

A happy Christmas to you and yours from everyone at the Local Authority Waters Programme.

THE MIDLANDS AND EASTERN REGION

DUBLIN,
WICKLOW,
MEATH,
WESTMEATH,
LONGFORD,
OFFALY,
KILDARE,.

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Sign up to for the seasonal newsletter at
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Catchment Catch-Up Midlands and Eastern Region



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Funding for communities to deliver water, biodiversity, and climate action initiatives.

The Community Water Development Fund aims to support the delivery of local projects and initiatives to address the major issues of water quality, biodiversity loss and climate change. The fund is administered by the Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO) on behalf of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and is available to all community and voluntary groups.

LAWPRO opened the 2021 fund on Saturday 28 November at the annual seminar of Irish Rivers Trusts and Catchment Groups, 'Communities Caring for Water'. Speaking at the event Sheevaun Thompson, Funding lead with LAWPRO said "demand for the Community Water Development Fund has increased year on year since it was first launched in 2018 and it is exciting to announce that the fund has been increased to €360,000 in 2021, up from €225,000 in 2020. This will allow LAWPRO to support even more locally led community projects next year." A link to a recording of the seminar is available at www.lawaters.ie

For the 2021 Open Call, applicants are asked to complete the application form online and in conjunction with the guidelines provided online at www.lawaters.ie. Contact details for your local Community Water Officers is also available, as they must be contacted in advance of applying to the fund.

Closing date for receipt of applications is Tuesday 9 February 2021 at 12 noon.

For further details and applications forms visit <http://watersandcommunities.ie> or alternatively Contact by email to funding@lawaters.ie or at Facebook.com/LAWPROteam

GAA Green Club Programme

A new GAA Green Club programme will see 45 clubs and two regional venues explore a range of sustainability projects designed to enrich their physical and social environments. The GAA Green Club Programme, supported by the County & City Management Association and the local authority Climate Action Regional Offices, with additional support from expert agencies across the five thematic focus areas of the programme, namely: Energy, Waste, Biodiversity, Water, Travel & Transport.

GAA President, John Horan, said: "The Green Clubs Project further demonstrates that at its core the GAA is a community-based organisation grounded in place. The project seeks to support our hard-working volunteers in future-proofing their club facilities while contributing to the sustainability of their community from an environmental and cultural perspective."

We in LAWPRO are delighted to be involved and to support the roll out of the water and biodiversity themes, in partnership with Irish Water and the National Biodiversity Data Centre.

The GAA is an official champion of the Sustainable Development Goals and provides real leadership at a local level across the entire country. It is a unique organisation and the heartbeat of our communities.



Community Water Management Training

Community Water Management Training in County Longford

Brought to you by Longford Community Resources CLG

Ken Whelan and Martin McGarrigle are delighted to announce two Community Water Management Courses in North and South County Longford!

www.LCRL.ie

For full information on the two courses and how to register visit Longford.waters-project.com or contact: ken@kenwhelan.info

Course will run Oct – Dec 2020, dates to be confirmed.
Tel: 0982526639 (MMcG) or 0867835900 (KW)

Learn about the myriad of life forms in County Longford's unique rivers and streams

- Do you want to learn about your local rivers, lakes and wetlands?
- Do you want some practical and hands-on engagement with these local waters?
- Are you interested in developing local action plans for your local rivers and lakes?
- Do you and your community group need more knowledge and the confidence to apply for funding for your action plan?
- Would you like to learn, share ideas, gain expertise in the areas of water conservation and management?
- Would you like to learn how to develop and implement a local water management plan?

Then this course is for you!



Some Longford Waters 2020

All are welcome: Tidy Town members, farmers, anglers, walkers, wildlife groups, teachers and anyone with an interest in water protection, conservation and management.

Two Community Water Management Training courses for North and South Co. Longford are up and running. The courses are funded by Longford Community Resources Ltd. under their current LEADER Programme.

Trainers Ken Whelan and Martin McGarrigle have delivered interactive sessions via Zoom and in the Spring the focus will be on practical hands-on engagement and helping groups to develop a local action plan for their river, lake or wetlands. LAWPRO is delighted to be involved from the initiation of the project and continues to provide ongoing input and support.

See website for more details <http://longford.waters-project.com/>



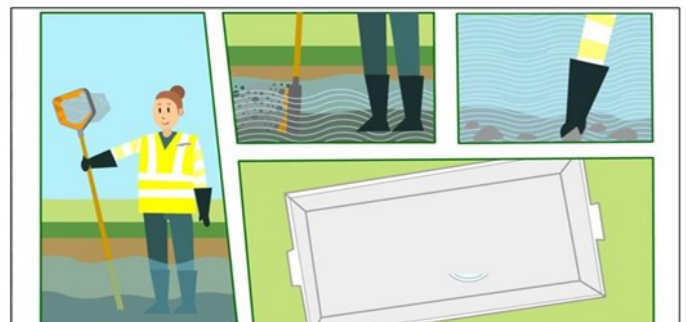
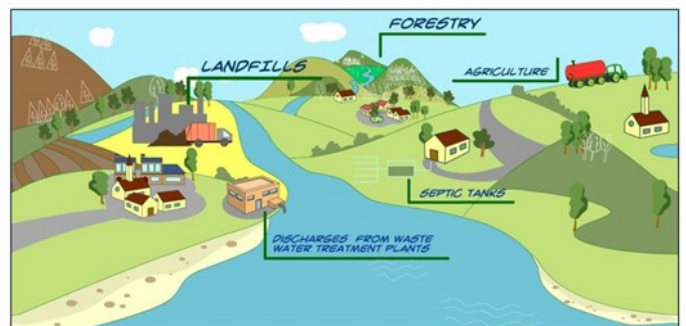
This project was assisted by Longford Local Community Development Committee, Longford Community Resources CLG, and Longford County Council through the Rural Development Programme (LEADER) 2014-2020 which is part-financed by the EU - "The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe investing in rural areas" and the Department of Rural & Community Development

NEW LAWPRO Animation Video

Recently LAWPRO created a new 'explainer' animation video to assist in communicating with community groups for both virtual and real world meetings. It is 3 ½ minutes long and gives an overview of:

- The concept of a Water Catchment
- Pressures affecting Water Quality
- Who LAWPRO are: Communities Team & Catchments Assessment Team
- Ongoing Work with communities and other agencies to improve water quality

The video is available to watch on Vimeo here: <https://vimeo.com/456880739>



Urban Local Catchment Assessment Training and Q & A

Urban pressures have been identified as significant in many Priority Areas for Action (PAAs). These environmental pressures are found in our cities but may also be present in larger population centres within rural areas. New LCA guidance has been developed and is included as Volume 6 to the existing LCA guidance and is available [here](#).

The Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO) commissioned an online training programme to compliment the Urban LCA guidance. It comprises of Seven modules with video and PowerPoint presentations. It was rolled out to LAWPRO staff, Local Authorities and Public Bodies in November and there was a Live Questions and Answers session organised on the 15th December 2020.

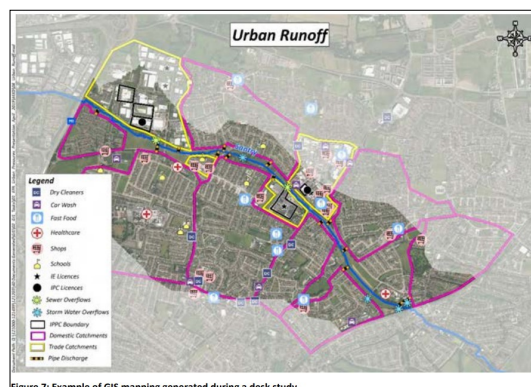


Figure 7: Example of GIS mapping generated during a desk study

Lough Ennell Project



Lough Ennell, Co. Westmeath

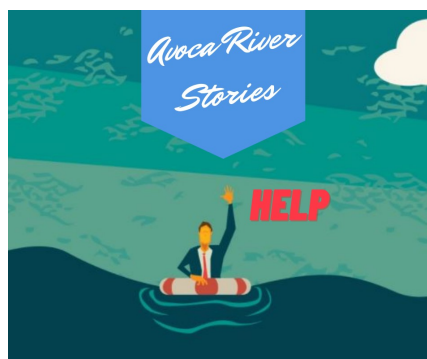
Thanks to the EPA Hydrometrics Programme who collaborated with LAWPRO in December. Flow, chemical and pathogen data were collected for the feeder streams of Lough Ennell in order to determine loadings to the Lough. This will be the first of a series of water blitzes and will help inform potential protection measures for the bathing waters at Lilliput, the wild trout fishery and this important Natura 2000 site.

Fun Fact: Did you know that Lough Ennell has produced the largest brown Trout in Ireland at weighing at 26lbs (11.8kg)?



The EPA Hydrometrics Programme at work (Photo : courtesy of the EPA)

Avoca River Stories



'The Heritage Office of Wicklow County Council in partnership with **Local Authority Waters Programme**, have come together to fund a new initiative 'Avoca River Stories'. The project aims to capture water heritage and catchment biodiversity stories via the production of a series of short 'storytelling' films on the rich natural and cultural heritage of the Avoca River Catchment'; project stories will be released over Christmas via '[Avoca River Stories](https://www.facebook.com/AvocaRiverStories/)' (<https://www.facebook.com/AvocaRiverStories/>) Facebook page.

Wishing You A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year in 2021!