

Note of Meeting

Carlingford and Mourne Catchment Stakeholder Group Meeting

3 June 2010

WIN Business Park, Newry

Attendees:

1. David Berry (DB)
2. George Berry (GB)
3. Eddie Carvill (EC) Fairgreen Oysters
4. Noel Chambers (NC) Newry & District Angling Club (Presenter)
5. David Clarke (DC) Loughs Agency
6. Dymphna Gallagher (DG) Northern Ireland Water (NIW)
7. Keith Henderson (KH) Planning Service
8. Aidan Kerr (Ai.K)
9. Alan Kilgore (Al.K) Kilkeel Angling Club (AC) and Ulster Angling Federation (UAF)
10. Eileen Mallon (EM) River Basin Planning Group, NIEA (Presenter)
11. Conor Maginness (CM) Water Quality Inspector, NIEA
12. Alan Morrow (AM) Countryside Management Branch, DARD
13. Vincent McAlinden (VMcA) Leave No Trace
14. Ronnie McCambley (RMcC) Newry & District Anglers
15. Alison McCaw (AMcC) River Basin Planning Group, NIEA (Presenter)
16. Paddy McCrudden (PMcC) Rivers Agency, DARD
17. Kevin McGrady (KMcG) Regional Operations, NIEA
18. Oliver McGualey (OMcG) Camlough AC and Inland Waterways Association
19. Gabriel Nelson (GN) River Basin Planning Group, NIEA (Chair)
20. Helen Nutt (HN) River Basin Planning Group, NIEA (Presenter & Notetaker)
21. Helena Rafferty (HR) Newcastle Sustainable Planning Group
22. Gordon Smyth (GS) Northern Ireland Water (NIW)
23. Lee Stockman (LS) Water Quality Inspector, NIEA
24. Shane Teague (ST) Water Quality Inspector, NIEA
25. Ian Watts (IW) Shimna Angling Club
26. Jim Watts (JW) Senior Water Quality Inspector, NIEA (Presenter)

1. Welcome

1.1 Gabriel Nelson welcomed all to the meeting and invited a round room of introductions.

2. Minutes and Update on Matters Arising from the Last Meeting

Presentation from Eileen Mallon & Helen Nutt, Catchment Management Officers, NIEA

2.1 Eileen Mallon and Helen Nutt presented an update on the matters arising from the last meeting.

Ref	Action	Update
1	Eileen Mallon to email the link to this site to all CSG members.	Responses to the comments raised in relation to the draft River Basin Management Plans can be found on the NIEA website. The link to this site has been emailed to all CSG members. www.ni-environment.gov.uk/water-home/wfd/public_partic_3.htm
2	Eileen Mallon to provide Oliver McGauley with information on the Association of River Trusts.	Information emailed on 19.1.2010. NIEA partnership agreement with ART launched on the 19.05.2010 at ART/BREA seminar. CSG members invited to attend launch. NIEA facilitating new trusts e.g. the Six Mile Water Trust. www.associationofriverstrusts.org.uk
3	NIW to address water supply and customer service concerns raised by George Berry.	George Berry's complaint is being dealt with through the Consumer Council for Northern Ireland (CCNI) office with assistance from NIW.
4	Helen Nutt to coordinate a meeting with NIW, NIEA and local stakeholders within a reasonable timescale.	Meeting held with Newcastle Sustainable Community Planning Forum, Shimna Angling Club, NIW, Planning Service & NIEA on 26.05.10.
5	Gordon Smyth to present an update on NIW Newcastle plans at a future CSG as appropriate.	Ongoing
6	NIW to provide details of the Foffany WTW incident and the mitigating measures to the CSG when appropriate.	Ongoing
7	Rivers Agency to contact Eddie Carvill to discuss concerns raised regarding the White Water River.	Conor Mallon from Rivers Agency spoke to Eddie Carvill on 12.01.2010 and updated him on progress with the White Water feasibility study. He is to be kept informed of the study findings once available. Rivers Agency will present findings to other interested local representative and parties.
8	Bridgeen Magorrian to investigate targeting of the CMS to LMAs	Alan Morrow, DARD Countryside Management Branch to provide an update.
9	Meeting attendees to return feedback forms and make suggestions for presentations at future catchment meetings to the Catchment Officers (Helen Nutt & Eileen Mallon).	Ongoing, feedback welcome.

- 2.2 With regard to **action 3** from the last meeting George Berry's complaint is being dealt with through the Consumer Council for Northern Ireland (CCNI) office with assistance from NIW. George Berry said that the problem had been sorted out and confirmed that there had been no further problems with his water supply.
- 2.3 With regard to **action 7** from the last meeting Eddie Carvill and Alan Kilgore discussed the work that had been carried out on the river and the effects that this work was expected to have on the river and downstream catchment in normal and flood conditions. Alan Kilgore said that Rivers Agency had met with the Kilkeel Angling Club, who have the fishing rights for the river, to discuss works proposals. It was highlighted that the river is designated as an Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI) which will mean that there are constraints on the work allowed. There was a request for Rivers Agency to provide feedback on the feasibility study and current status of the proposals for work. Paddy McCrudden said that he would follow up with his Rivers Agency colleague, Conor Mallon, and provide feedback to EC.

ACTION 1: Paddy McCrudden to ensure that Rivers Agency provides feedback to Eddie Carvill on the White Water River work proposals and feasibility study.

- 2.4 With regard to action 8 from the last meeting Alan Morrow said that the Countryside Management Scheme (CMS) opened in March. He said that there was currently a list of approximately 5000 farms waiting to get into the scheme and that these will be worked through as and when funding allows. He said approximately a sizeable proportion of land within Northern Ireland was within CMS management already and that it would be beneficial to look at the Local Management Areas (LMAs) where participation in the CMS is low. The prioritisation of these LMAs for uptake could be discussed with the sub committee of the Northern Ireland Rural Development Group. Alison McCaw said that she was working with Alan Morrow to determine the spread of uptake across the LMAs. The meeting agreed that NIEA should progress the matter with DARD. Gabriel Nelson said that he would pen a letter to the chair of the group asking if they would consider endorsing the prioritisation of LMAs where CMS uptake is low.

ACTION 2: Gabriel Nelson to progress the prioritisation of LMAs with low uptake of the CMS with the chair of the sub committee of the Northern Ireland Rural Development Group.

- 2.5 George Berry said that it was not farmers but the Government which were causing problems by blocking access to the river corridor. David Berry said that he had asked for access to the river and George Berry said that he had written to the DOE Planning Service but had got no reply. He said that the problems with the infrastructure in the Carbane Industrial Estate were such that the quality of the storm water coming from it could not be guaranteed.

- 2.6 Conor Maginness said that he agreed that there was a need for better mapping of the infrastructure in the Estate. He said that there was no mapping of the surface sewer in Carnbane and that when there was a pollution incident NIEA had to spend a long time man-hole mapping to find the potential source of the problem. The arrangements for mapping with regard to new developments were discussed. George Berry said that the issue had been reported numerous times and that the group had been furnished with photos of the problem. Jim Watts said that there had only been one report of pollution since the NIEA Pollution Prevention team work had started on the Carbane Industrial Estate. Gabriel Nelson emphasised the importance of raising pollution incidents through the NIEA Pollution Hotline (0800 807060) so that problems can be dealt with by the appropriate staff as quickly as possible.

ACTION 3: Alison McCaw to follow up on matters raised and the lack of response to correspondence from George Berry with Planning Service.

3. Catchment Case Study

Presentation from Noel Chambers, Chairman, Newry and District Angling Club

- 3.1 Noel Chambers gave a presentation on the history and work of the Newry and District Angling Club. He highlighted the work that the 160 member strong club had carried out to stock their waters from the hatchery they managed until the mid 1980's and the work they had done since on the Clanrye River, Benson's Glen and McCourts Lough. Noel Chambers said that the Club had plans for a new hatchery which they hoped would be funded with Peace I and II money. He thanked the Loughs Agency, particularly Paddy Boylan and David Clarke, for the help and advice they had given to the Club.
- 3.2 Noel Chambers said that the Club had been working to try to improve access to the river through the installation of a number of stiles and management of the river corridor. He said that the club were keen to strengthen their links with local landowners and DCAL, and stated the importance of the hatchery development and youth involvement to ensure a strong club and healthy river stretches in the future.
- 3.3 Noel Chambers said that the Newry and District Angling Club had a strong focus on conservation and that they were keen to manage mink to ensure that kingfishers and other river wildlife would thrive. He said that the Club had their own website where the public could get in contact and find out more about fishing the club stretches, or the work of the Club. www.newryanglers.com
As one of the founder members of the Club Oliver McGauley led the meeting in wishing the Club all the best with their future work.

4. Operational Actions

Update from Jim Watts, Regional Manager, NIEA

4.1 Jim Watts gave an update of the status of pollution incidents and investigations that had been reported and carried out since the last Carlingford and Mourne CSG meeting. He said there had been 192 reported pollution incidents in the area. 17 sets of statutory samples had been lifted and 13 warning letters issued. He said that the Carnbane Industrial Estate survey had been completed and that whilst a lot of enforcement issues had been noted only one pollution issue has been reported since the work has been done. Ronnie McCambley said that an improvement had been noticed on the ground and incidents had reduced. Jim Watts gave an update on pollution incidents that had occurred in Newcastle and said that samples had been taken for investigation.

4.2 There was a discussion about the inconsistency between the amount of money spent in taking a pollution incident case to court and the level of fines incurred by those found responsible by the courts. It was highlighted that the maximum fine under the Water Order is £20,000 but that fines were typically considerably lower and insufficient to cover the environmental or amenity damage caused or provide any deterrent to potential polluters. Jim Watts and Kevin McGrady said that NIEA records show that the levels of fines are definitely increasing. Gabriel Nelson said that as an agency NIEA are keen that fines are appropriate.

4.3 A number of members of the group raised the issue of litter and shopping trolleys in the Newry Canal and Albert Basin. Helen Nutt said that the problem of litter in watercourses is an issue across Northern Ireland and that it is one that the Assembly has recently been discussing as it is a well known management gap. She said that generally speaking the Councils were being left to foot the bill for the clean up of litter in rivers. Gabriel Nelson suggested that the matter be raised through the Councils to ensure that a management option is decided upon by the Assembly.

ACTION 4: NIEA to provide information on the current status of management of litter in watercourses to the CSG members.

4.4 David Berry asked if water quantity was assessed by NIEA to stop drainage problems causing flooding or extreme low flows during the drier months. Gabriel Nelson said that hydrological monitoring was carried out by Rivers Agency and NIEA. He said that NIEA had been working with Rivers Agency to identify areas for sustainable flood risk management and that there were a range of actions being implemented to improve the situation.

5. Local Management Area (LMA) Overview and Workshop on the South Down LMA Action Plans

Alison McCaw, Neagh Bann River Basin Manager, NIEA

- 5.1 Alison McCaw said that during 2010 NIEA were focusing on the development of Local Management Area (LMA) Action Plans for 9 areas across Northern Ireland. She said that for the Carlingford and Mourne Catchment Stakeholder Group area that "South Down" had been identified as the area for attention. Alison McCaw said that NIEA were keen to get feedback from local people on their views of the problems within the area and ideas for how these might be resolved. The group were welcomed to break for a workshop style session. Alison McCaw said that maps and feedback forms were available and encouraged attendees to fill these in so that their comments could be reflected in the Action Plans.

6. Summary of Workshop and Way Forward
Gabriel Nelson, River Basin Group Manager, NIEA

- 6.1 Gabriel Nelson welcomed people to take copies of the catchment maps away with them if they had not had a chance to fully consider at the meeting but asked that the LMA feedback forms were returned as soon as possible so that comments could be taken on board. He asked that people also provide feedback on the format of the meetings so that NIEA can co-ordinate meetings that are as useful as possible to those attending.

ACTION 5: Meeting attendees to return feedback forms and make suggestions for presentations at future catchment meetings to the Catchment Officers (Helen Nutt & Eileen Mallon).

ACTION 6: NIEA to make copies of the presentations given at the meeting available on the NIEA website.

- 7. Close**
 Gabriel Nelson thanked all for attending what had proved to be a useful meeting.

Summary of actions from the meeting:

Ref	Action	Update
1	Paddy McCrudden to ensure that Rivers Agency provides feedback to Eddie Carvill on the White Water River work proposals and feasibility study.	

2	Gabriel Nelson to progress the prioritisation of LMAs with low update of the CMS .	
3	Alison McCaw to follow up on matters raised and the lack of response to correspondence from George Berry with Planning Service.	
4	NIEA to provide information on the current status of management of litter in watercourses to the CSG members.	
5	Meeting attendees to return feedback forms and make suggestions for presentations at future catchment meetings to the Catchment Officers (Helen Nutt & Eileen Mallon).	Ongoing, feedback welcome.
6	NIEA to make copies of the presentations given at the meeting available on the NIEA website.	http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk/water-home/wfd/public_partic_3/catchment_stakeholder_groups/carlingford_and_mourne.htm

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