

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, tips at <https://nurdle-hub-ne.vercel.app/how-to-clean> , if in doubt take a dustpan and brush. 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. 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 for now scattered but sometimes in white waves and strands.

Last Thursday, 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 July 26th my family said I looked angry. I was very worried. I will continue to support holding those responsible to account for the delay, but **I need to do the job as Tynemouth Ward Councillor. Boy are you going to need a good one.**

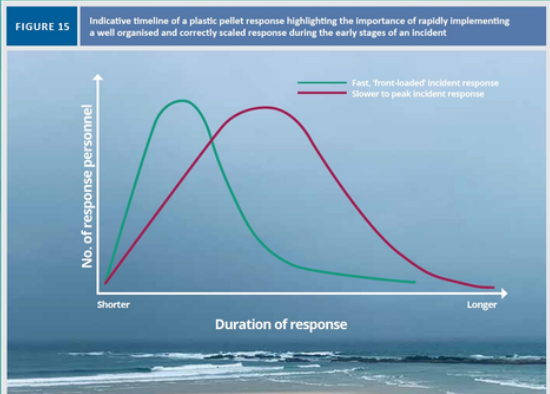
All Communities impacted by big Nurdle Spills must eventually make a community decision on how much of this can come out of the beaches and how much will have to be left. One expert told me that “many do not even get to make this decision, before the insurers shut down and walk away”.

Please, please keep helping so that we can approach the rest of the cleanup in as best a place as we can be and with our heads held high.

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.....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 Josephine 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.**

Take Care Tynemouth and thanks,
Cllr Tom, Tynemouth



Tynemouth.News

Delivered to Tynemouth and The Coast

Special Edition – Tyne Nurdle Spill Update

Biggest Nurdle Plastic Pellet Pollution Event in Europe hits Tynemouth, Shields & Coast



Thank you!
Volunteers Step Up

Longsands, something so special,, there was no way that we could keep letting this pollution come ashore without acting

It's been quite a week or so.....

Sunday 19th July two ships collided on the Tyne triggering the largest plastic pollution incident in Northern Europe.

Up to 25 tonnes of nurdles (small plastic pellets used to manufacture most plastic products) spilled into the river.

Almost one billion nurdles are believed to have been released into the water, heading for Tyneside beaches.

7am Wednesday 22nd I got a call from Sally our local Surfers Against Sewage Rep “You need to get down to Longsands, bring a dustpan and brush.....

“You need to get down to Longsands, bring a dustpan and brush!”

Working for you Protecting Our Coast



Wednesday Morning Tide



Locals called out by Sally our SAS Rep had to watch as the tide came in and covered the first of the spill. EA Guidance Issued against volunteering.

Saturday



Cllr Tom visits Nurdel Uk in with Cllr Matt from South Shields. Looking for ideas on how to equip volunteers. Call goes out for a local fabric supplier for mesh to filter nurdles.

Sunday Afternoon



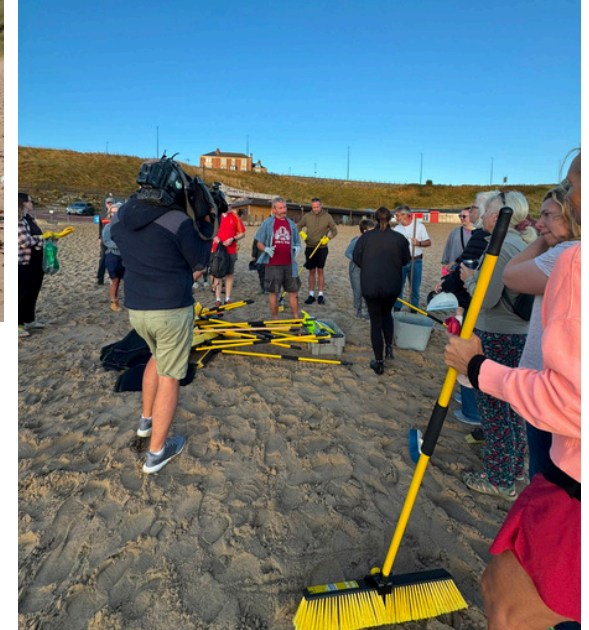
Local sewers make filter bags using the mesh found that morning as Kayleigh came to the rescue. Testing of Filter Bags in full swing on Longsands.



First Tide Monday

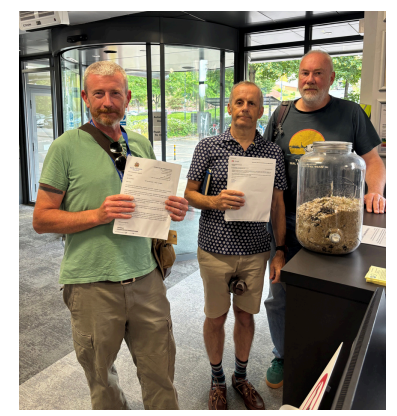


Tynemouth & Coast Step Up!



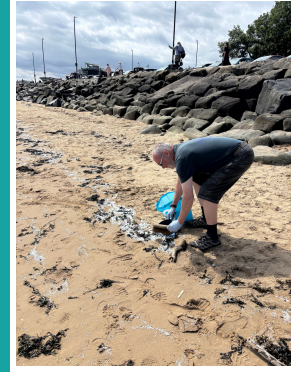
Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday Monday, Tuesday.....catching The Tide

Thursday Morning



Delivered letters from local residents and a sample of Tynemouth Nurdles to The Environment Agency Office.

Thursday Afternoon



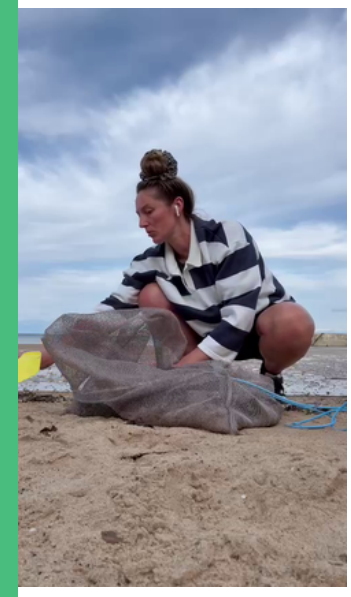
Small numbers of volunteers continue to work. Lobbying of Council and Environment Agency continues.

Friday Afternoon



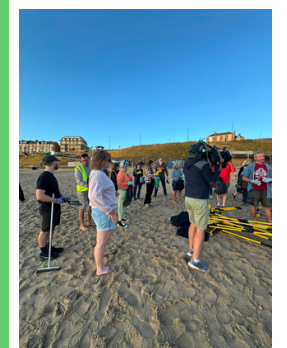
The media pick up on the volunteer block.

Sunday Evening

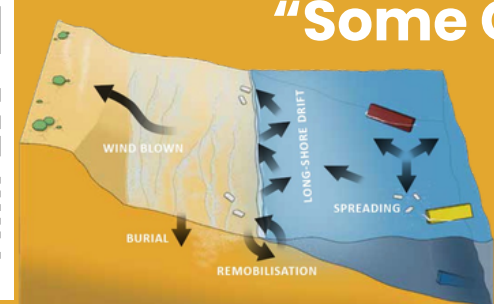


Testing of locally produced nurdle bags and young Sam hits every DIY Store locally buying up brooms.

Despite the guidance, the call goes out for people along the coast to come to Longsands Monday Morning sweep and learn how to filter the nurdles.



What does the future hold for Tynemouth Beaches? Thursday 13 August Public Meeting: Nurdle Beaches Emergency Briefing 6:30pm Venue TBC
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tynemouth-nurdle-beaches-emergency-briefing-tickets-1996344733839>
 We will still be in the "Disaster Phase", all hands on deck at High Tide when surf is rougher and for the second Spring Tide since the spill. Come together to reflect and plan.



"Some Communities never get to make a decision"