

The Local Authority Waters Programme works alongside and supports public bodies, stakeholders and communities in protecting, enhancing and maintaining healthy waters and catchments.

UPDATE FOR SOUTH EAST REGION

**TIPPERARY,
KILKENNY,
CARLOW, LAOIS,
WEXFORD,
WATERFORD**

Contact details:

Regional Coordinator

Fran Igoe
figoe@lawaters.ie

Catchment Assessment Team

Ruth Hennessy
rhennessy@lawaters.ie

Communities Team:

Ann Phelan
aphelan@lawaters.ie
085 8084067

Further information web-sites:

watersandcommunities.ie

catchments.ie

Sign up to for the seasonal newsletter at www.catchments.ie

Follow us on Twitter
@watersprogramme

And find us on Facebook
@WatersAndCommunities

Catchment Catch-up South East Region

Issue 3

September 2019

Water Quality and the National Ploughing Championship, Ballinrane, Fenagh, County Carlow, 17—19 September, 2019

In 2019 LAWPRO attended the National Ploughing Championships for the third successive year and collaborated — also for the third year in a row — with the National Federation of Group Water Schemes. Our “Water Quality”-themed stand was located in the “Environment, Climate and Sustainability” marquee, which was managed by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (DCCAE). All agencies and public bodies in that space were linked by their connection to the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals.

The ploughing championship is a fantastic event and is unique in many respects, with its myriad of exhibitors and huge crowds. With such a wide and varied audience, the championship provides us with a great opportunity to raise awareness about water quality and LAWPRO’s goals.

Our core message this year was built around the idea of a “Water Catchment”, a theme chosen in order to highlight links between activities on land and water quality in rivers, lakes and coastal waters. The activities referred to include agriculture, forestry, manufacturing, urban wastewater treatment, domestic wastewater treatment, urban run-off and water-based recreational activities. Instead of focusing on the problems in a catchment, however, the emphasis is placed on identifying solutions and on the need for communities to work together, in tandem with the work of public bodies.



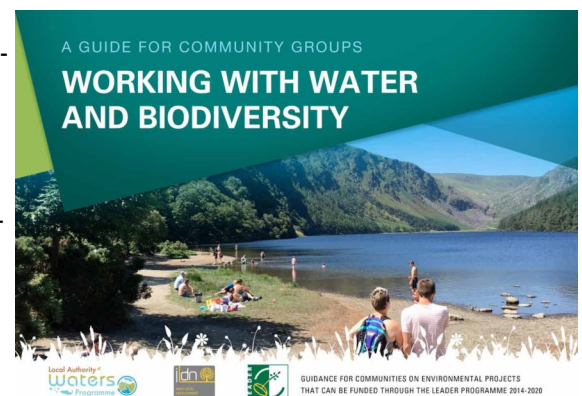
L to R: Adrian Smith, NFGWS; Róisín Dowd-Smith, NFGWS; Richard Bruton T.D., Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment; Brian Casey, LAWPRO; John Carley, DoS, Wexford Co Co; Ruth Hennessy, LAWPRO; Jim Croke, LAWPRO.

Exhibitors in the Environment, Climate & Sustainability stand: DCCAE, LAWPRO, IFI, OPW, NPWS, CARO, Met Éireann, GSI, SEAI, NFGWS, Office of Emergency Planning, Green Schools, ObServe, EPA, My Waste, Minerals and mining.



A Guidebook for Community Groups Working with Water

LAWPRO recently published *Working with Water and Biodiversity*, a guidebook for community groups. This publication was produced in collaboration with the Irish Rural Development Network and provides community groups with guidance regarding environmental projects that can be funded through the LEADER Programme 2014—2020. The guidebook is also a useful tool for LCDs and Community & Enterprise sections of Local Authorities. To obtain a copy of the guidebook, please contact your local Community Water Officer or email info@lawaters.ie



WATER IS A VITAL RESOURCE, FOR WHICH THERE IS NO KNOWN SUBSTITUTE.

The EU Water Framework Directive (WFD)

The WFD was the first directive to mandate participation by stakeholders and communities in developing and implementing public policies.

River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs)

The WFD requires good water status for all rivers, lakes, estuaries, groundwater and coastal waters. This is to be achieved through RBMPs and programmes of measures, developed and implemented in three six-year cycles up to 2027 .

A healthy catchment provides good quality drinking water and ensures that plants, animals, fish and insects will survive and flourish. People are naturally drawn to locations with good water quality, whether for recreational or sporting activities. For those reasons, it is in our interests to protect and enhance our local catchments.

Good water quality is essential for human health, for wildlife and for vibrant communities.

Ongoing activities

IFA Smart Farming Annual Farm Talk

The IFA Smart Farming annual Farm Talk was held on 28th August at Eamon Sheehan's family farm near Cuffesgrange in Co. Kilkenny. Over 300 farmers came to listen, learn and challenge the excellent field demonstration presenters from Germinal, Teagasc, ASSAP programme, BRIDE biodiversity project and the Local Authority Waters Programme.

The title of the presentation from the Local Authority Waters Programme was "What's in Our Waters?". This talk outlined the work of LAWPRO, the status of our rivers and how farmers can help improve water quality. It was explained that the main issues that LAWPRO have come across to date are excess nutrients (P and N), excess sediment running off into streams, improper use of pesticides and careless disposal of other chemicals such as sheep dip. LAWPRO's collaborative approach with ASSAP was emphasised and also how much of ASSAP's advice centres on practice change rather than expensive infrastructural improvements. Many of the measures that ASSAP will recommend will have multiple benefits for biodiversity, climate as well as water quality.

There was great interaction between the LAWPRO team and the farming community throughout the afternoon, demonstrating that the success of this approach will be based on collaboration and cooperation with everyone playing a part.



Water Heritage Day Across the South East

Water Heritage Day was held on August 25th this year with a wide range of events across Laois, Tipperary, Kilkenny, Carlow, Waterford and Wexford. Information walks along Blueways, interactive stands at festivals, lectures and outdoor water activities were the order of the day. LEADER has commenced with biodiversity and water training, catchment visioning is continuing in South Tipperary, Kilkenny and Wexford. All of these actions help engage communities and increase collaboration on local water bodies.

