

Dear Tynemouth,

Thanks so much for stepping up. Sadly I'm writing to let you know that the **"Disaster Phase" of the Nurdle Spill: When volunteers are needed – is to continue for far longer than I'd anticipated.**

Please keep helping after high tide, look for intelligence where. Avoid contractor machinery including the Briggs and **Nurdle UK kit** and don't assume that it is taking over, **some of it is site visits and tests.**

Take care of yourself physically and mentally. I am in bits. For the next couple of weeks, the tides may not bring anything special but then we will enter other periods when we need to push harder. This is in The Tyne, in the seabed, in the beaches and it will keep coming in white waves and strands.

Yesterday I spoke to 3 experts and heard some stuff that leaves me very worried about the long term. **The amount of material still stewing in the Tyne is unacceptable.** If there is a demonstration at some point aimed at Port of Tyne, specifically on this issue, I urge you to attend.

When I made my "Just Sweep, DO NOT STEP ON THE NURDLES" video Sunday my family said I looked angry. I was very worried. Every time I have said the "The Environment Agency Need To Be Held To Account" for the delay in mass volunteering, this gets edited out. The mumbling excuses get more pathetic ranging from H&S to weighing, which only the loss adjusters and accountants care about.

I will continue to support holding those responsible to account for the delay, but **I need to do the job as your Ward Councillor. Boy are you going to need a good one.**

All Communities impacted by big Nurdle Spills must eventually make a community decision on how much of this can come out of the beaches and how much will have to be left. One expert told me that "many do not even get to make this decision, before the insurers shut down and walk away".

For a few days after this weekend I will have to cut myself off and concentrate on family. Right now my wife, who has always had reservations about me being a Cllr, is very worried about me and doesn't want me to keep doing it. Sorry, sorry, sorry, sorry.....

Some people in particular deserve recognition and I will make sure they get it. "The organisers" took on a degree of personal risk in a mass effort that they should never have had to do. The community admins, the sweepers, the filterers, the bag people, Sally, Martyn, Josh, Mark, Richard, Lou, Kayleigh, everyone..... Personally I am hugely grateful to Cllr Andy H who stood with me on Longsands for all four tides Monday and Tuesday, a calm rock, without whom I'd have keeled over. Thanks to Cllr Joes M who stepped up and I very unfairly unloaded my stress onto. Thanks Fiona and Sam for putting up with me at home, sorry, again.

The Regional Mayors Office has said "we are talking to International Tanker Operators Pollution Federation about a scheme to **compensate local people for the money they spend** keep any receipts." I will be waiting in line with everyone else. **No gold-plated dustpans or Gucci Wellies.**

Before I take a breath, I am going to write down all of the information I have assembled on what happened and what we can expect next and kick off distributing through every door in Tynemouth. You may normally put paper from politicians straight in the bin but please read and reflect.

Latter tonight I will be at the Castle Inn on the terrace having a few beers.

Take Care Tynemouth and thanks,

Cllr Tom, Tynemouth

AKA "The King of The Nurdles"