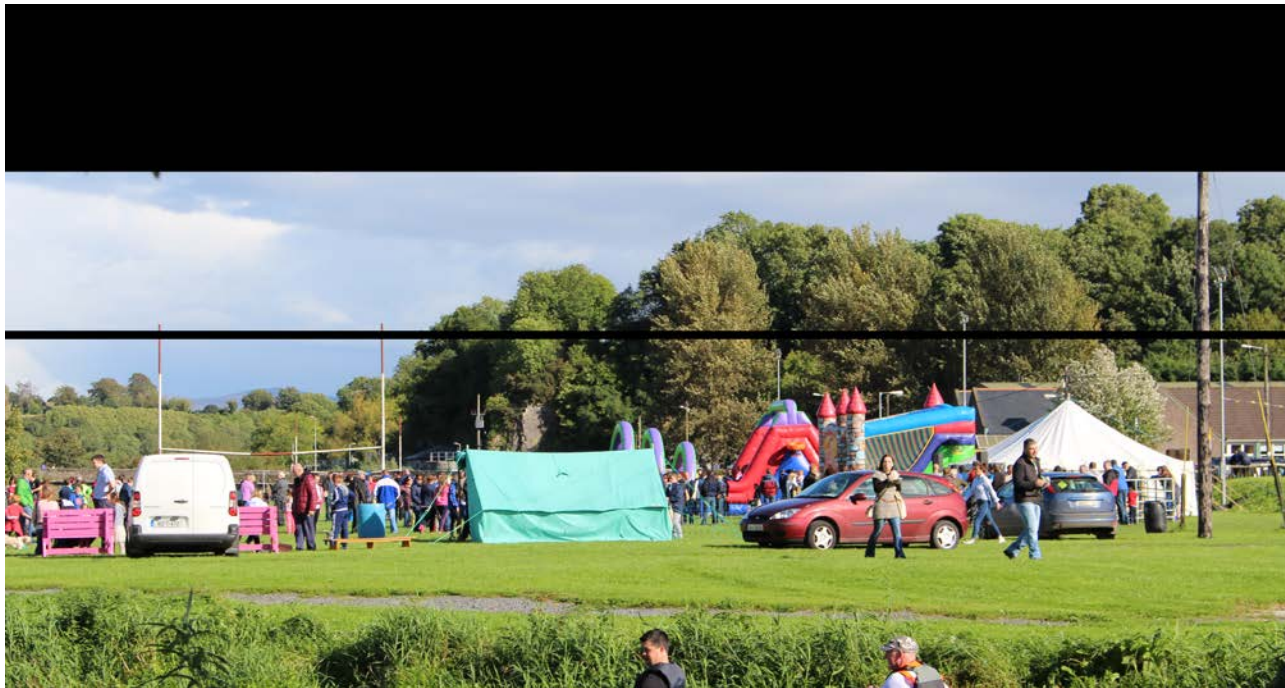


Raising awareness and engaging the people in the management of our natural waters – feedback from the public consultations



Presentation to **Environmental Services National Training Group** Minella Hotel 24th May 2017
Fran Igoe, Southern Regional Coordinator, Local Authorities Waters and Communities Office

Presentation Overview

- Who we are
- Formulating the engagement plan
- River Suir Public engagement Pilot
- Examples of community participation to date
- Practical examples



Communication and Public Engagement = The Waters and Communities Office

KEY to Community engagement

Support Local Authorities in coordinating water quality management (WFD) activities across the regions.

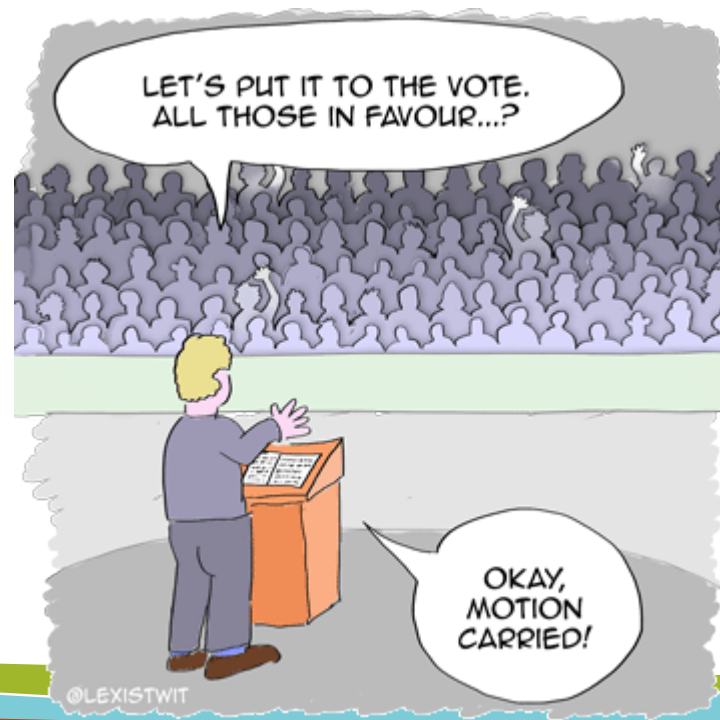
Encourage public bodies, sectoral interests, NGO's and local communities, to **share knowledge** and **work together** to protect and manage our natural waters.

Support local communities to develop water related projects and make submissions to the dRBMP.



Communication & Engagement

- Previous consultations highlighted need for:
 - (i) better engagement in water policy at national level
 - (ii) Facilitation of public and stakeholder engagement at local level



Approach

- Awareness raising
- Public engagement
- Public participation (enabling)
- Partnership networking
- Targeting priority areas where possible
- But also :- protect existing status



Engaging communities across Ireland

Co. Mayo: R. Moy association formed and launched on Wednesday in Mount

What is your vision for the rivers of Dundalk bay?



MEET SHARE LEARN

Come along to one of these free events and meet individuals, groups and agencies interested in protecting and enhancing the rivers, lakes and coastline of Dundalk Bay. Share stories, knowledge and ideas connected with Dundalk Bay and have your say on a vision for rivers of the area. Learn about ongoing activities and how we might create a plan for the future of the rivers of Dundalk Bay.

To Register or for more information contact gmsccarron@lawco.ie tel: 085 808 5756 facebook.com/watersandcommunities

by group looking about p

Networking for Nature Tidy Towns Event
 The Bush Hotel, Carrick on Shannon, Co. Leitrim
 Saturday, 11th March, 2017
FREE ADMISSION

er - Kildare

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Off

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

11.00 - 11.15am	Tea/Coffee Registration & Welcome
11.15 - 12.15pm	Focusing on Wildlife, Habitats and Tid...

Author: Karen Ke...

Minister Denis Naughten with members of the local comm the wetlands walk in Loughneneane Turlough, Roscomm celebrate World Wetlands Day . Also in the picture are Community Water Officers Catherine Seale, Mick Kane and Basil Mannion. #WorldWetlandsDay #LocalCommunities



Waters & Communities
 Healthy Waters supporting Vibrant Communities
 Comhairle Chontae Liatroma Leitrim County Council
 November 23, 2016

Kieran Murphy, Community Water Officer based in Cork will speak at this event as part of an interview panel. Any individual or group with an interest in the River Lee catchment and salmon stocks in our rivers should go along. #HealthyWaters #VibrantCommunities



Salmon Come Back! River Lee Catchment Event

WHO'S WHO?
on Inishowen Rivers
 Wednesday 22nd February 2017 | 6pm - 9pm
 An Grianán Hotel, Burt, Co. Donegal

A great opportunity to meet groups, individuals and agencies with an interest or role in the protection, monitoring and promotion of the lakes, rivers and coastal areas of the Inishowen Municipal District.

Short Presentations | Visit stalls | Discussions | Light refreshments

Presentations by:
 Bernie O'Flaherty LAWCO Co-ordinator (Border Region)
 Jimmy McVeigh Donegal Community Water Officer
 Mark Horton Director All-Ireland of the Rivers Trust

Register on Eventbrite for free: <https://inishowenriverstrust.eventbrite.ie>

To find out more:
 Email: inishowenriverstrust@gmail.com or Call: 087 647 8183 or 087 644 6993

LAWCO, project will be community led

MEET SHARE LEARN

PROTECTING OUR BEACHES, SEAS & MARINE LIFE

Clean Coasts
 ROADSHOW 2017

Lee Bay Wetlands Centre



Water Catchments

WHERE WE LIVE, WORK & PLAY

Agricultural Pressures

Properly managed farms pose less risk to our waters.

Livestock access to watercourses must be properly managed to ensure good water quality.

Forestry Pressures

Surface water run-off from Forests can impact our water environment.

Rural Dwelling Pressures

Approximately 30% of private wells are contaminated by E.coli

There is an angling club associated with every town and village in Ireland. Angling tourism benefits local communities.

Urban Run-Off Pressures

Properly treated Urban waste water will pose less risk to public health and the environment.

Waste Water Pressures

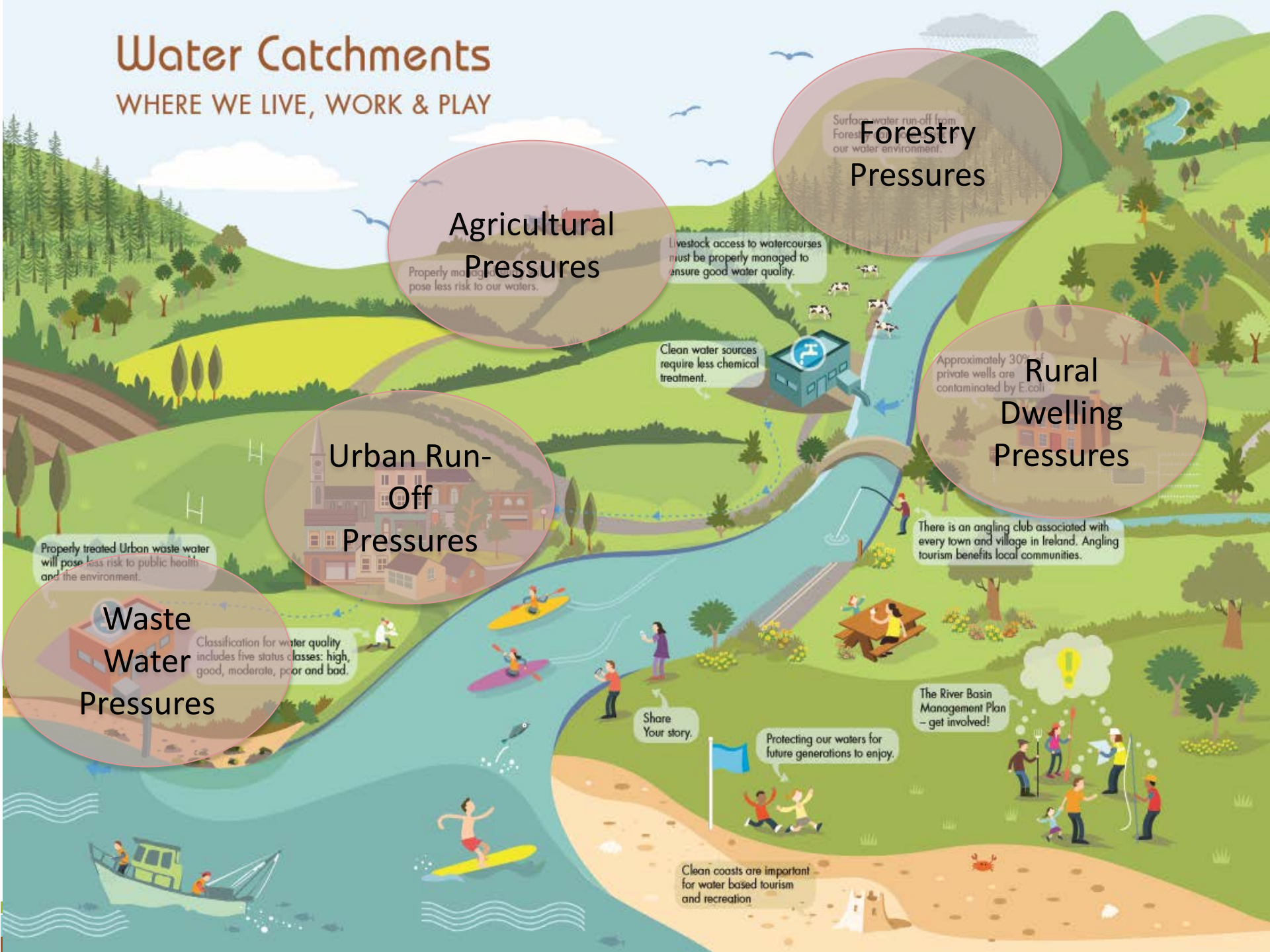
Classification for water quality includes five status classes: high, good, moderate, poor and bad.

Share Your story.

Protecting our waters for future generations to enjoy.

The River Basin Management Plan – get involved!

Clean coasts are important for water based tourism and recreation













C30

C58





Walk before tarmac







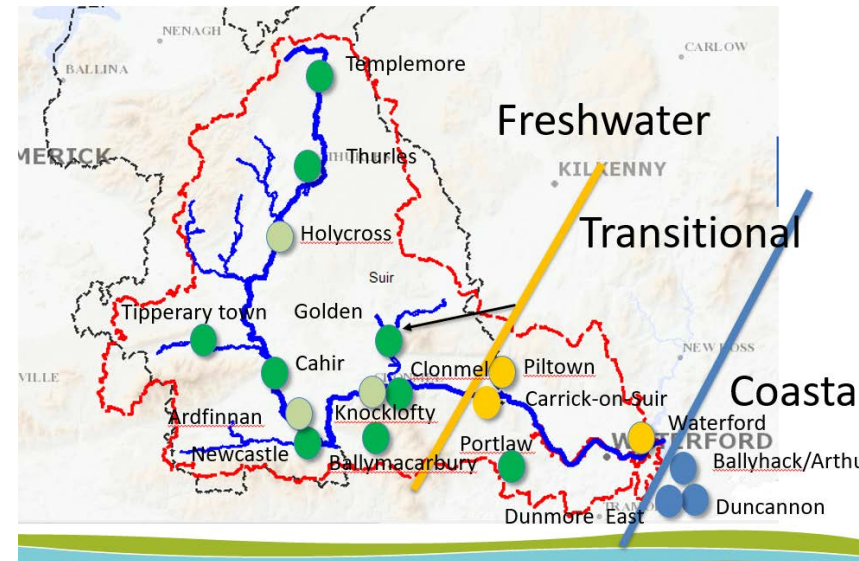
Golden to Cashel



River Suir: Pilot project 2016

Public engagement

- R Suir catchment
- 16 Public meetings
- 4 Counties (4 LA's)
- Initially 6 meetings/Tipp (OPW CFRAMs PCDs)
- **Learnings,**
 - Keep it local
 - Everything relevant
 - Work hard at generating attendance
 - link in with established networks
 - use social media and traditional communication methods







Ardfinnan Family Funday

by the River Suir

Ardfinnan Village Green
Sunday 25th September 2016

from 2.00pm



Biodiversity and fun for all the family
Learn about the River Suir
See the wildlife up close

River Activities include:

- Flycasting demonstrations
- Mini BioBlitz
- Kick Sampling
- Try a Kayak or Canoe
- River Rescue Displays
- Biodiversity Talks
- Bat Walk (7.00pm)

Community Fundraising Activities include:

- Sheep Racing
- Crazy Soccer Match
- Bouncy Castle
- Pony Rides
- Face Painting
- Kid's Races

and lots, lots more....



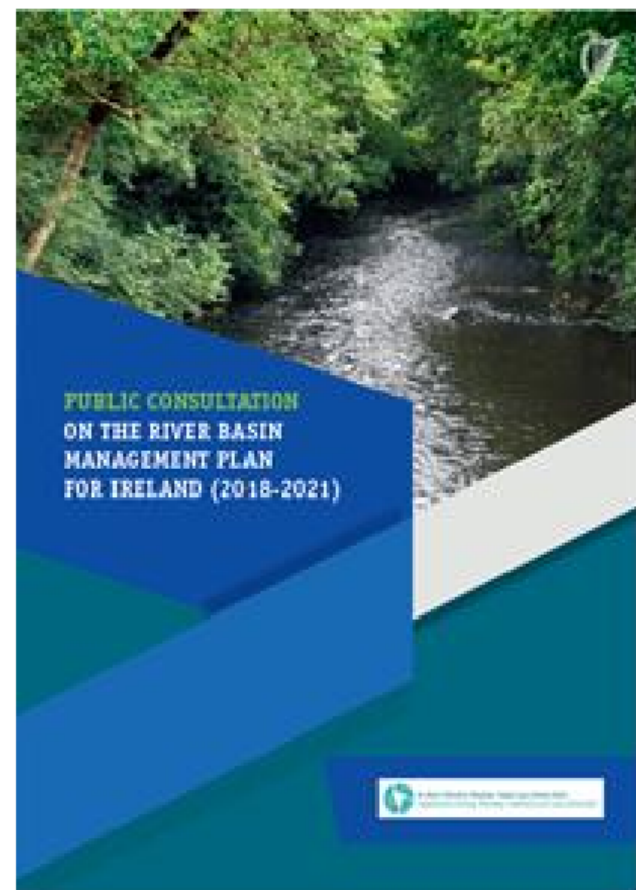
For further details: Tel: 0761 06 5261 www.lawco.ie
In association with Ardfinnan Community Council Playground Fundraiser

Waters
& communities
Healthy Waters supporting Vibrant Communities

Draft River Basin Management Plan

6 months public consultation process

- LA Members and SPCs (LA staff)
- “Town Hall” briefings (LAWCO)
- National Water Forum (LAWCO)
- Public Water Forum (LAWCO)
- Other stakeholders (DHPCLG)

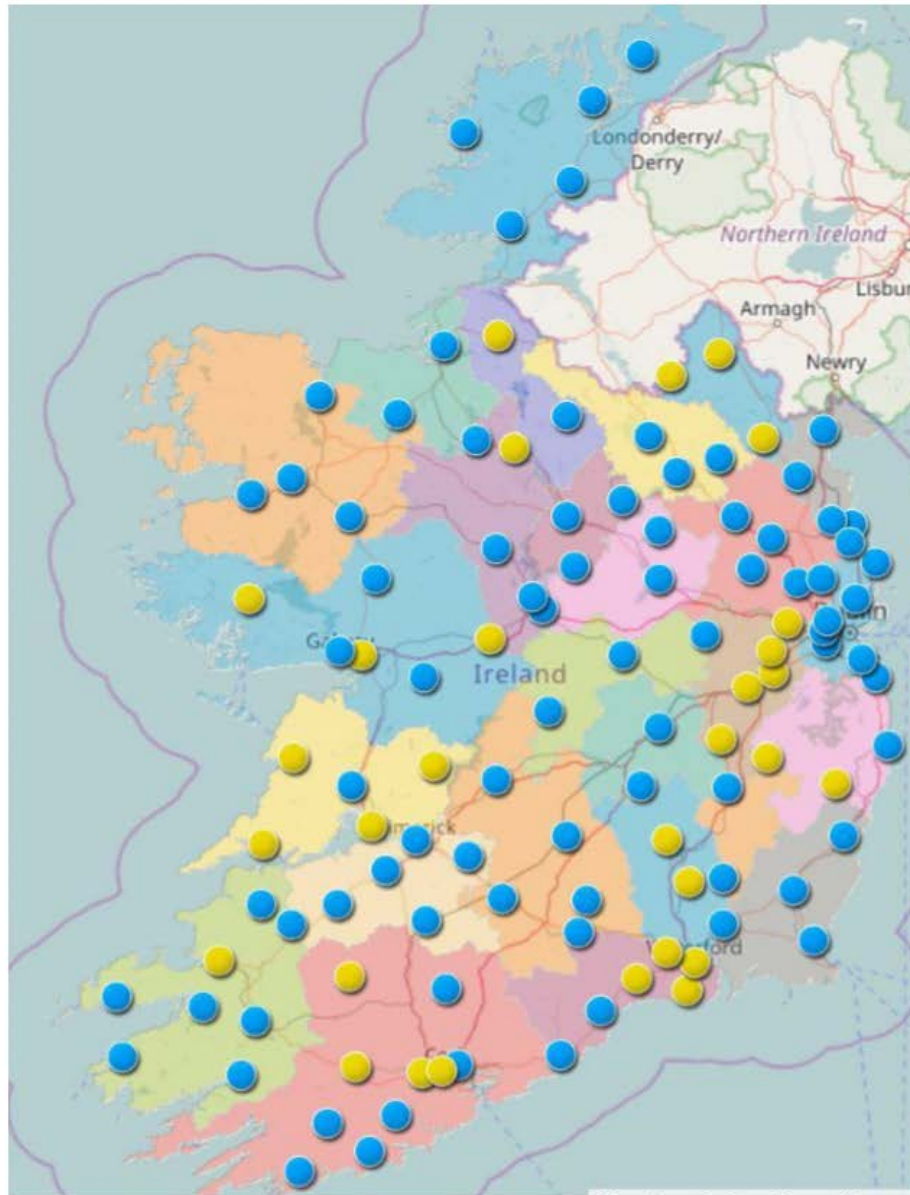


Community Engagement

- Spatial distribution of Public Engagement areas to coincide with Municipal Districts (n=95) + circa 25 = 120.
- End April to end July 2017 –final date end Aug



Town Hall Briefings



Completed
Planned

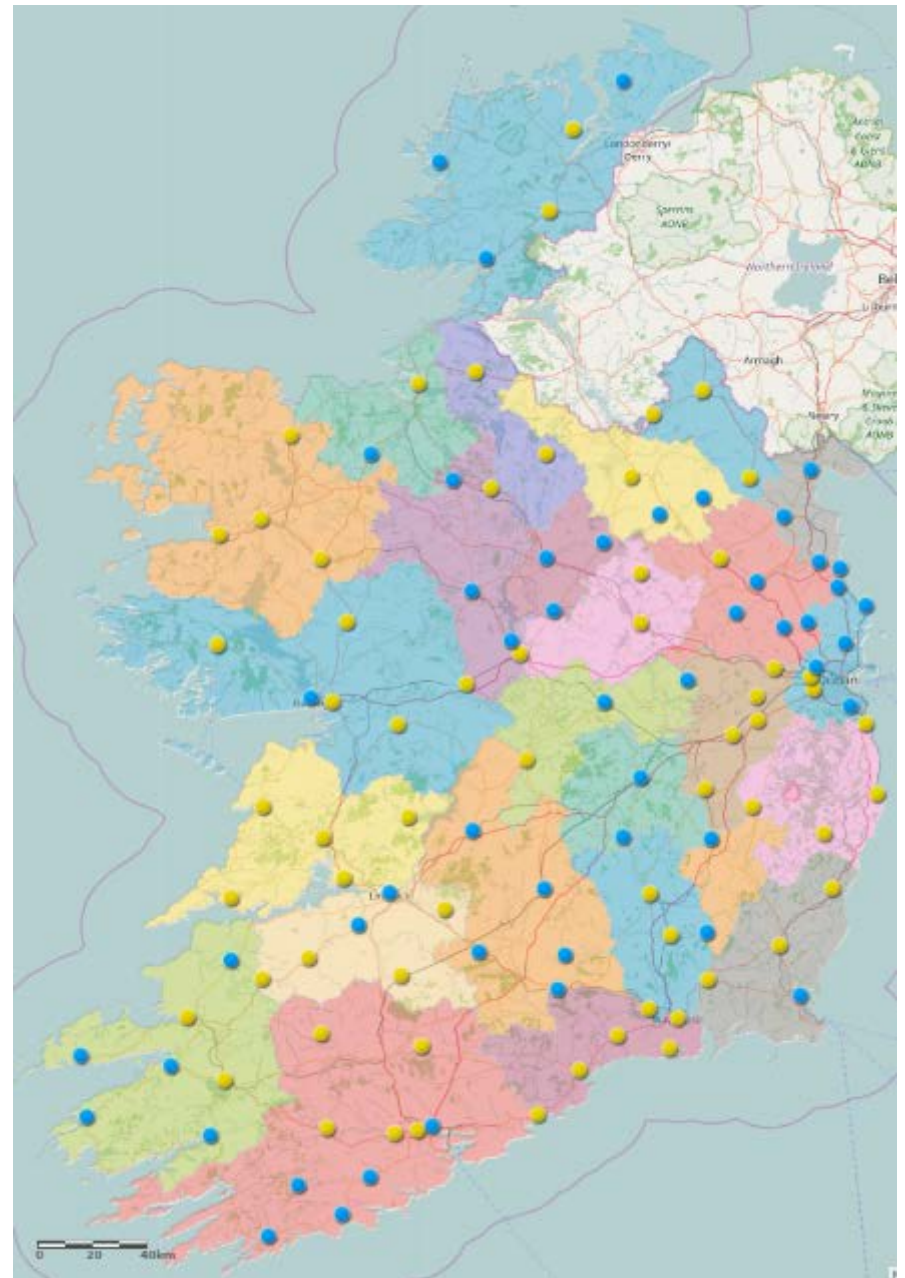
Additional meeting to sectoral interests

- PPN'S
- LEADER companies
- Tidy Towns
- Community events
- Sectoral meetings/conferences
- Any opportunity we can get!

- 64 Public Meetings Held to Date
- 53 Meetings remaining

Additional meeting to sectoral interests

- PPN'S
- LEADER companies
- Tidy Towns
- Community events
- Sectoral meetings/conferences
- Any opportunity we can get!







Issue	Issues/questions arising	Response	Actions/Comments	Submission Ref
Navigation/Boating	Access to river and overgrown inaccessible areas of river – Barrow not navigable in stretches for canoeists			Athy MD_001
Agriculture	Need to raise awareness of impacting of farming amongst famers. Adverts in Farmers Journal. Cattle access also needs to be addressed along River Barrow			Athy MD_002
Littering/Dumping	Community clean-up of Rivers and Canals – more coordinated support from Las to assist communities with their clean-up activities required. Telescopic tools and litter pickers should be readily available for clean-up of River Barrow and Grand Canals		Role for LAWCO – more coordinated activities of River clean-up's?	Athy MD_003
Éducation	More education and awarness raising amongst Tidy Towns groups and local communities required		Role for LAWCO – continue to build relations	Athy MD_004
Abstraction	Concerns about abstraction from local plant in Athy. Waters levels in the Barrow detrimentally impacted. Plant extracting > 10m3 p/day. . During 2014 and 2015 Summers, River Barrow completely dried up for 50m stretch.			Athy MD_005

Venue: The Park Hotel Dungarvan

Date: 17/05/2017

In attendance: Fran Igoe, Alan Walsh

Number of Attendees: 17

Dungarvan, Co Waterford



Issue	Issues/questions arising	Response	Actions/Comments
Other	Public safety – ringbuoys at waterways need to be maintained and checked regularly.		
Amenity	Balinacourty Pier – rocks washed up under the pier are a hazard to anyone swimming or jumping off the pier. Bathing areas need to be maintained safe.	Paul Carroll of Waterford Co Co said he will bring that issue forward to Bathing Water group.	
Governance	Directives can be restrictive. Cant remove stones from pier because of Directive. Can restrict development that woul db e of benefit to locality. No joined up thinking.		
Other	Water extraction – extraction of water for agriculture in particular is an issue. The volumes of water being extracted does not allow the acquifers to replenishing. There will be shortages in the future. Larger dairy herds require more water which in turn leads to deeper wells. Wells going dry during summer months – result deeper wells.		
Water Pollution	Surface water run off from farms is polluting water sources.		
Other	Education – an issue for teagasc whereby farmers are advised to reomve ditches. Could have negative impact on rivers and drains. No education	F. Igoe – all bodies meet at national level and this is the type of issue that needs to eb discussed to ensure the right decisions and the	

Newmarket, Co Cork



Issue	Issues/questions arising	Response	Actions/Comments
Littering/Dumping	What are the trends seen regarding litter in the submissions so far?	This is the first public meeting for Cork so no trends can be found yet.	
Other	What support is there for community engagement and activities?	CWO's are on hand to provide support and advice. We can do awareness workshops and walks	
Public Access/Walking	No access to river for wildlife enthusiasts/ photographers	This can be a submission.	
Other	Cattle exclusion: How will cattle be kept from the river?	Agri-environmental schemes will be continued and will provide incentives for fencing off rivers	
Invasive Species	What supports/advice is there for communities regarding invasive species	There will be a national approach to dealing with invasive species which will have input from all sectors including the public.	
Invasive Species	What role does LAWCO anticipate communities have in managing invasive species	We can help community groups with training in <u>Iny.Sp.</u> management. Also, there are already initiatives around that can provide advice on this (e.g. IRD Duhallow, CNN). This can be a submission	
Water Quality	Can tidy towns groups get access to the status of our rivers?	Catchments.ie CWOs can access information for group regarding water quality.	
Governance	Farmers are being prosecuted for unlicensed reed bed which are cleaning the water from farm run-off, while big industries are getting off scott-free!	No business should get away with polluting the waters. This can be a submission	

Change as item

Sligo Town

Issue	Issues/questions arising	Response	Actions/Comments
Water Quality	Why is Fish Farming not covered in the RBMP? Given it's impact on Native fish. Not on East coast so doesn't matter to State. Governance not listening to science.	Not covered under plan. Make a submission outlining your concerns. More submissions received on the issue the more likely it will be considered an Issue.	Make a submission
Water Quality	What do you mean by CLEAN Water? This is about natural waters, high levels of arsenic in natural waters. Wells in west Cavan v polluted with high Ph AND High Iron.	Plan is about restoring rivers lakes etc to their 'natural state' in terms of ecology, chemistry and hydromorphology.	Make a submission on chemical content to the plan. "I will"
Choose an item.		Sligo CoCo: The plan makes reference to generally clean water, which has many varying definitions. There are limits prescribed to what chemicals can be present in water and at what levels. This would be under the National Drinking Water Legislation	
Water Pollution	Same person as above: Reference made to phosphate pumping, eutrophication. Would like Waters and Communities Office take message to Irish Water on limiting Phosphates into Natural Water. Public Water Forum members hand picked.		Please make a submission, here tonight or by email/letter to the department outlining your concerns and queries.
Waste Water/Sewerage	I have made at least 3 submissions to Sligo County Council on UWWTP in North Sligo. On pollution of a local river with Raw Sewage, video evidence collected. Thoroughly investigated by	Report your concerns to the EPA.	Make a submission



RECURRING THEMES AT MEETINGS



Highest Ranking Issues - Analysis of 10 Meetings

- Amenity
- Biodiversity
- Erosion
- Fishing
- Flooding
- Governance
- Heritage
- Invasive Species
- Littering
- Navigation
- Public Access
- Recreation
- Silt\Gravel
- Trees\Tunnelling
- Waste Water
- Water Pollution
- Water Quality
- Agriculture
- Education
- Abstraction



River Suir - European importance



Crayfish



Salmon

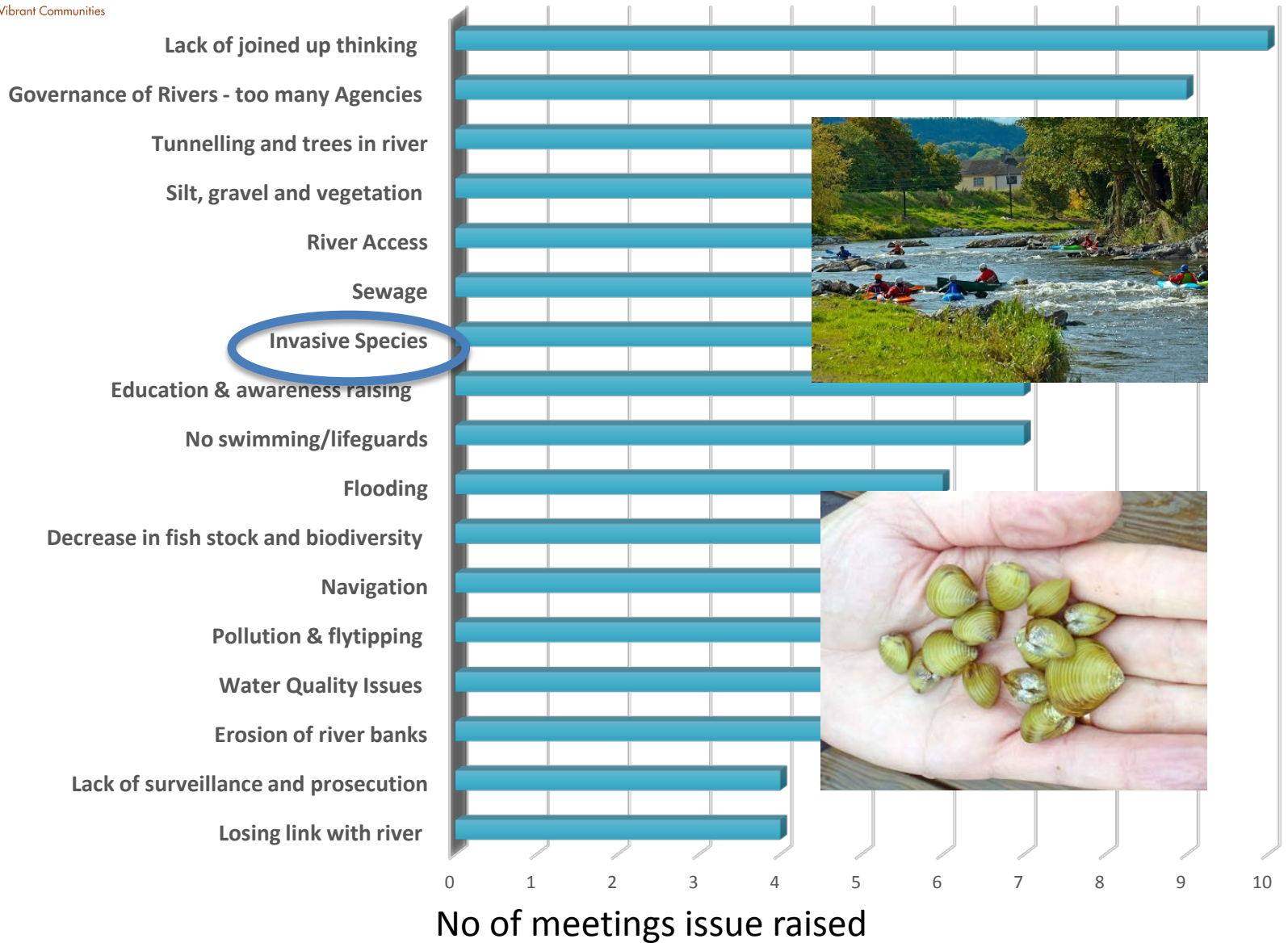


Freshwater Pearl Mussel



Otter

Most commonly cited issues raised at River Suir Public Meetings 2016 (n=16)





Risks from users

- Ireland is possibly the most important of the EU countries for native White Clawed Crayfish
- No known records of non native Crayfish
- SAC's for Crayfish including the River Suir
- **Outbreak of Crayfish Plague (5th May 2017)**







The River Suir Catchment





ATTENTION



all Anglers, Kayakers, Boat users

An outbreak of Crayfish plague has been confirmed for the River Suir below Clonmel.

The cause is unknown but people are being asked to follow simple biosecurity measures to prevent it from spreading.

To disinfect clothing and equipment use a disinfectant such as Virkon or Milton fluid. Boots and nets should be hung-up to dry. Equipment should be thoroughly dried for 48 hours before it is used elsewhere.

For more information check out www.nonnativespecies.org/checkcleandry/index.cfm

ALERT: Crayfish Plague



CHECK, CLEAN & DRY

your clothing, waders, boats and equipment before entering and on exiting the river

Stop the spread of invasive species and protect the sport and river you love



Tipperary: Quality of Life

Tipperary will continue to be a desirable place to live, with lively and attractive towns...

[Read More](#)



FIND IT



PAY FOR IT



DOWNLOAD IT



APPLY FOR IT



FEATURED NEWS

Water users urged to take precautions to limit an outbreak of Crayfish Plague on River Suir downstream of Clonmel to Carrick-on-Suir



LATEST NEWS

All News Water Alerts Road Alerts Tenders Events

Local Agenda 21 Environmental Partnership Fund 2017

Environmental Awareness:

Do you have a project or initiative that could help to increase awareness of environmental issues... [Read More](#)



19/05/2017 - 10:30

General News

Water users urged to take precautions to limit an outbreak...

Thursday, 18th May 2017: All water users are being urged to take precautions after confirmation of an outbreak of Crayfish Plague... [Read More](#)



18/05/2017 - 12:03

Featured Item

4th Annual Emergency Services Display Day- Sunday, 28th May...



ATTENTION



all Anglers, Kayakers, Boat users

An outbreak of Crayfish plague has been confirmed for the River Great Ouse. This is a serious and potentially fatal disease which can kill crayfish in a matter of days. The disease is caused by a parasite which is spread by contact with infected crayfish. It is important that you take steps to prevent the spread of the disease. For more information visit www.environmental.gov.uk/crayfishplague

ALERT: Crayfish Pl



CHECK, CLEAN & DRY

your clothing, waders, boots and equipment before entering any of our

water bodies to help prevent the spread of the disease

Biosecurity

- Weakness in Ireland's readiness to deal with invasive species
- Border controls
- Operational response and resource
- Coherent strategy
- RBMP - potential vehicle to drive this – from bottom up to Policy level (WPAC)

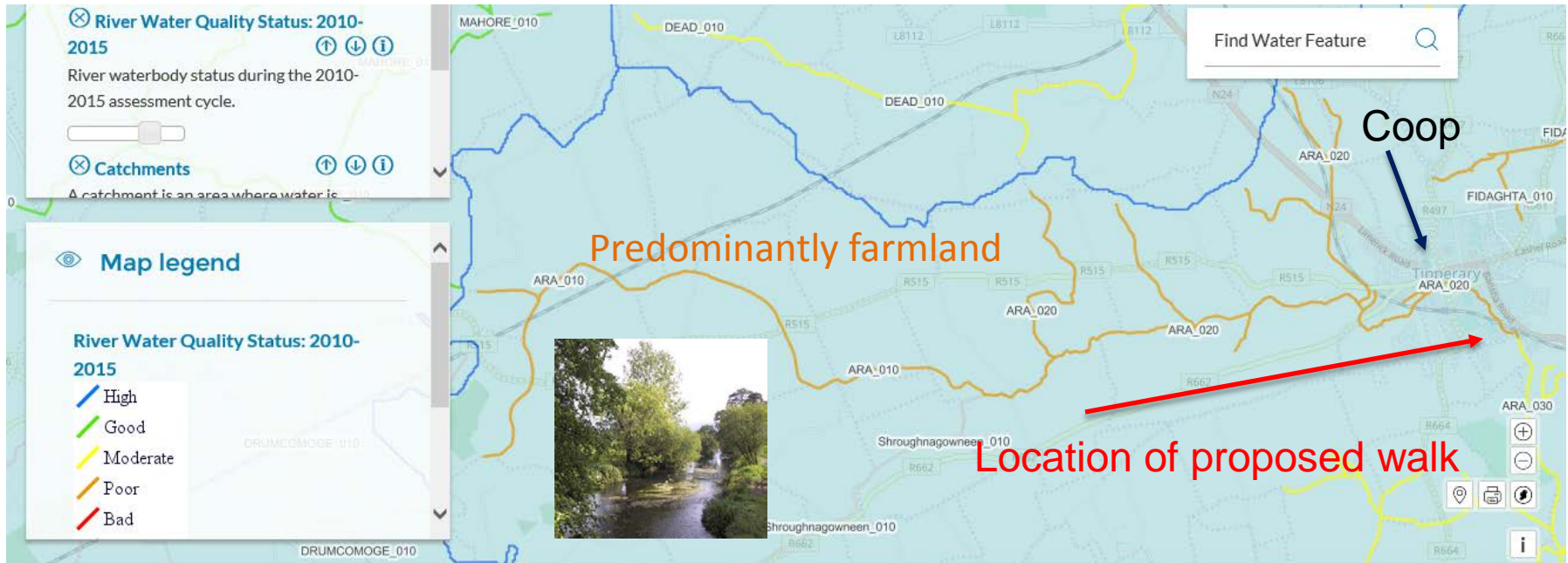
Community activity

Practical example

River restoration/community amenity



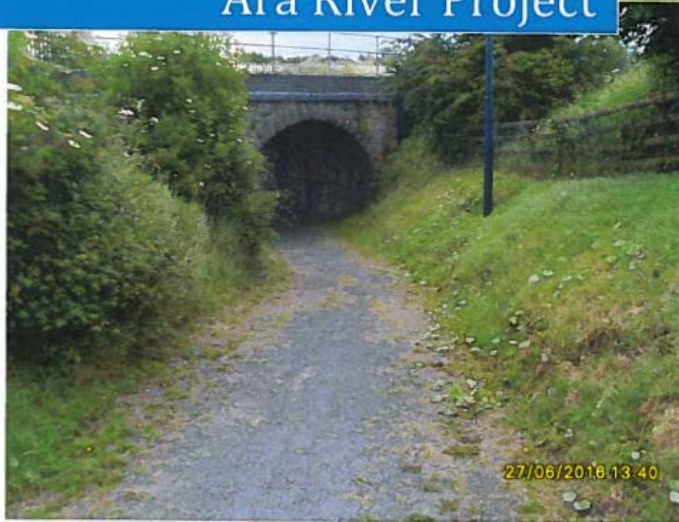
The bigger picture?



1. Reconnect community with river
2. Tie in with Town and Village Renewal scheme
3. Help underpin efforts to address industrial and urban pollution issues
4. Help support upstream buyin to planned Agri-investigations

Draft

Ara River Project



Tipperary County Council
Draft
Pat O'Dwyer & Jim Croke



- Public meeting in Tipperary Town
- 3 Radio interviews – one specific to project
- Presentation to School Board of Management
- Update – Board in principal in agreement of proposal – referring now to board of trustees.



Conclusion

- **Public interested: Water based activities**

- Heritage , Economy/tourism,
- Peoples concerns are local



- **River Basin Management Plan**

- People feel there is a “lack of joined up thinking” in water management in Ireland
- Making the WFD relevant, Public participation key
- Careful thought into how public can be engaged

Have your say

- We all live in catchments
- Make a submission
- Day jobs - Manage the risk and be ready for it!

IF you are going to be thinking anything, you might as well think big!

- Think it through
- Consult with all stakeholders
- Involve the “experts”
- Make the hard decisions
- Plan and no clever stuff!
- Communicate





**THANK
YOU**

waters 
& communities
Healthy Waters supporting Vibrant Communities

A close-up photograph showing a person's hand holding three small, brownish fish. The hand is positioned over a white plastic tray that contains some water and debris. In the background, there is a blue bucket and a metal frame with a mesh net, suggesting a field or laboratory setting for water sampling or fish collection. The scene is outdoors, with some green grass and rocks visible.

**THANK
YOU**

- Peoples concerns are “local”, not national, not regional, we have to assist in delivering the “local” action and also translating these into programmes, priorities and policy where required.

LAWCO

Local Authority Waters and Communities Office

- To promote knowledge sharing and coordination in implementing RBMPs and POMs by local authorities, public authorities, sectoral interests and community groups
- To coordinate/undertake statutorily required public consultation in development of the RBMPs and POMs on behalf of the Minister and a public awareness campaign in water resources management
- To seek consistency of RBMP implementation across agencies