

Our Waters, Our Future, Our Plan

Communities in Action: Protecting our Waterways

**Aoife McGrath,
Community Water Officer,
LAWPRO**

Meath PPN Plenary
20th May 2023

Presentation Format

Setting the Scene...

- Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO) – who we are
- Meath's Waterways – an overview & the challenges at hand
- Communities in action – project examples & ideas for discussion
- Opportunity to work together?



What is LAWPRO?



Waters & Communities Team (2016)



Catchment Assessment Team (2018)



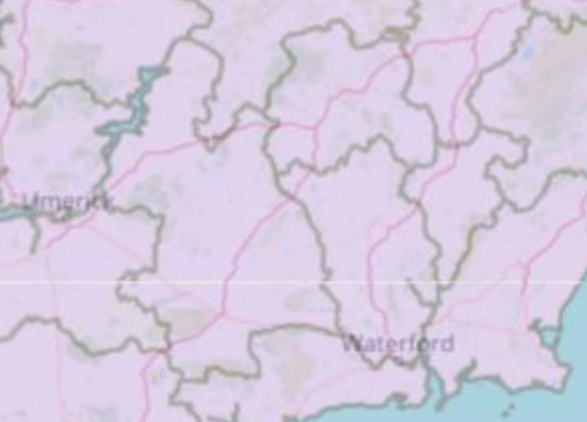
The importance of good water quality

- **Health and wellbeing:** physical, mental, spiritual wellbeing
- **Recreation and amenity use**
- Sense of place and **connection with your local area**
- Nature and a **healthy environment**
- **Tourism and local jobs**
- **Safe future** for us, our families and our communities



River Boyne, Trim

Nanny-Catchment

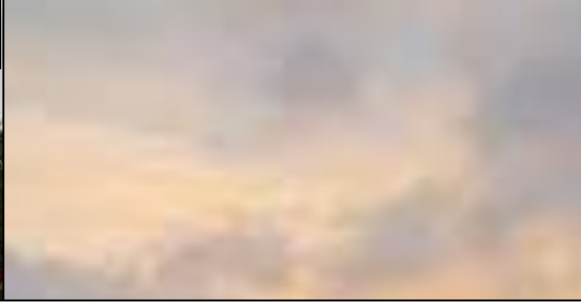


Liffey and Dublin Bay

Catchments in County Meath

Newry-Fane-Glyde-Dee Catchment

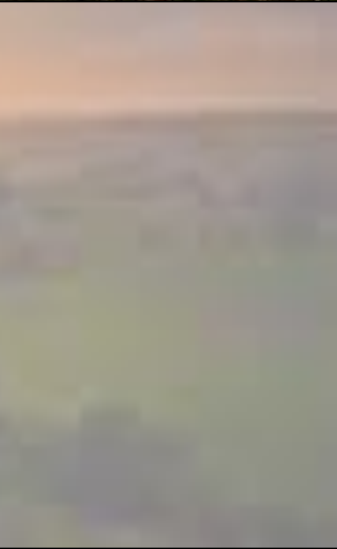
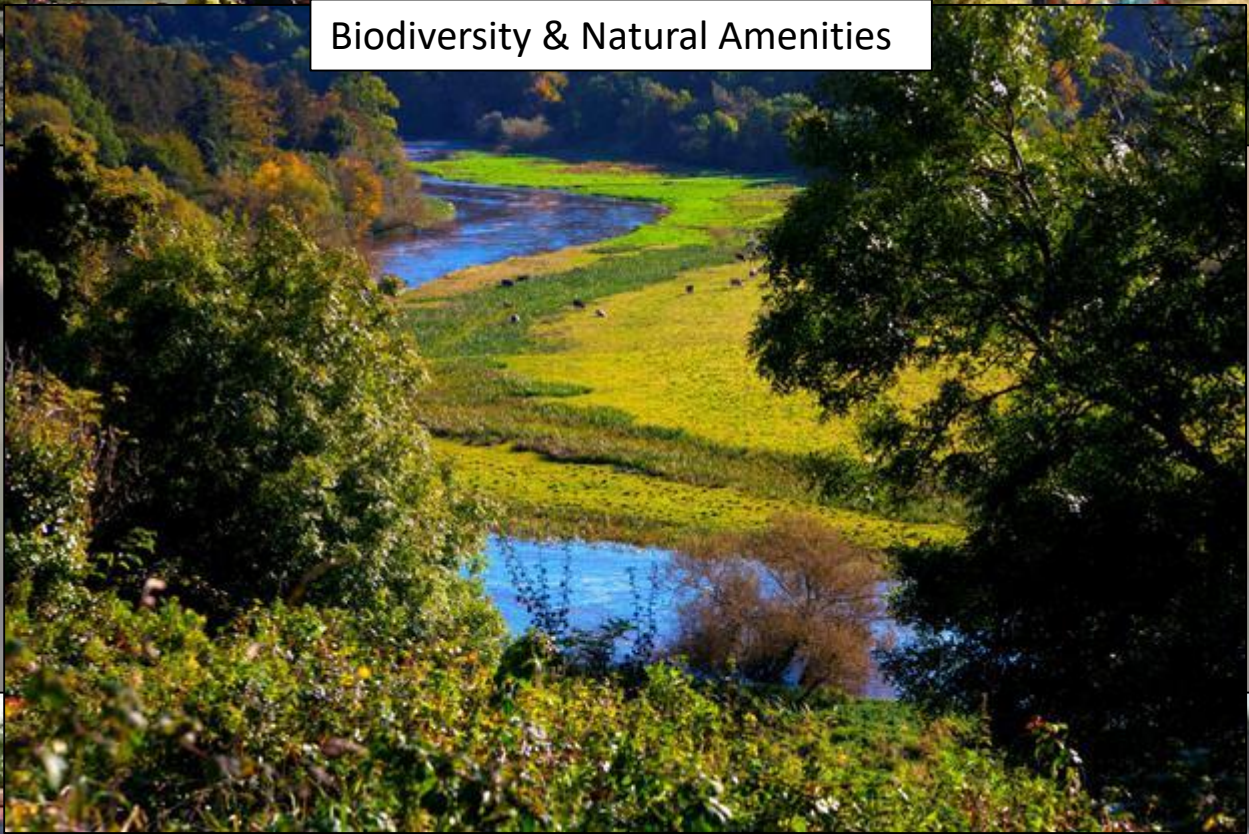
Water based Activities



Walks & Trails



Biodiversity & Natural Amenities



History & Heritage (Boyne Currach)

Angling

Urban Run-Off



Agricultural Run-Off

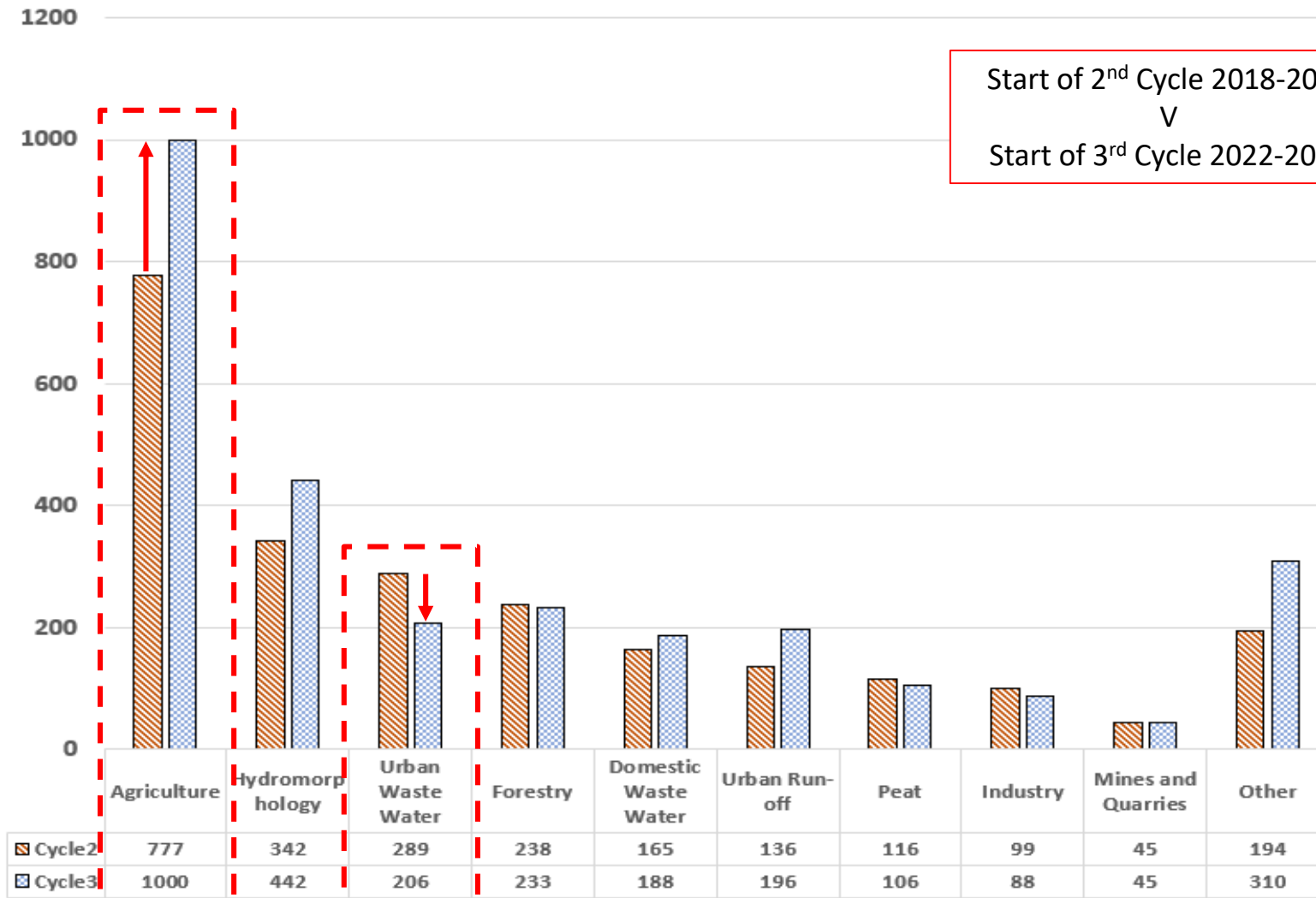


Misconnections in our homes



Hydromorphology

Main Pressures on Water Quality National Data



What do we mean by water quality?

European Union Water Framework Directive

High

Good

Moderate

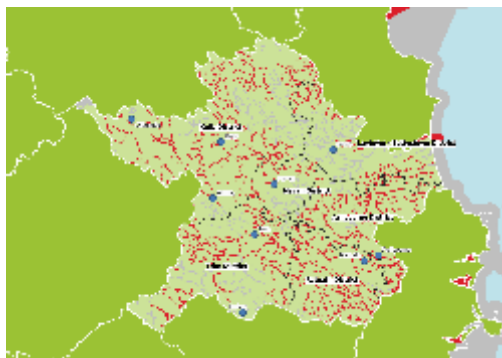
Poor

Bad



Water Quality in Meath

Period	High	Good	Moderate	Poor	Bad
SW 2007-2009	2%	22%	46%	32%	0%
SW 2010-2012	0%	17%	46%	37%	0%
SW 2010-2015	0%	19%	40%	41%	0%
SW 2013-2018	0%	18%	51%	31%	0%
National 2013 – 2018	8%	45%	28%	18%	1%

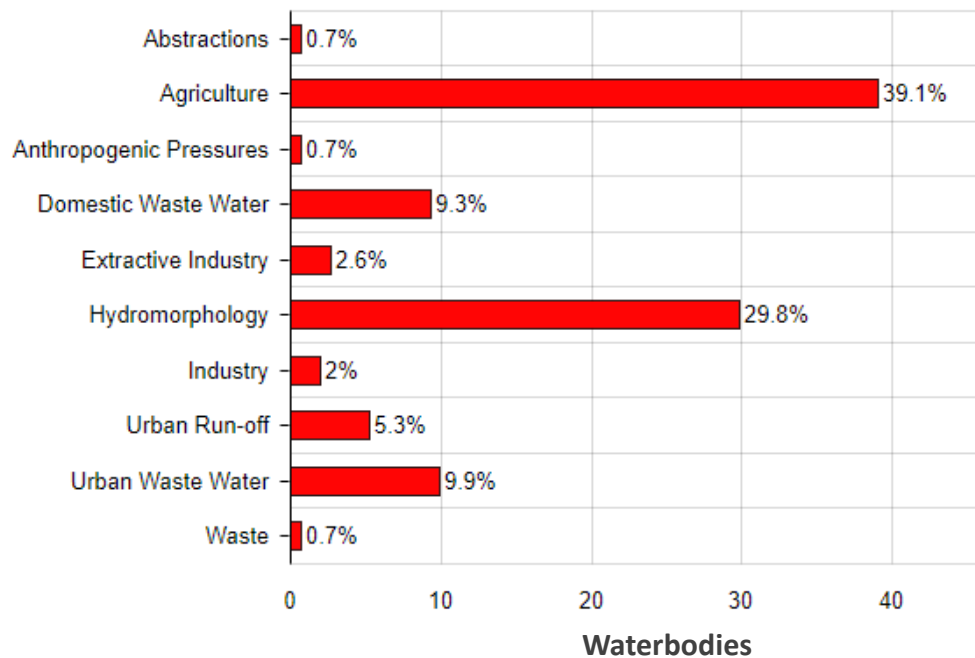


Source of information www.catchments.ie

Water Quality Pressures in Meath



Pressures on water quality



EU Water Framework Directive

OBJECTIVE:

Achieve at least **good water quality** in all waters by **2027**

APPROACH:

- State agencies, local authorities and public bodies **working together**
- Involvement of water users and the public – giving a **voice to communities**

PLAN:

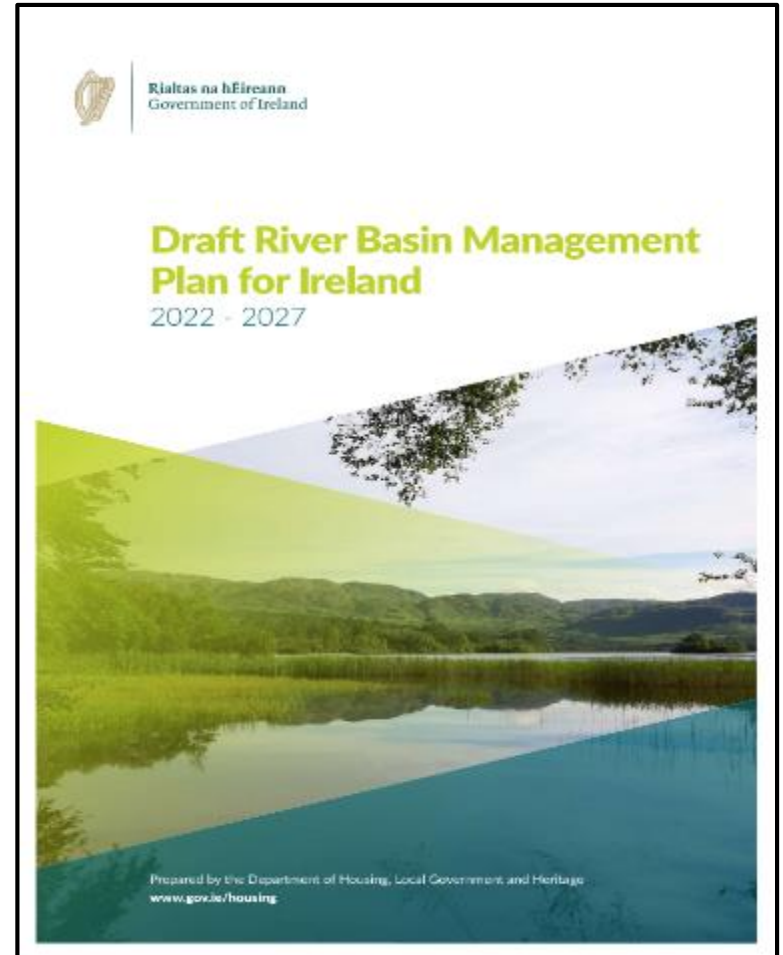
River Basin Management Plans, in three cycles:

- 1st Cycle: 2009-2015
- 2nd Cycle: 2018-2021
- **3rd Cycle: 2022-2027**

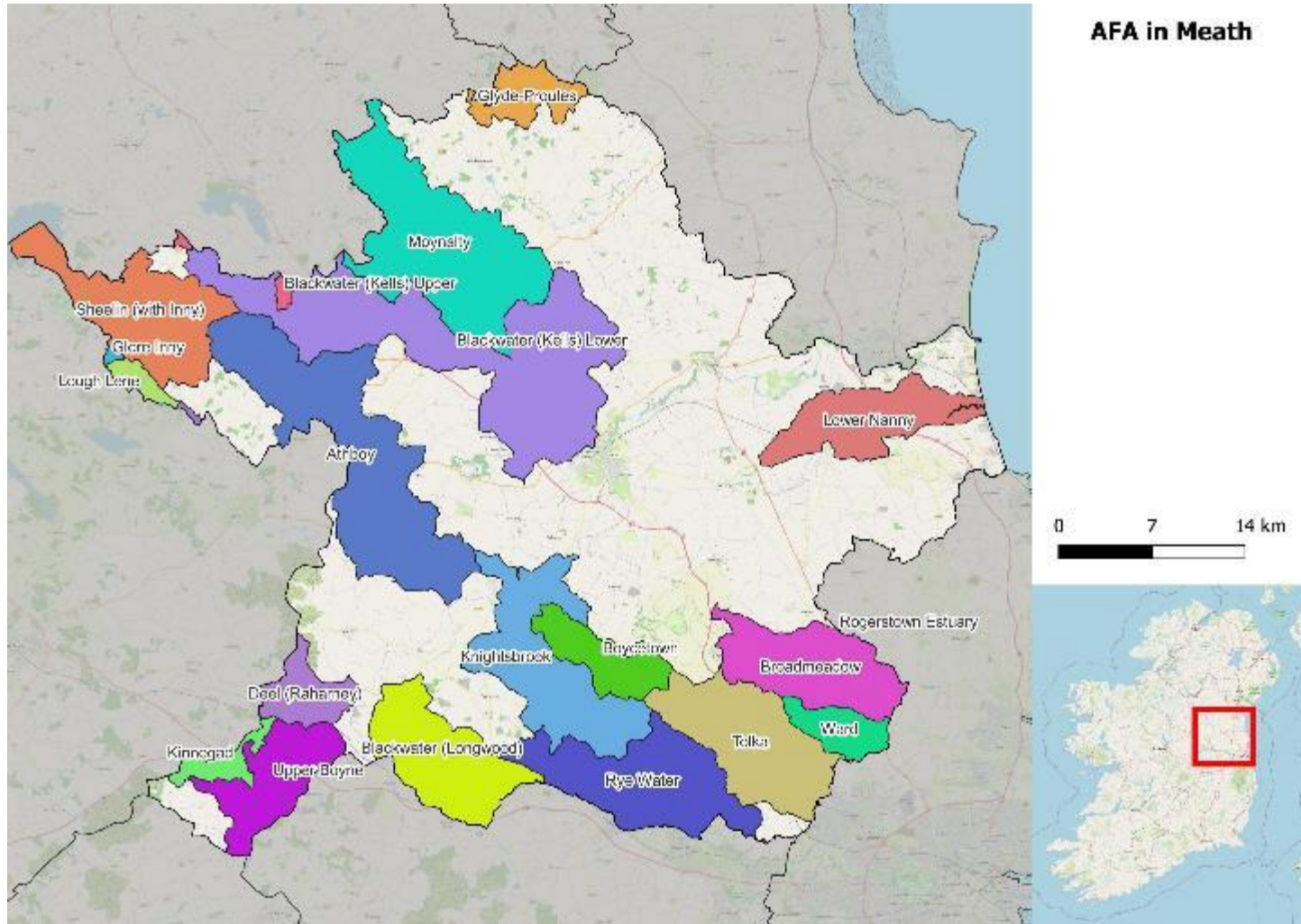


Draft River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2022 – 2027

- A national plan that aims to **protect and restore good water quality** in our rivers, lakes, estuaries, groundwater and coastal waters
- For the **benefit** of our **health**, our **biodiversity**, our **climate** and our **communities**



2022-2027 Areas for Action: County Meath



[Weblink for more information:](#)

[Priority Areas for Action - Local Authority Water Programme \(lawaters.ie\)](http://lawaters.ie)

“What can we as a group **actually do to improve water quality** in our river?”

Support Available From: Your local CWO

The Communities Team **supports local communities** to improve our local waterbodies by....



Communities Caring for Water



Communities Caring for Water

Citizen Science



Fish Passage



Bog Restoration



Litter Clean Up



Woody Debris



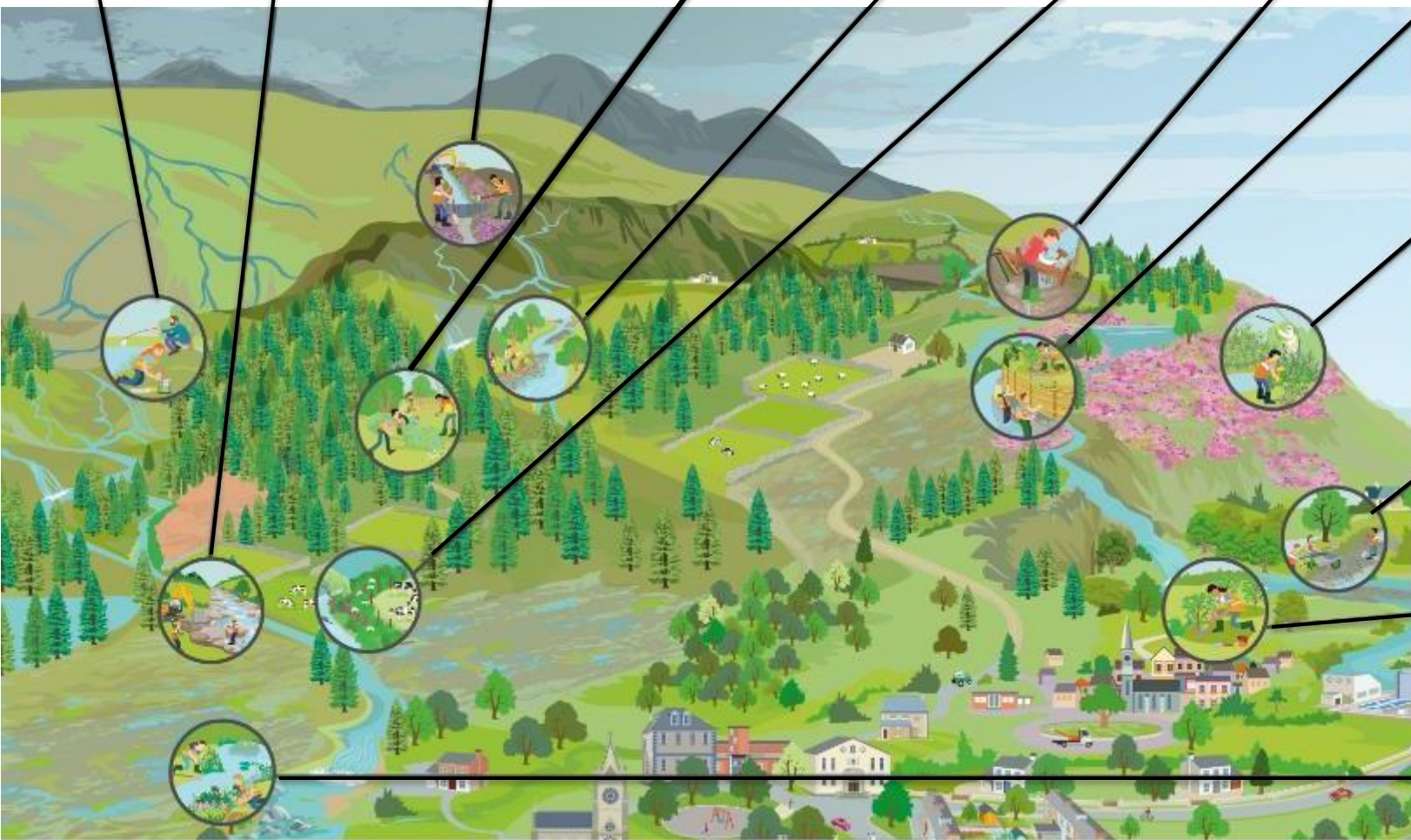
Fencing



Leaky Dam



Bank Stabilisation



Invasive Species



Gravel Installation



Tree Planting



Raingarden/Wetland





RURAL Action: Leaky Dam Repair

IDEA



REALITY



RURAL Action: Fish Passage Improvement

IDEA



REALITY



RURAL Action: Spilling / Bank Stabilisation

IDEA



REALITY

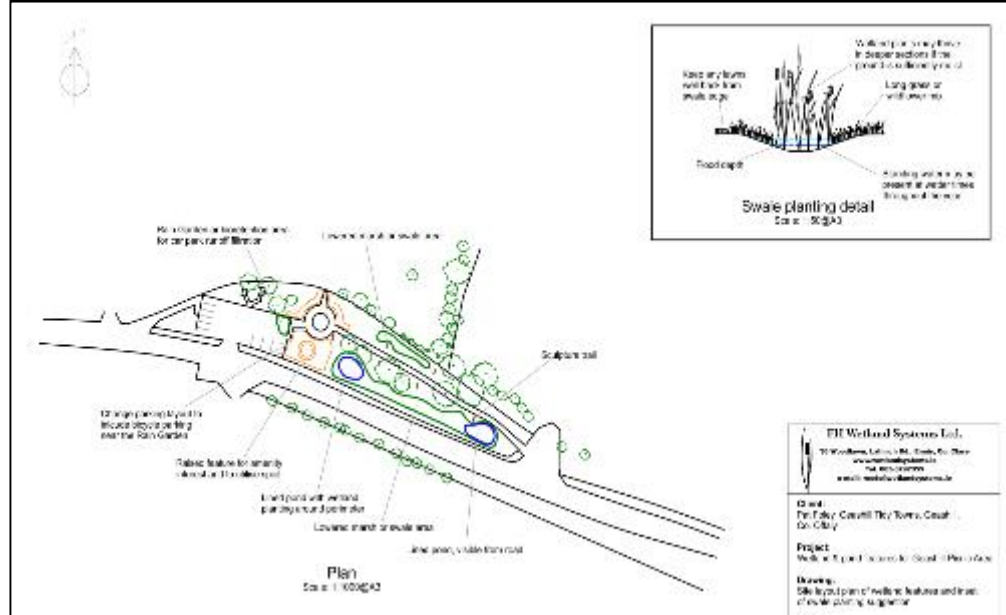


URBAN & RURAL Action: Rain garden / Wetland

IDEA



REALITY

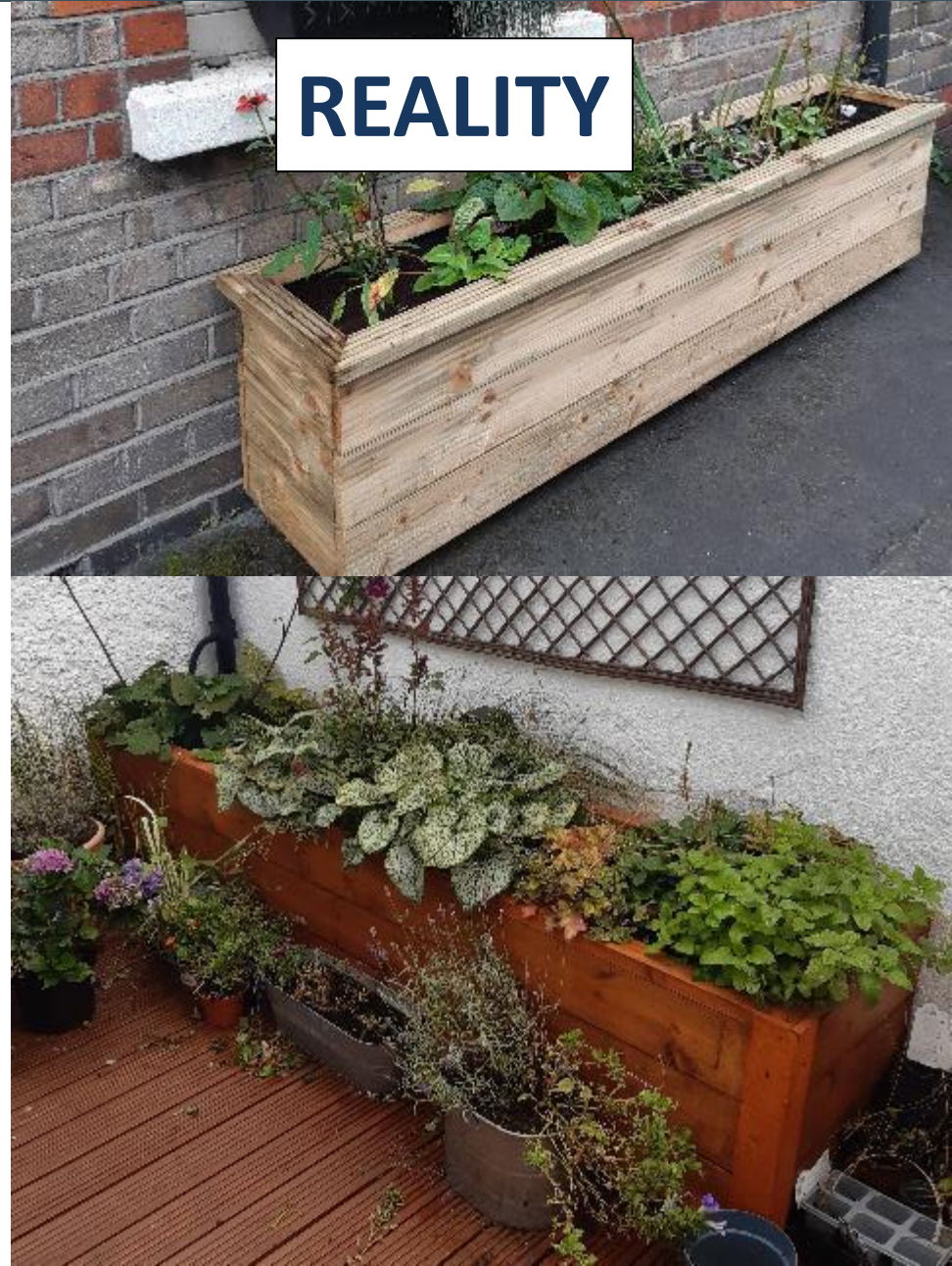


URBAN Action: Rainwater Planters

IDEA



REALITY



URBAN Action: Nature Based Solutions to Urban Drainage

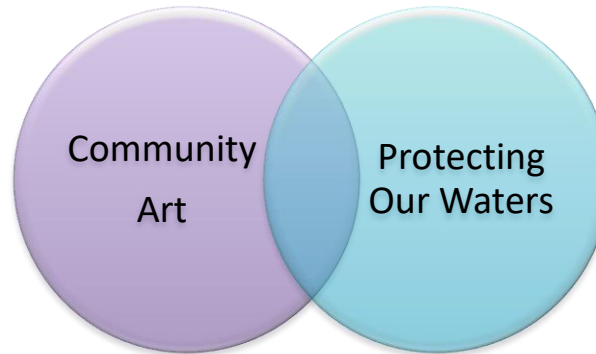


Water Conservation and Re-use



Green Infrastructure: Swales and Ponds

Community Drain Safari





DRAINS TO RIVER

Local Action: River Clean-Up's

IDEA



REALITY



Big Boyne Clean-Up (Sat. 01st Apr 2023)



Trim Volunteers



Oldbridge Volunteers



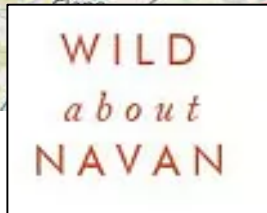
Mornington Volunteers



Navan Volunteers



Slane Volunteers





11AM-1PM
 APRIL 01
**BOYNE RIVER
 CLEAN-UP DAY**

Sun. 20th Aug. 2023

MORNINGTON
 DROGHEDA
 OLDBRIDGE
 SLANE
 NAVAN
 TRIM

SCAN ME



More than just a Boyne Clean-Up Network?

- Citizen Science Network
 - Citizen Science Stream Index (CSSI)
 - DCU Water Blitz
- Tackling Invasive Species
- Collective urban-based projects (SuDS)
- Habitat & biodiversity enhancement projects



The opportunities are endless.....

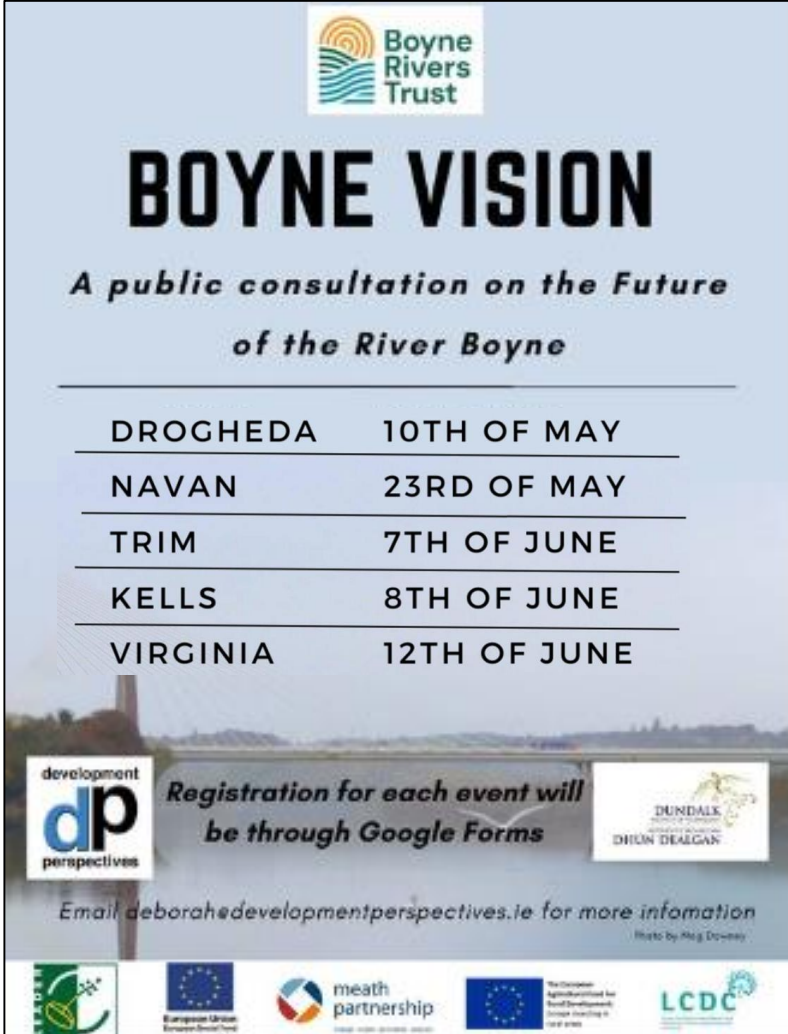
Please get involved!

Get involved!

Create a vision for the Boyne Catchment

- **Boyne Rivers Trust** acquired LEADER and LAWPRO funding to rollout 5 workshops across the catchment to get the community involved in developing a **vision** for the **future of the Boyne**
- The vision will help the Boyne Rivers Trust develop a **5 year strategy** with targeted actions and projects that are **mandated** by the community
- **4 workshops remain**
- **Sign up now!**

Email: deborah@developmentperspectives.ie



The poster features the Boyne Rivers Trust logo at the top left. The main title 'BOYNE VISION' is in large, bold, black letters. Below it, the subtitle 'A public consultation on the Future of the River Boyne' is in a smaller, italicized font. A table lists five locations and their respective dates. At the bottom, there are logos for 'development dp perspectives', 'DUNDALK RIVER TRUST', and 'meath partnership'. A registration instruction and contact email are also present.

LOCATION	DATE
DROGHEDA	10TH OF MAY
NAVAN	23RD OF MAY
TRIM	7TH OF JUNE
KELLS	8TH OF JUNE
VIRGINIA	12TH OF JUNE

Registration for each event will be through Google Forms

Email deborah@developmentperspectives.ie for more information

Photo by Meg Downey

Logos at the bottom include: development dp perspectives, European Union, meath partnership, DUNDALK RIVER TRUST, and LCDC.

Get Involved!

Boyne Catchment Community Forum

- The draft River Basin Management Plan (2022-2027) includes an action for LAWPRO to examine ways in which further support can be provided for the **formation** and capacity building of **local fora** to help identify and implement measures to **improve water quality**.

Workshop: Introduction to the Catchment Community Fora

- Need for the forum – the **why**?
- Explore the **membership** & representation (sectoral plus geographical)
- Role and **objectives** of the forum
- Interaction** with other structures and fora e.g., Climate, Biodiversity, Heritage etc.
- Possible operational **structures** – how it will operate?
- Funding** supports needed etc.

Workshop date: ~Sept. 2023

Catchment Community Fora Expression of Interest Form

Would you like to get involved in the scoping exercise to help inform the framework for the establishment of the Catchment Community Fora in one of the pilot catchment areas? Yes No

Please select the pilot catchment of interest:

<input type="checkbox"/> Midlands & East: Boyne	<input type="checkbox"/> West: Galway Bay Southeast
<input type="checkbox"/> Southeast: Slaney & Wexford Harbour	<input type="checkbox"/> Southwest: Mal Bay
<input type="checkbox"/> Border: Newry, Fyne Glyde & Dee	

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NO. _____

EMAIL (Please Print): _____

Are you a member of _____? No


Local Authority (County/District/Downland/Town): _____

The information you provide will only be used by the Local Authority Waters Programme to keep you informed of water quality matters.

If you would like to receive emails from LAWPRO tick here.

If you do not wish to receive follow-up information or communications in relation to water matters, please tick here.

SIGNATURE: _____


Local Authority Waters Programme
vibrant communities | catchment assessment | healthy waters

Fill out an Expression of Interest Form online now!



National
Heritage Week
A Heritage Council programme

Celebrating our Water Heritage





Water Heritage Day 2022,

- **Boyne Currach** construction
- **Biodiversity walk & talk**
- Participants: ~40
- **Collaborators:** LAWPRO; Sonairte; Billy Flynn Ecologist & Boyne Currach Heritage Museum (Calidhbh Uigibhne)



Start Planning Your Water Heritage Day Event Now!

Sunday 20th August 2023



Funding & Support Available: www.lawaters.ie

The opportunities are endless...



**Aoife McGrath | Community Water
Officer**

**Covering the Local Authority Areas
of Kildare and Meath**