

Note of Meeting

Carlingford & Mourne Catchment Stakeholder Group Meeting

12 May 2011

WIN Business Park, Newry

Attendees:

1. Aleathea Brown (AB) River Basin Planning Group, NIEA (Note taker)
2. Alison McCaw (AMcC) River Basin Planning Group, NIEA (chair)
3. David Clarke (DC) Loughs Agency
4. Dymphna Gallagher (DG) Northern Ireland Water Ltd
5. David McClune (DMcC) Dundrum Angling Club
6. George Berry (GB)
7. David Berry (DB)
8. Greg McCleary (GMcC) River Basin Planning Group, NIEA (presenter)
9. Gabriel Nelson (GN) River Basin Planning Group, NIEA
10. Gordon Smyth (GS) Northern Ireland Water Ltd (presenter)
11. Helena Rafferty (HR) Newcastle Sustainable Community Forum
12. Ian Watts (IW) Shimna Angling Club
13. Judith Bankhead (JD) Rivers Agency
14. Jenny Thompson (JT) Northern Ireland Water Ltd
15. Jim Watts (JW) Senior Water Quality Inspector, NIEA
16. Keith Henderson (KH) Northern Ireland Water
17. Kevin McGrady (KMcG) Regional Operations, NIEA
18. Keith Somerville (KS) Planning Service
19. Oliver McGualey (OMcG) Camlough Angling Club and IWA
20. Maurice Turley (MT) Queens University, Belfast (presenter)
21. Robbie Marshall (RM) Ulster Angling Federation

1. Welcome

- 1.1 AMcC welcomed all to the meeting.

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

- 2.1 Concern was raised as to why councillors were not invited to the meeting. It was explained that due to the current election period it was deemed not appropriate to invite elected representatives.

Action 1 To invite councillors to subsequent CSG meetings

- 2.2 Discussion on how development adjacent to Clanrye River here has restricted access and concerns raised on how Planning Service responds to consultation returns.

Action 2. AMcC to contact Planning Service re: consultation on a development application for an extension to Carnbane Industrial Estate from a stakeholder.

- 2.3 No other amendments were made to the minutes – all agreed.

3. GS gave a presentation on Northern Ireland Water Limited) local development proposals.

This included information on the proposed tertiary treatment system at Newcastle WWTW and upgrades to sewerage network and storm storage in the town.

- 3.1 A discussion regarding the unlikely possibility for spread of zebra mussels from the Erne system by NIW raw water pipes took place.

Action 3. DG to investigate the potential for zebra mussel transfer to raw water abstraction and report at the next meeting.

- 3.2 There followed a discussion over septic tanks and their potential environmental impact. The issues with regard to the total number of septic tanks, their functionality, maintenance and the remedial and enforcement practices where reported pollution found was explained by JW.

- 3.4 GS outlined the proposed treatment system of sewage at Newcastle WWTW to reduce risk of failing bathing water standards. It was confirmed that works are due to begin in Dec 2011 for completion in May 2013. GN confirmed that phosphate removal is not required at Newcastle WWTW as the effluent discharge is to coastal waters.

- 3.5. A discussion took place over the release of fats, oils and grease (and other unwanted waste) to sewerage systems. KH explained that the source of the pollutant is often hard to find but local council Environmental Health officers have to ensure that appropriate waste systems are in place on restaurant premises etc.

4. MT gave a presentation on 'Controlling Invasive Priority Non-Native Species and Restoring Native Biodiversity' – an INTERREG funded project.

Discussion followed on the presence of invasive species present in the Clanrye River system, principally giant hogweed. Questions were raised as to the techniques that would be used to control invasive species including the range of species targeted and the chemical agents used. MT confirmed that all techniques used would be in accordance with best practice and that only bankside vegetation would be targeted over the summer months. DC confirmed that Loughs Agency is investigating the presence of mink of the Clanrye River.

Action 4. AMcC to circulate NIEA position statement on invasive alien species management.

5. NIEA Regional Managers Update – JW

It was queried if microbiological analysis was performed as well as invertebrate kick sampling. JW confirmed that microbial analysis was only routinely performed for marine waters. JW also explained the rationale for targeted river walks.

6. GMcC gave a presentation to update of progress on implementation of South Down LMA Action Plan

Concerns were raised about the increase in development and the potential impact on the river environment. DG noted that NIW Ltd work actively with Mourne Heritage Trust on heathland management to reduce flood risk and soil erosion.

7. Discussion:

RM raised concerns as the amount of fish monitoring data used for classification of water bodies.

AMcC noted that any specific information forthcoming from additional monitoring could be accessed through the Catchment Management Officer (GMcC).

Summary of Action Points

No	Action	Update
1	AMcC to invite councillors to subsequent CSG meetings	Invitations to be offered to all sitting councillors in wards covered by CSG area in Newry & Mourne, Down and Banbridge council areas
2	AMcC to contact Planning Service re: consultation on a development application for an extension to Carnbane Industrial Estate from a stakeholder.	Confirmed by PS that the only correspondence was to acknowledged receipt of a consultation return from the stakeholder on the development application.
3	DG to investigate potential for zebra mussel transfer to raw water abstraction and report at the next meeting.	Update at autumn CSG
4	AMcC to circulate NIEA position statement on invasive alien species management.	Link to document circulated to stakeholders