

A happy Christmas to you and yours from everyone at the Local Authority Waters Programme

UPDATE FOR THE MIDLANDS AND EASTERN REGION COUNTIES:

DUBLIN,
 WICKLOW,
 MEATH,
 WESTMEATH,
 LONGFORD,
 OFFALY,
 KILDARE,
 LAOIS

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 watersandcommunities.ie

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Catchment Catch-up Midlands and Eastern Region



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Community Water Development Fund 2020

The Community Water Development Fund is now open for applications for 2020. Community and voluntary groups who want to get involved in the protection and restoration of a healthy water environment in their local area can access this fund.

The closing date for applications submitted by post or email is **Friday, 7th February 2020 at 5.00 pm**. A new development for 2020 provides for online applications via www.lawaters.ie. The deadline for online applications is extended to **Tuesday, 11th February 2020 at 8.00 pm**.



To encourage applications via the new online facility a draw will take place, for online applicants only, with one lucky group receiving a prize of €500. Grants awarded will range from up to €5,000; up to €10,000 and up to €25,000. The total fund is capped at €225,000 for 2020.

Examples of the types of projects include:

Capital projects, such as: river and lake restoration; habitat conservation and restoration; natural flood mitigation measures.

Public awareness and education; local events such as biodiversity days; surveys, training and workshops; ecology surveys; etc.

Local amenity benefits, such as: beach clean-ups; improving amenity areas; bird watching facilities; etc.

Application Form, Guidance Notes and the online application process can be accessed at www.lawaters.ie

Support for Rivers Trusts and Catchment Partnerships

The inaugural 'Rivers Trusts and Catchment Partnerships Conference' took place on Saturday 30th November 2019 in the Hudson Bay Hotel, Athlone. It was organised jointly by LAWPRO and The Rivers Trust to provide guidance and advice for communities who are looking to get more involved in the management of their local river or lake.

The event also provided a platform to launch the "Resilience Pilot Project". This project will provide grant funding for project officers for both the Inishowen and Maigne Rivers Trusts, as they transform from volunteer-led fledgling organisations to sustainable charities capable of securing and delivering catchment-scale projects.

Technical aspects of the project will be overseen by LAWPRO and Mark Horton, All-Ireland Director, The Rivers Trust. This is major development for supporting community action in managing the local water environment.



L to R: Mark Horton, The Rivers Trust, Sean Keating, LAWPRO, Alistair Maltby, The Rivers Trust, Colin Byrne, DHPLG

Tidy Towns Waters and Communities Special Award

Congratulations to **Friends of the Camac**, Clondalkin, Dublin, who were announced as regional and overall winners of the 2019 Waters and Communities Special Award. They won €2,000 in prize money. These volunteers were presented with their award by the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Mr. Michael Ring, TD, at the SuperValu Tidy Towns Regional Awards Ceremony, which was held in Blackrock, Co. Louth on November 12th 2019.

Friends of the Camac are a local, not-for-profit, community-based volunteer group in Clondalkin, County Dublin. The group aims to promote awareness of biodiversity, water quality and the amenity value of the Camac River and greenway for the people of Clondalkin. Since they came together in 2018, the **Friends of the Camac** have commissioned a biodiversity report and a fisheries report with the support of LAWPRO. These reports provided the group with valuable information on the river, but also provided them with recommendations for future initiatives on how to enhance the river.



They have worked with all the relevant stakeholders to progress local projects, including biodiversity signage, wildflower and tree planting. They have also completed citizen-science and water safety training, hosted various events during Heritage Week and continue to publish and disseminate details of their on-going projects in their quarterly newsletter and on their Facebook page. Congratulations to all involved.

Pictured: Thomas Carolan, Community Water Officer LAWPRO, Tommy Keogh, FotC (Friends of the Camac), Maria O'Connor, FotC, Michael Ring, Minister for Rural and Community Development, Brian Nolan, FotC.

RTE's EcoEye Film Crew comes to Ashbourne

As part of a feature length episode on community involvement in protecting our waterbodies, RTE's EcoEye film crew came to Ashbourne in November to film the efforts of the local Broadmeadow River Group. The film crew, led by Anja Murray, captured footage of a Family Fun Day which was taking place along the Broadmeadow River, in the newly opened Ashbourne Playground. Representatives of LAWPRO and Inland Fisheries Ireland were on-hand to help the community conduct kick-sampling, build a big bug hotel with local children and conduct a river clean-up. The day was a great success and a testament to the hard work and dedication of the Broadmeadow River volunteers. The episode will be aired in February on RTE.



Pictured: Margaret Keegan (LAWPRO) and the EcoEye Film Crew

Local Broadmeadow River Volunteers, Inland Fisheries Ireland & LAWPRO