

Note of Meeting

19 April 2011

Venue: Cushendall District Development Group, Cushendall

Attendees:

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| 1. Claire Vincent | Head of Marine Assessment and Licensing Team, NIEA (Chair) |
| 2. Conor Symington | Regional Manager, NIEA |
| 3. Devina Park | Bush and Glens Catchment Management Officer, NIEA |
| 4. Aideen Kelly | Strangford and Lecale Catchment Management Officer, NIEA |
| 5. Mark Horton | BREA |
| 6. Sharon Morrow | Friends of Larne Lough |
| 7. John Anderson | Friends of Larne Lough |
| 8. Gareth Greer | Rivers Agency |
| 9. Donald Walker | North Antrim Anglers Association |
| 10. Robert Laverty | North Antrim Anglers Association |
| 11. Allister Stewart | North Antrim Anglers Association |
| 12. Tom Lavelle | Ulster Angling Federation & Glens Angling Club |
| 13. Alan Morrow | Countryside DARD |
| 14. Sam Campbell | North Antrim Anglers Association |
| 15. Roy Carton | North Antrim Anglers Association |
| 16. Brendan Kerr | Ballycastle Angling Club |
| 17. Teddy Roughan | Inland Fisheries, DCAL |

Apologies:

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| 18. Michael Fell | Blue Circle Sailing Club Larne |
| 19. Robbie Marshall | Ulster Angling Federation |
| 20. Uel Irwin | AES Kilroot Power Station |
| 21. Karen Dickson | Planning Service |
| 22. David Lennox | |
| 23. John Watson | DARD, Forest Service |
| 24. Garry O'Neill | DCAL |
| 25. David Cochrane | Dundarave Estates |

1. Welcome, outline of agenda and introductions

Claire Vincent opened the meeting and welcomed all. Those in attendance were invited to introduce themselves to the group. Claire Vincent noted that the new edition of the Bush LMA E-zine was now available on the NIEA website. Also, the State of the Seas Report and Bathing Water Profiles were recently published and available on the NIEA website.

2. Note of the last meeting and update on matters arising from the last meeting

The note of the last meeting was agreed.

Action: Devina Park to publish note of last meeting on NIEA website

Devina Park gave an update on the actions from the last meeting. A list of the main rivers and tributaries in the Bush LMA has been forwarded to the Ulster Angling Federation

(UAF) so that angling clubs can make suggestions for potential pollution hotline signage locations. Any suggestions received will be considered alongside those already received

3. Catchment Case Study presented by Mark Horton, BREA and Ballinderry Fish Hatchery

Mark Horton gave a presentation on the Rivers Involving People, Places and Leading by Example (RIPPLE) project. He explained that community involvement and empowerment was central to the aims of the project. An action plan has been generated by the project and is now being implemented within the catchment.

Mark's presentation generated much interest within the meeting and a number of topics were raised. There was a discussion on the type of insurance cover required by groups carrying out similar work. Mark said that BREA has insurance cover for all the events and could provide information to other groups as required. John Anderson asked if there had been an observed reduction in pollution incidents in the Ballinderry catchment. Mark said that he felt that the number of incidents had decreased due to the community having a greater awareness of the river and the increased presence of people on and around the river. However, he pointed out that numbers could potentially increase as people were more likely to report pollution incidents. Conor Symington agreed that the project had a beneficial effect on the catchment and that potential improvements would be observed in the overall classification status. A discussion followed on the improvements in farming practice in relation to fertiliser and slurry applications over the last few years and that improvements ecological status of the water environment may occur in the longer term.

4. Regional Manager's update on notable pollution incidents and investigations since the last meeting.

Presentation from Conor Symington, Regional Manager, NIEA.

Conor Symington gave an update of local issues dealt with by NIEA Regional Operations since the last meeting, including a break down of the number, source and severity of water pollution incidents reported through the NIEA Water Pollution Hotline (0800 807060), and associated enforcement actions taken. Donald Walker asked about an incident involving the discharge of silage effluent to the Doughery Water. Conor advised that this case was ongoing. Alan Morrow outlined how pollution incidents could lead to penalties being applied to single farm payments, in addition to enforcement actions and fines actioned by NIEA. Claire Vincent said that all prosecutions resulting from pollution incidents were published in the press and available on the NIEA website. Conor also provided information on some of the other work his team is involved in, including the processing of domestic consents, inspection of wastewater treatment works, industrial site visits, river monitoring and cross compliance farm visits.

5. Update on Bush LMA Action Plan and arrangements for working in Glens & Rathlin LMA

Devina Park gave an overview on implementation of actions in the Bush LMA action plan. Roy Carton asked when would there be an update of the classification of the River Bush. Devina said that monitoring had been continuing since publication of the River Basin Management Plan in 2009 and that updated classifications including this data would be made available at the end of 2011. Donald Walker asked about monitoring at the Bush

Habitat Restoration Site. Devina said that morphology and biology surveys had been carried out before the works had commenced and again in October 2010. The works had produced an improvement in the morphology assessment from moderate to good. The report on invertebrate assessments is not yet complete but will be forwarded to group when available. Further invertebrate work is due to be carried out in July/August 2011. Alan Morrow gave an update on the actions within the Bush LMA relating to agriculture. He said that the Nitrates Action Plan had been revised and that there had been a press campaign to improve awareness in the dairy sector. He commented that due to re-opening of the agri-environment scheme, a further 2300 farms had been included. These farms would be required to have a farm waste management plan in place by 1st January 2012.

Devina gave an outline of the issues impacting water quality in the Glens & Rathlin LMA. She said that was hoping to meet stakeholders within the Glens & Rathlin LMA over during 2011 and to finding out their concerns and issues regarding water quality. Devina will use information obtained to inform the Glens & Rathlin LMA Action Plan. All those interested in providing information are asked to contact Devina.

Action: Devina Park to meet with stakeholders within the Glens & Rathlin LMA to discuss water quality issues/concerns.

6. Close

Claire Vincent thanked all for attending and for their input. She asked that if anyone had any topics that would like included at future meetings to contact Devina.

Summary of actions from the meeting:

Ref	Action
2	Devina Park to publish note of last meeting on NIEA website
5	Devina Park to meet with stakeholders within the Glens & Rathlin LMA to discuss water quality/issues concerns

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