

The Local Authority Waters Programme works with Local Authorities, public bodies and local communities to protect, maintain and improve water quality.

UPDATE FOR SOUTH EAST REGION

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Sign up to our seasonal newsletter at
www.catchments.ie

Catchment Catch-up South East Region

Issue 2

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Water Heritage Day Sunday 25th August 2019

Water Heritage Day occurs on Sunday 25th August 2019, the last day of National Heritage Week. It is a collaboration between The Heritage Council and the Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO). This year's Pastimes | Past times theme provides an opportunity for young and old alike to get out and discover our water heritage and the magic and wonder of our rivers, lakes, canals and coasts.

Community groups are encouraged to organise local events that can include; a guided nature walk along a river or lake, a trip to discover a holy well, a walk and talk about the built and cultural heritage of a local waterway, boating trips and much more. Contact your local Community Water Officer for more information.

The Local Authority Waters Programme works with local authorities, public bodies, stakeholders and local communities to protect, maintain and improve water quality. A healthy water environment benefits health, wildlife and the economy.

For more information on Water Heritage Day visit <https://www.heritageweek.ie>



Community Water Development Fund 2019

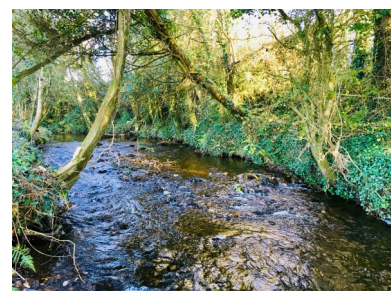
The Community Water Development Fund helps local communities deliver projects and initiatives related to water and nature. These projects deliver local benefits by enhancing the water environment and wider benefits by helping to meet water quality objectives of the national River Basin Management Plan. The fund is open to all community and voluntary groups interested in the protection and restoration of local streams, rivers, lakes and coasts. Community lead initiatives deliver improvements locally and in turn benefit the wider catchment.

There was massive interest in the fund in 2019 with a total of 151 applications, exceeding €750,000 total project costs. The amount of funding available for 2019 is €180,000. Allocation of this fund required a rigorous internal assessment followed by review and sign off by an External Evaluation Committee. A total of 105 grants were offered for 2019. Here is a link to an interactive map showing project locations and details for 2019:

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1LAe35U3U3WVieAJFI-TPPIv8K_IFbteH2&usp=sharing



Tree planting along a river bank.



Tunnelling removal from river bank.

**EVERY PERSON HAS A ROLE
TO PLAY IN PROTECTING
WATER QUALITY**

WHAT?

Conserve:
Fix leaky taps to conserve water

Use water butts to capture rainwater for use in the garden

Install hippo bags in toilet cisterns (a red brick would do)
1/3 of water used in our households goes down the toilet

Protect:
NO grease, oil or fats go down the drain (brown waste bag)

Only 3 Ps down go down the toilet (pee, poo, paper)

Check the septic tank regularly and desludge when necessary

Minimise your use of garden chemicals

Buy local foods and do fewer car journeys where possible

WHY?

Water is precious
It takes 140 litres of water to make a cup of coffee (to grow the beans, transport and process them, prepare and make your coffee)

Every day each person in Ireland uses between 80 and 150 litres of water

It takes 1500 litres of water to make 1 kg of beef (that is four fat hamburgers). That is for the animal to grow, process, transport and package the meat

528,000 disposable coffee cups are discarded in Ireland every day.

*"We do not own this land, we borrow it from our grandchildren",
Ancient Native American saying*

Ongoing activities

Fieldwork in the Derreen & Douglas (Kiltegan) AFA

The Derreen & Douglas (Kiltegan) prioritised Area for Action (AFA), is a large 12 waterbody AFA spanning across counties Wicklow and Carlow. Fieldwork for this AFA began on the 23rd May, following on from the desk study and the Community Information Meeting (29th April, 'The Hub', Kiltegan). The day of fieldwork was a great success, with biological and physio-chemical sampling undertaken in all of the 12 waterbodies.

Using Small Stream Impact Scores (SSIS), the catchment scientists found water quality to be in the category 'probably not significantly impacted' at four of the sites. Work is ongoing to untangle the factors causing the remaining sites to be 'probably impacted'. The photo of a 'kick sample' included below shows the abundance of pollution-sensitive macroinvertebrate species recorded at one of the sites. Here a number of stonefly and mayfly species are visible, leading to the conclusion that water quality is 'probably not significantly impacted' at this site.

The South East team are eager to undertake further catchment assessments within the Derreen & Douglas (Kiltegan) AFA, and to work with the local community and state agencies to achieve improvements in water quality.



Photo shows kick sample in tray

Waterford Country Fair

The Waterford Country Fair took place on Sunday 9th June in the scenic grounds of Curraghmore House and Gardens in Portlaoise, Co. Waterford. The Clodiagh River flows through the estate, with the Clodiagh (Portlaoise) AFA is located upstream. Members of the LAWPRO team attended on the day, displaying kick samples from the Clodiagh River and chatting to people about their work. Paul Carroll, Waterford Council, and Inland Fisheries Ireland staff were also in attendance, speaking about the Portlaoise Freshwater Pearl Mussel project, and presenting wall charts of the fish species in Ireland. There was great interaction between the three agencies and the local community throughout the day, demonstrating their interest in biodiversity and the local water environment.



We would like to welcome Jim Croke who is the newest member of the South East Region team to LAWPRO. Jim is a Catchment Scientist based in the Clonmel office. We look forward to working with Jim into the future!