

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

UPDATE FOR THE XXXX 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

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Catchment Catch-Up South East 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 Catchment Partnerships and Rivers Trusts

The inaugural 'Catchment Partnerships & Rivers Trust Network 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

South East Regional Operational Committee Meeting—Dungarvan

The South East Regional Operational Committee met for the final time of 2019 in Dungarvan on the 29th of November.

The diverse range of subjects covered during the meeting demonstrates how the work of different agencies and stakeholders attending the Regional Operational Committee complement each other and how these actions will individually and collectively help secure water quality improvements.



- Fran Igoe highlighted a range of projects being implemented by different agencies across the region. He encouraged ROC participants to identify a water body that represents their organisations interests, to champion it by aligning resources with others and to continue to look for collaborative opportunities with other agencies.
- Brian O'Donovan spoke about the promotion and implementation of practical initiatives being taken by Carlow County Council to highlight the UN Sustainable Development Goals
- Catherine Keena highlighted the role of hedgerows and riparian margins in protecting water quality and enhancing biodiversity and gave eight simple messages on how to improve biodiversity on Irish farms.
- JP Bourke and Paul Fortune from Tipperary Co-Op, one of the dairy industry partners in the Agricultural Sustainability Support and Advice Programme (ASSAP), spoke about the environmental sustainability actions being implemented by the Co-Op both in the milk processing plant and with their farmers.
- Alan Walsh of LAWPRO gave an overview of the Community Information Meeting that took place on 16th October in Dungarvan, and the formation of a Dungarvan Harbour Community Group, which will bring the existing community groups together and identify opportunities to enhance and protect the Harbour.

JOHN CARLEY—RETIREMENT

Fran Igoe, Regional Co-ordinator led the tributes to John Carley Chairperson of the SE ROC who retires as DOS with Wexford County Council at the end of 2019. John Carley has been a true champion of river basin management planning since the early days of the Water Framework Directive in Ireland. As Chair of the SE ROC he continued to advocate for a collaborative approach, and he encouraged and supported the participation of all implementing bodies. Carol McCarthy from LAWPRO along with other committee members, thanked John for his work with the Committee and wished him well in his retirement.



WETLANDS FIELDTRIP

The ROC meeting continued in the afternoon with a field trip to view the constructed wetlands at the old landfill site at Ballinamuck, Dungarvan. The wetlands were developed by Waterford Council to treat the leachate from the old landfill site, this treatment protects the River Colligan from potentially harmful discharges from the old landfill site. Wetlands are one of the measures which can be used to intercept and treat polluting discharges and the field trip provided committee members with an opportunity to examine an established and effective constructed wetland.