

Note of Meeting

## Carlingford and Mourne Catchment Stakeholder Group Meeting

10 November 2010

Newcastle Centre, 10-14 Central Promenade, Newcastle.

### Attendees:

1. David Berry (DB)
2. George Berry (GB)
3. Keith Henderson (KH) Planning Service Wastewater Services
4. Alan Kilgore (AK) Kilkeel Angling Club
5. Peter Lynch (PL) DCAL Inland Fisheries
6. Alan Morrow (AM) DARD
7. Helena Rafferty (HR) Newcastle Sustainable Community Development Forum
8. Gordon Smyth (GS) NIWL
9. Ian Watts (IW) Shimna Angling Club
10. Aine Anderson (AA) Student
11. Judith Bankhead (JB) Rivers Agency
12. Audrey Byrne (AB) Newcastle Chamber of Commerce
13. Martin Carey (MC) Chief Executive - Mourne Heritage Trust (Presenter)
14. Dermot Devine (DD) Soak Seaweed Baths
15. Ed Kilgore MBE (EK) Chairman - Shimna Angling Club
16. Harry Knight (HK) Local resident
17. Pamela McClelland (PM) Newcastle Harbour
18. Sarsfield O'Flynn (SF)
19. Doris Noe (DN) Lecale Conservation
20. Harry Rafferty (HR) Shimna Angling Club
21. Felix Sloan (FS) Fair Green Oysters
22. Keith Somerville (KS) Planning Service - Downpatrick Division
23. Arthur Thompson (AT) Tollymore Community
24. Enda McNeilly (EMcN)
25. Jenny Thompson (JT) NIWL (representing Dymphna Gallagher)
26. Kevin McGrady (KM) NIEA – Emergency Pollution Officer
27. James Watts (JW) NIEA – Regional Manager (Presenter)
28. Kieron Callaghan (KC) NIEA – Water Quality Planner (Minutes)
29. Greg McCleary (GMcC) NIEA – Catchment Management Officer (Presenter)
30. Alison McCaw (AMcC) NIEA – River Basin District Manager (Chair)

## 1. Welcome

AMcC welcomed all to the meeting.

It was asked why no councillors were present. AMcC answered that council officials from each of the local councils covering the CSG were invited but not elected representatives.

### **ACTION 1: AMcC to consider invitations to local councillors for future group meetings.**

AMcC noted that she wished to add the proposed upgrade to the Newcastle sewerage system to the agenda. GS commented that an update would be given at the next group meeting as it was premature at the moment. This was noted by the group.

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

### ***Presentation from Greg McCleary, Catchment Management Officer, NIEA***

- 2.1 The minutes of the previous meeting were adopted without amendment.
- 2.2 GMcC presented an update on the actions arising from the last meeting.

Ref	Action	Update
1	Rivers Agency to provide feedback on the White Water River work proposals and feasibility study.	Conor Mallon provided update following last CSG meeting
2	NIEA to progress the prioritisation of LMAs with low uptake of the Countryside Management Schemes.	NIEA to make representations to group responsible on advice from Alan Morrow.
3	NIEA to follow up on matters raised and the lack of response to correspondence from Planning Service	Ongoing

4	NIEA to provide information on the current status of management of litter in watercourses to the CSG members.	GMcC to provided information on NIEA current powers and Environment Minister's proposed Clean Environment and Neighbourhood Bill. Details given in presentation.
5	Meeting attendees to return feedback forms and make suggestions for presentations at future catchment meetings to the Catchment Officers	Feedback received with thanks
6	NIEA to upload presentations to website	All presentations made to CSG meetings will be uploaded to the NIEA website as soon as is practical

- 2.3 With regard to **Action 4** above, a query was raised as to what stage the legislation is currently at. AMcC agreed to update the group at next CSG meeting. It was confirmed that Minister Edwin Poots (Environment) is the proposer of the Bill. The Bill is aimed at giving local councils new powers to control litter at source but is not specifically directed at litter in waterways.

**ACTION 2: AMcC to update group with further detail and information on proposed timeline of the Clean Environment & Neighbourhood Bill.**

**3. Guest Speaker**  
***Presentation from Martin Carey (Chief Executive) : The Work of The Mourne Heritage Trust.***

- 3.1 A presentation on the work of The Mourne Heritage Trust was given by the trust's Chief Executive Martin Carey. Martin then invited questions from the group.

**4. Operational Actions**

**4.1 Update from Jim Watts, Regional Manager, NIEA**

JW gave an update of the status of pollution incidents and investigations that had been reported and carried out since the last CSG meeting.

- 4.2 A series of questions were raised in relation to JW's update.

The group asked why such a large proportion of pollution incidents appear to be attributed to NIWL and why court fines for such offences are so low. KMcG commented that NIWL has a very large infrastructure and many incidents are due to misuse of sewerage system by public. He also noted that fines are set by magistrates and not NIEA. JW commented that all pollution incidents are investigated and where there is evidence that NIWL are responsible then NIEA will progress a prosecution. It was noted that NIWL no longer have Crown immunity from prosecution. A number of questions were raised in relation to failures of the sewerage infrastructure in Newcastle resulting in historical failures of the bathing waters standards. GS commented that combined sewerage infrastructure is a legacy and NIWL are investing considerable sums to mitigate for this. He confirmed that specifics were not available at present in relation to proposed works at Newcastle wastewater treatment works but confirmed that capacity was not to increase with all works regulated by NIEA. KMcG also confirmed that works are progressing to update the sewerage network capacity.

AMcC informed the group that an independent chair could be nominated. The group did not offer any nominations.

## **5. *Presentation from Greg McCleary, Catchment Management Officer, NIEA on the South Down LMA Action Plan***

### **5.1 GMcC gave a presentation on the South Down Local Management Area Action Plan and invited comments and questions.**

The group raised questions in relation to a fish kill on the Shimna River in 2009 and issues surrounding riverside development at Carnbane Industrial Estate in Newry, including river access. KMcG stated that the Shimna River pollution incident was subject to an ongoing investigation and no comment could be made at this time. GMcC commented that planning policy statements are in place to direct planning practices and that NIEA is consulted on regulated activities and pollution control practices. He also commented that Rivers Agency have developed a Strategic Flood Mapping tool to direct planners as to floodplain development and flood risk. KS stated that he was aware of the river access issues at Carnbane but ultimately access is a question of who owns and maintains the land adjacent to the river. AMcC commented that there appear to be policy gaps and that she would take this forward to Environmental Policy Division of DOE.

**ACTION 3: AMcC to raise issue of river access and riparian development with Environmental Policy Group and update group at next meeting.**

## 6. AOB

- 6.1 AMcC invited any other business for discussion by the group.
- 6.2 Comments were made that there will still some planning permissions being passed during the current agreed moratorium on developments connected to the Newcastle sewer network.
- 6.3 It was asked if there was to be a storm retention tank in Donard Park. GS stated that this was not a proposal, as all alterations to be at existing works at harbour. All sewer systems to meet criteria set out by NIEA. He also stated that the proposed works at Newcastle WWTW were due for completion in 2013.
- 6.4 GS agreed to give a presentation on the NIWL proposals to the group at the next CSG meeting.

**ACTION 4: GS to offer presentation of proposed works at Newcastle WWTW to the group in spring 2011.**

### Summary of action points from the meeting:

Ref	Action	Update
1	AMcC to consider invitations to local councillors for future group meetings.	Invitations to sitting councillors not deemed appropriate during current election campaign. Council officials are invited.
2	AMcC to update group with further detail and information on proposed timeline of the Clean Environment & Neighbourhood Bill.	To offer update at Spring CSG
3	AMcC to raise issue of river access and riparian development with the Environmental Policy Group and update group at next meeting.	To offer update at Spring CSG
4	GS to offer presentation of proposed works at Newcastle WWTW to the group in spring 2011	GS to provide update of local planned works at Spring 2011 CSG meeting

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