

Press Release

For Immediate Release

Galway City Community Network

21st January 2022

OUR RIVERS NEED YOUR HELP

Galway City Community Network and the Local Authority Waters Programme to host event set to address the next River Basin Management Plan for Ireland and how you can have your say to help shape the overall management of Ireland's water environment

On Thursday, January 27th 2022, Galway City Community Network (GCCN)[1] in collaboration with the Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO) [2] will host a meeting exploring the draft River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2022-2027 [3] and the implications this can have on Galway City.

Ireland is currently in the latter stages of preparing the next River Basin Management Plan which sets out the environmental improvements, water quality objectives and programme of measures to be delivered during a river basin planning cycle, to help protect, improve and sustainably manage the national water environment to 2027.

The event hosted in Galway City aims to provide attendees with information on the national draft Plan and the public consultation process currently in place for this, including a short online survey[4].

Conor Ruane, Community Water Officer (LAWPRO), stated:

“Galway is a city shaped by water. Water quality in Ireland has declined in recent years. We need urgent action to halt this decline and reverse the damage. This meeting will include information on what is proposed in the Draft River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2022-2027 to protect and restore good water quality. Achieving this will deliver multiple benefits for water, climate, biodiversity, jobs, and communities. There will be a questions and answers session and time for discussion on local issues. This is your chance to have your say and to put forward your views on what needs to get done to help the waterbodies in Galway City and nationally”.

Jacinta Fay, GCCN Co-ordinator added:

“We welcome the opportunity to co-host this meeting and hear from the community in Galway City on the issue of water quality in our rivers, lakes, estuaries and seas. The input gathered from the attendees and all interested GCCN members involved will be incorporated into a submission on the draft Plan. It is important for as many diverse voices to come together in our aim to help protecting Ireland's drinking water sources, environment and communities”.

At the end of this consultation period, LAWPRO will collect all submissions to produce a report for the Department of Housing, Local Government, and Heritage, ensuring that local communities have an input into the River Basin Management Plan for the next six years.

Further information is available on the GCCN website – www.galwaycitycommunitynetwork.ie.

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Notes to editors:

- [1] Galway City Community Network (GCCN) is a network of 159 community, voluntary and environmental organisations active in Galway City. GCCN is the main link through which the Galway City Council connects with the community, voluntary and environmental sectors. GCCN member organisations represent the network on a variety of bodies including the Council's Strategic Policy Committees. For more see www.galwaycitycommunitynetwork.ie
- [2] The Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO) is working to identify the issues affecting water quality in every county in Ireland. For more details visit <https://lawaters.ie/>
- [3] The draft River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2022-2027 is open for public consultation until Thursday, 31 March 2022. Find further details at <https://www.gov.ie/en/consultation/2bda0-public-consultation-on-the-draft-river-basin-management-plan-for-ireland-2022-2027/?referrer=http://www.gov.ie/draftRBMP/#how-you-can-get-involved>
- [4] The online survey can be found at <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/draftRBMP>