

Dear Parent,

Re: Water Safety Awareness – Farndon, Newark, Balderton

Over recent years, when the weather turns warmer, there have been many occasions where young people have been swimming in the River Trent at Newark, Farndon - nearby Farndon Marina, and we are concerned about the risk.

We want to raise awareness with parents and young people of the risks of jumping into the river and the consequences. Sadly, it is only recently, that a person drowned in Balderton Lake after entering the water.

The dangers with swimming in rivers or any other open water, are not all immediately obvious; the water may look calm but there can be a strong undercurrent beneath the surface. There can be no end of rubbish and debris dumped in rivers and lakes, and it is all too easy to become entangled in this.

Another hidden harm is the quality of the water and what it contains. The police have sample tested the water at Farndon and attached are the results. The water quality is poor and, as you will read, there are several health risks from the water at this location.

There has been reports of anti-social behaviour from young people who have been swimming in this location, verbal abuse to passersby (when people are attempting to offer advice about how dangerous this activity is). This behaviour is unacceptable and if any person is found to be behaving in an anti-social manner, we will take action against them, however our primary concern is the safety of the young people.

Over this period, agencies have provided water safety awareness advice to young people at various safety events, and in partnership with Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service, we are planning talks within local schools in the coming months.

Likewise, when police attend a report of young people swimming in the river, officers talk to them about the dangers. Although the police attend, on occasion, young people see this as a challenge, as we have no powers to physically remove them from the water.

We ask that you advise your child of the dangers of swimming in rivers or lakes, and this is not something they should do.

If you have any queries, please contact us on the above email address.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yvonne Swinton', with a stylized 'Y' and a long, wavy horizontal line extending to the right.

Yvonne Swinton
Community Protection Manager
Newark & Sherwood District Council