

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMC/SC

**Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 26 November 2018 at 6pm in the
Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre,
Downpatrick**

In the Chair: Councillor M Murnin

In attendance:

(Councillors)

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor M Carr
Councillor C Casey	Councillor G Craig
Councillor D Curran	Councillor L Devlin
Councillor C Enright	Councillor G Hanna
Councillor H Harvey	Councillor M Larkin
Councillor K Loughran	Councillor J Macauley
Councillor D McAteer	Councillor O McMahon
Councillor A McMurray	Councillor R Mulgrew
Councillor B Ó Muirí	Councillor B Quinn
Councillor M Ruane	Councillor M Savage
Councillor G Sharvin	Councillor G Stokes
Councillor D Taylor	Councillor J Trainor
Councillor B Walker	

(Officials)

Mr. L Hannaway, Chief Executive
Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer

Also in attendance:

Northern Ireland Water

Mr. R Larkin, Director of Finance and Regulation
Mr. S Blockwell, Head of Investment Management
Mr. I Jackson, Head of Operations Contract Management
Ms L Hughes, Senior Project Manager

SC/40/2018

APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Burgess, Byrne, Clarke, Fitzpatrick, Harte, Hearty, Howell, Kimmins, Reilly and Rice.

SC/41/2018

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

SC/42/2018

PRESENTATION FROM NORTHERN IRELAND WATER

The Chairperson welcomed the delegation from Northern Ireland Water and invited them to make their presentation.

Mr Larkin, Director of Finance and Regulation from Northern Ireland Water thanked the Chairperson and Council for inviting them to the meeting. He provided an overview of Northern Ireland Water, highlighting the water and waste water services that existed within the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area.

Members were informed that Newry, Mourne and Down District Council had received £43.6m in capital project spend since 2015 (10.3% of Northern Ireland Water's capital spend) which compared favourably with the District's 9.6% share of Northern Ireland's population.

Mr Larkin took the opportunity to thank Council for their cooperation and support during the period of drought earlier in the year, commenting that the Newry, Mourne and Down area been particularly stressed for water and that Council had worked well with Northern Ireland Water during this time.

A copy of the presentation is appended to these minutes.

Members asked the following questions:

- The sewage problems in Saintfield were impinging on new builds and properties within the area and as a result the Planning Department were not granting planning permissions.
Northern Ireland Water had advised a Drainage Area Study needed to be carried out. This must be done as soon as possible – How soon would Northern Ireland Water be on site to deal with this issue?
- Does Northern Ireland Water have input into the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's Development Plan?
- The on-going upgrades of the sewerage treatment works at the Greenbank, Newry were welcomed, however there continued to be issues with odour. Would this be rectified once all works were completed?
- Periods of heavy rain were causing sewage to seep into homes at the front of a row of houses on the Killeavy Road, Newry. Could this be investigated?
- There continues to be on-going problems at Mourneview, Hilltown.

A site meeting had been set up with Northern Ireland Water and Roads Service but problems continue. There were concerns the flow of water would cause problems with ice during the winter months which would be dangerous – Could this be investigated further and resolved?

- The footbridge at Corn Mill, Annalong continues to experience out of sewer flooding during heavy rainfall – Northern Ireland Water had provided an update prior to this meeting.
When would something be done to permanently fix the problems with the manhole exploding off and sewage then covering the bridge and path?
- The Carrigenagh Road, Kilkeel had not been reinstated properly and water pressure was non-existent at times, and at other times it was very high – Could this be investigated?
- There were odour issues from the Kilkeel Harbour Treatment Plant.
- Could more information be provided on recreational events organised by Northern Ireland Water?
- Could a pdf copy of the new text alert service offered by Northern Ireland Water be forwarded to Councillors so it could be shared with constituents?
- Residents within Downpatrick have questioned the capacity to deal with new housing in the area i.e. New housing developments on the Saul Road and Park Lane on the Strangford Road. Was the sewerage network being upgraded to accommodate these additional houses?
- Not all members of the public were aware of the free septic tank emptying facility. Could this be promoted?
- There continued to be odour problems at Ardmeen Green, Downpatrick and Bishops Brae area.
- What was Northern Ireland Water doing to address the gap in funding provided, given that it could spend £1.7bn, however the allocation was only £990m.
- How do Councillors make representation on behalf of schools to avail of the Northern Ireland Water Education Team?
- The Warrenpoint Drainage Area Study needed to be treated as urgent. There was potential for flooding in the town centre and Avoca Lane. The provision of sand bags needed to be given consideration.
- The capacity of Carrickmacstay Bridge Road, “Burren” Wastewater pumping Station was queried.
- The Kilkeel River had become overgrown with weeds and rubbish. Could the river be enhanced and become a feature for the town? A manhole cover had blown off. Could this be investigated?
- Concerns were raised regarding the condition of the sewer in Lower Water Street, Rostrevor outside Supervalu that appeared to be blocked.
- There had been significant flooding on Hill Street, Newry – Had the problem and source been identified?
- Could an update be provided on manholes at Springfarm Heights, Newry as there had been an incident of raw sewage coming from a cover that had blown off?
- Gardens of premises within a cul de sac at Quayside Close, Newry were being flooded following heavy downpours.
- Concerns were raised regarding the flow of water on Doran’s Hill/ Barcroft, Newry along the access route to Daisy Hill Hospital particularly in winter time,

leading to problems such as black ice.

- Incidences of flooding had occurred at the bottom of Church Road in the Kilmore Village.

The delegation responded to the queries as follows:

- The Old Grand Jury Road, Saintfield – A drainage area plan and studies had been carried out. Analysis needed to be carried out along with the development of a model which Northern Ireland Water aimed to have ready by December 2019. The process would take time and was funding dependant. Infrastructure should support growth and this was something Northern Ireland Water could build into its price control and seek funding from the Department for Infrastructure and Department of Finance.
- Mr S Blockwell, Head of Investment Management works with Council to provide input on the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Community Plan and Local Development Plan.
- There was a recent £1.8m investment for an upgrade at Greenbank, Newry with further work planned. Northern Ireland Water had been receiving feedback from Newry City Football Club also and recognised there was an issue and would continued to work with them and others to find a solution.
- Northern Ireland Water to investigate the issue relating to Killeavy Road with colleagues in Transport NI.
- A CCTV survey of sewage system was undertaken in Mourneview, Hilltown and identified two repairs that have been carried out. A multi agency solution was required from a number of departments and Northern Ireland Water did not currently have the funding. Going forward it may be included in the next price control period but unfortunately there was no quick fix. Mr Larkin undertook to have the problem looked at again and report back.
- Northern Ireland Water carried out extensive sewerage network examinations in Warrenpoint during 2015/16 and amended a number of sewer connections to the network to improve operability. The outcomes of the investigations had been shared with DfI Roads so that they could consider the need for any work required in relation to their surface water sewers.
- Issues were identified at Avoca Lane and Dfi Roads were aware of the reported issue.
- Northern Ireland Water had reviewed performance of Carrickmacstay Bridge Road, “Burren” Wastewater pumping Station and were not aware of any current issues.
- Northern Ireland Water had provided an update in relation to the Corn Mill at Annalong Harbour prior to the meeting, advising the sewer pipe had been replaced and increased in size in 2014. However as no additional flows had been introduced to the system, further investigations were to be carried out in the Annalong sewage system network. Mr Larkin asked for Councillors help in getting the message across to the public about the effect of high levels of fat, oil, grease (FOG) on sewerage networks causing operational issues.
- The Carrigenagh Road, Kilkeel water pressure issue, to be examined.
- A feasibility study to be carried out on Kilkeel Harbour Treatment Plant and

sewerage network to be fed into PC21, dependent on the availability of funding.

- Information on recreational events organised by Northern Ireland Water were available on the website. Information to be forwarded to District Electoral Area Forums for information.
- A copy of details on the new text alert service offered from Northern Ireland Water to be forwarded. This could be found at www.niwater.com.
- Septic tank emptying could be booked online and could be done once every 12 months for free.
- Details on Northern Ireland Water's school programme were available on the website and had proved to be a very popular and successful programme.
- There were network points at the housing developments in Downpatrick. Questions raised by constituents confirmed people were becoming more aware of the infrastructure deficit.
- There was an opportunity for Council and Rivers Agency to look at the river to see what could be done to improve its appearance but any actions taken that could raise the water level of the Kilkeel River would cause issues for the adjacent building. Northern Ireland Water would consider the condition and location of the existing sewer.
Mr Larkin advised he would get address the matter of the dislodged manhole cover in the Kilkeel River.
- Northern Ireland Water to report back on whether a fat berg had been established following the flooding on Lower Water Street, Newry and if so carry out all necessary work to address that.
- Report to be brought back on Quayside Close and Springfarm Heights, Newry.

Mr Larkin said Northern Ireland Water welcomed all support from Council and asked that Council continued to help highlight the infrastructure deficit and insufficient funding for the vital service provided.

The Chairperson thanked the delegation for their presentation.

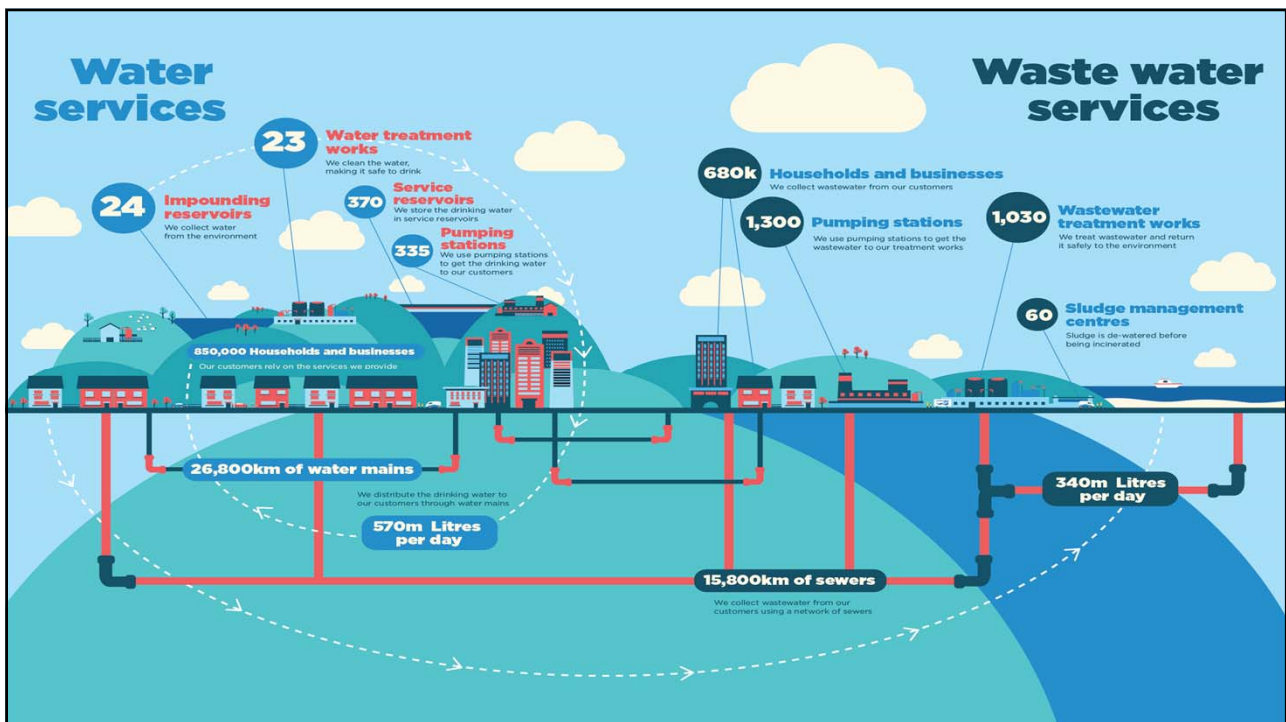
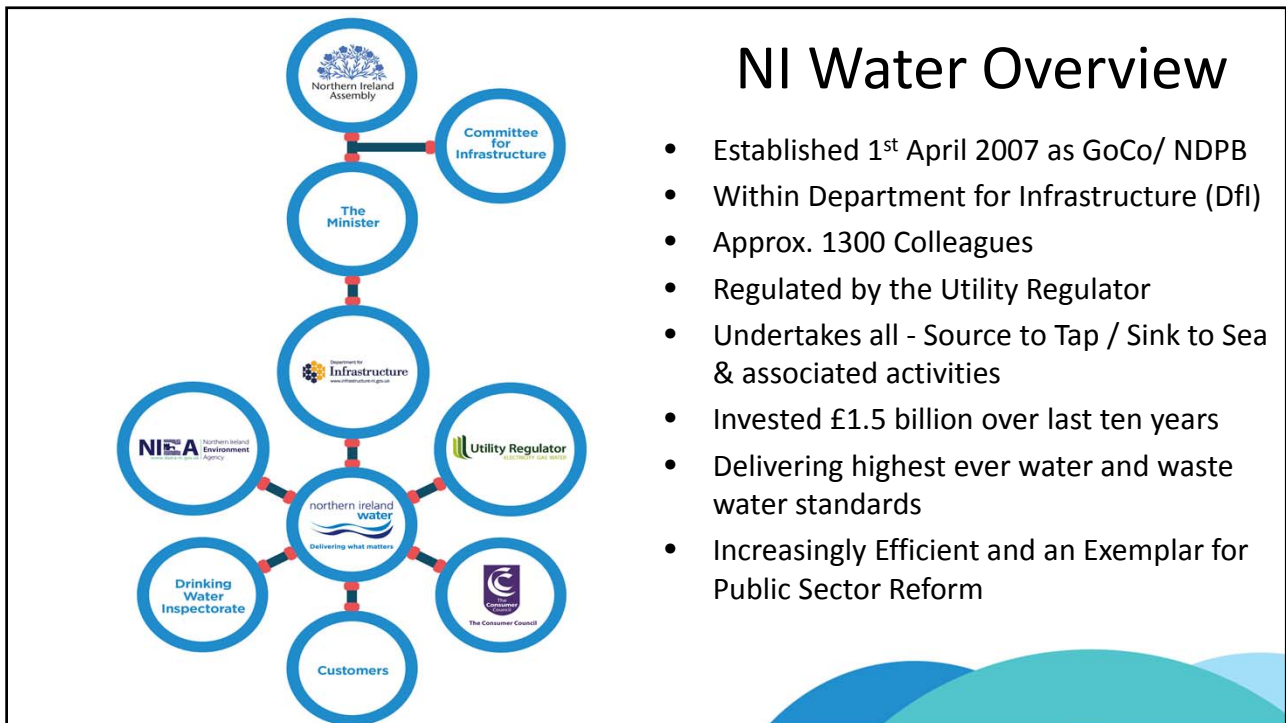
There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7.45pm.

For adoption at Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to be held on Monday 7 January 2019.

Signed:

Chairperson

Chief Executive



Capital Investments

Investment Year	Capital Project Spend	
	NI Water	Newry, Mourne & Down District Council
2015/16	£95m	£12.2m
2016/17	£101.6m	£9.4m
2017/18	£106.6m	£10.5m
2018/19	£121.7m	£11.5m
Total	£425m	£43.6m

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council benefits from 10.3% of NI Water's capital spend and a considerable percentage of NI Water's Water & Sewerage £61m annual Capital Maintenance Expenditure for the PC15 period. This compares favourably with the District's 9.6% share of Northern Ireland's population.

Top Investments (over £100k)

Projects In Construction / Recently Complete	Projects In Construction / Recently Complete
Annalong Drainage Area Plans	Strangford Sewer Network Salinity Reduction
Kilkeel Drainage Area Plans	Northern Ireland Drought Mitigation
Dundrum Drainage Area Plans	Dundrum Waste Water Treatment Works
Drumaroad Water Treatment Works Clear Water Tank	Sewers Structural Rehabilitation Package 2
Carran Hill Crossmaglen Watermains Rehabilitation	Sewer Structural Rehabilitation Package 4
Banbridge South Armagh Watermains Rehabilitation	Newry West Water Pumping Station
Foffany Watermains Rehabilitation	Newpoint Waste Water Pumping Station Screen Upgrade
Killeavy Castle Water Distribution Improvements	Warrenpoint Sewer Investigations
CSO Monitoring Within Shellfish & Bathing Water Areas	
Silent Valley Recreational Facilities Appraisal	
Newry Depot Premises Upgrade	

Top Investments (over £100k)

Programmed/Prospective Projects (subject to funding & land purchases)

Annalong Waste Water Treatment Works
 Kilkeel Waste Water Treatment Works Feasibility Study
 Meigh Waste Water Treatment Works Feasibility Study
 Cranfield Waste Water Treatment Works Feasibility Study
 Warrenpoint Waste Water Treatment Works Feasibility Study
 The Slopes Rathfriland Waste Water Pumping Station Appraisal
 Green Road, Ardglass, Foul and Storm Sewer
 Station Road, Saintfield Mains Replacement
 Dublin Road Newry, Out of Sewer Flooding

The Funding Challenge: PC15 Business Plan (6 Years from 2015 to 2021)

What we need
£2.8bn

What we
 could spend
£1.7bn

!

Shrinking
 funding allocation
£990m

Further public expenditure cuts since 2015 mean c£55m of projects cannot be delivered

What is a Price Control?

- As a monopoly, NI Water is regulated by the Utility Regulator through Price Controls.
- A Price Control determines the allowed revenue for the company and the efficiency and outputs targets to be met by the company during the price control period.
- PC21 will be 4th Regulatory Price Control for NI Water

9

What does a Price Control involve ?

Objectives specified – Social & Environmental Guidance

- With input from stakeholders

Revenue to deliver objectives quantified

- NI Water develops Business Plan to comply with Ministerial objectives and guidance

Value for money assessed

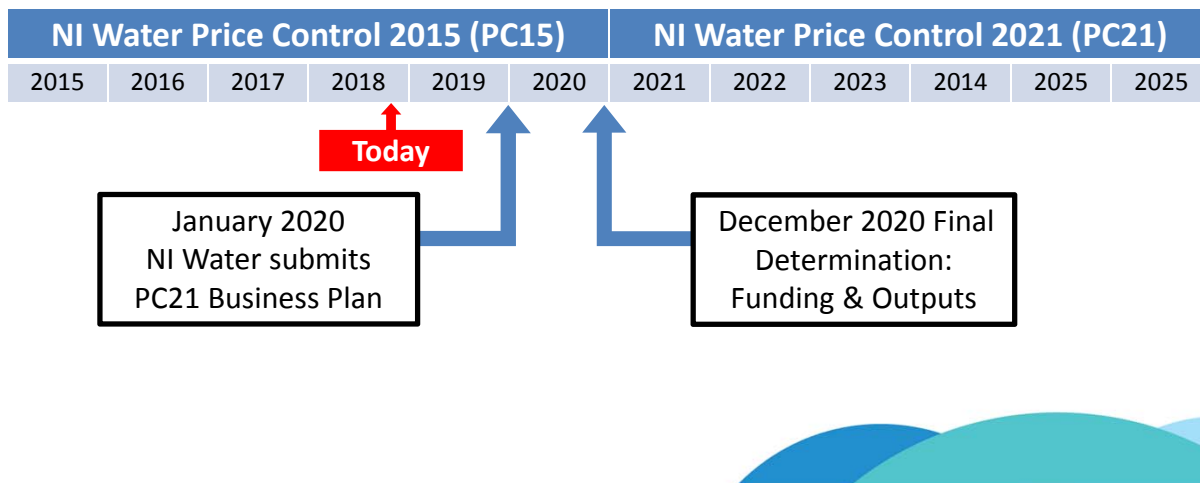
- Utility Regulator assesses Business Plan and challenges value for money

Regulatory contract agreed

- Utility Regulator determines revenue and outputs - contract is agreed with customer price limits determined for the PC period, outputs agreed and delivery monitored

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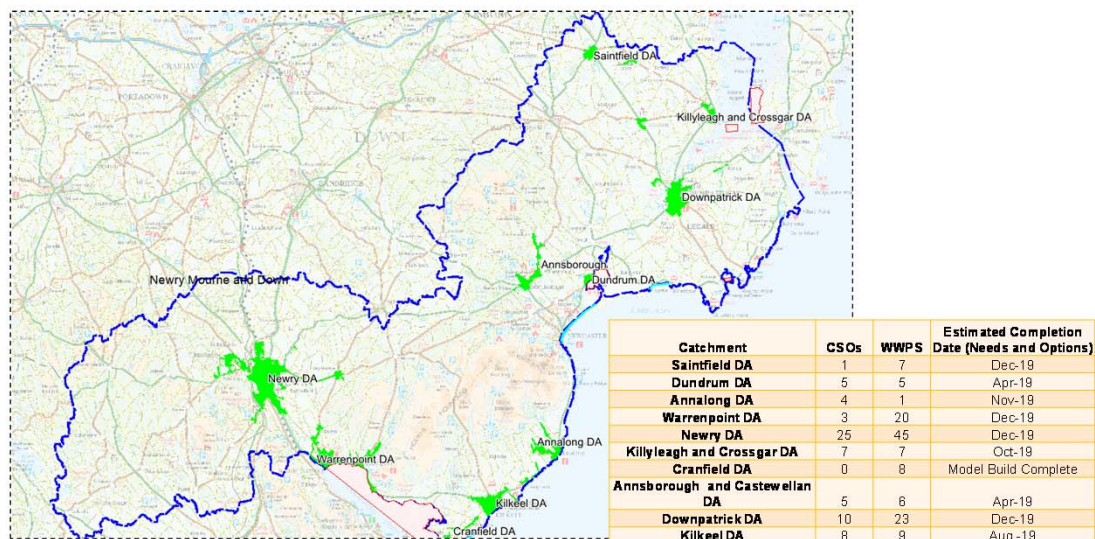
PC21 Business Plan and Timeline



Wastewater Projects / Activities

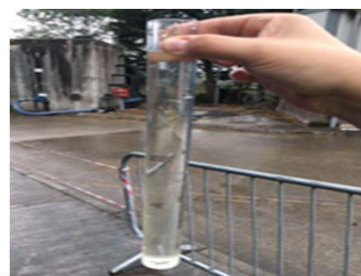
Drainage Areas Studies Ongoing

PC15 Investment Programme - Drainage Area Planning

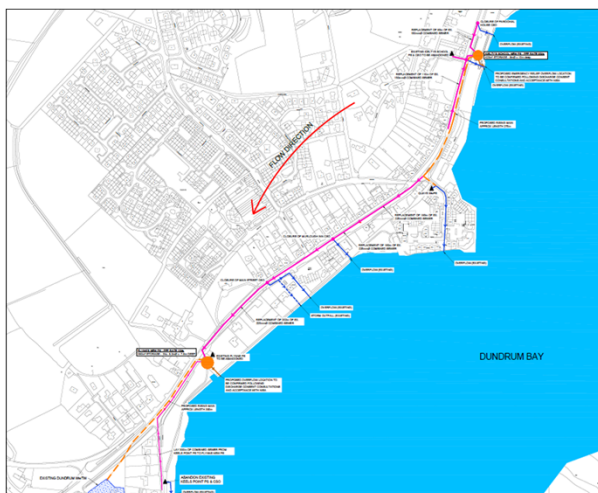


Dundrum Sewerage Network

- £2.5m project being carried out to improve the existing treatment process and deal with increased flows.
- Initial samples from the new MBR cells are excellent.



Dundrum Sewerage Network



Ballymartin Lower

- Work comprised of a two stage treatment for low lying houses close to the shore, along with foul and storm separation
- This scheme completes a £1.2m investment by NI Water which also included new pumping stations in Blackrock and Ballymartin along with associated pumping mains transferring wastewater to Kilkeel.
[Photo taken 22 Oct 2018]



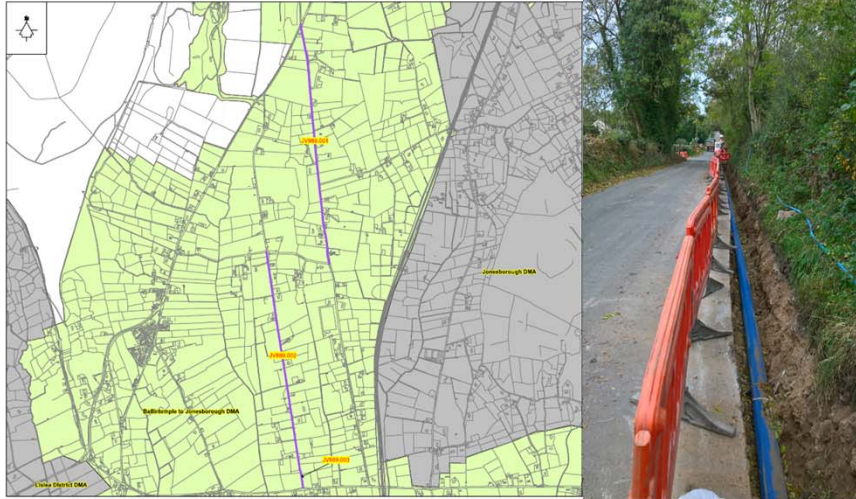
Newpoint Terminal Pumping Station

- **Value:** approx. £1.8M
- **Status:** Operational
December 2017
- **Benefits:** Environmental benefits due to reduced out of sewer flooding and enhancement to Newry WwTW treatment process.

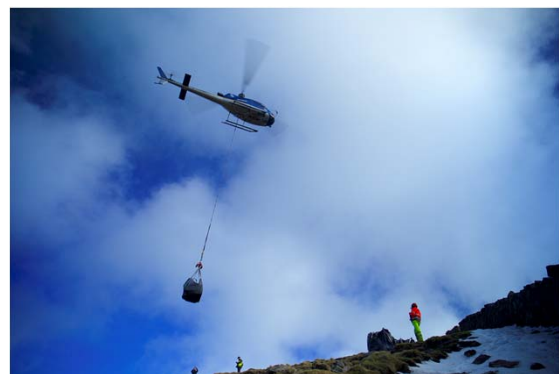


Water Projects / Activities

Slieve Gullion Water Distribution Improvements: Killeavy Castle



Mourne Wall Restoration Project



Water Conservation - essential during the heatwave

- Spelga Dam
- Silent Valley Reservoir - supplies 120 million litres of water each day to homes and businesses



Drought Mitigation Actions

- Construction of temporary Water Pumping Stations to improve interconnectivity between resource zones during the summer heatwave.
- Transferring water from Castor Bay to Fofanny Resource Zone at Mayobridge.
- Transferring water from Silent Valley to Fofanny Resource Zone at Newcastle.



Public Initiatives

Current Public Initiatives

- Wrap Up Warm for Winter – Insulate your pipes
- FOG - Fats, Oil and Grease
- The 3 Ps. Only flush pee, poo and paper!



Educating The Wider Public

- Waterbutt initiative: free waterbutts for community gardens



Rostrevor Mens Shed



Mayobridge
Regeneration group



Brain Injury
Foundation
Newry

- Water for Health @ Carnagat Summer Scheme



- Silent Valley events: Music in the Park free events held 1 Sunday per month in July and August



Educating The Next Generation

- The NI Water Education team during the past five years have made 190 schools visits in the Newry, Mourne & Down Council areas.



Academy PS



St Malachy's PS, Camlough



St Colmans Kilkeel

- All visits included environmental key messages of: Water Conservation, Bag it & Bin it and Refill (plastic pollution education). These were delivered through the use of Classroom visits, Waterbus and Silent Valley facilities.

Delivering For The Community

- NI Water undertakes monthly Charitable Events around NI Water as part of our 'Cares Challenge Initiative'
- NI Water has supported the Southern Area Trust – St John's House as part of this activity with an annual Cares Challenge to enhance the hospice garden
- Most recent Challenge in August



Customer Centred Water Knowledge

- NI Water have launched a new text alert service for customers
- Competition to collect customer contact details
- Lets customers know of any unplanned interruptions to their water supply
- Lets customers know when they can expect their water supply to be restored.
- Customers can enter at www.niwater.com



How To Reach Us

- **Dedicated 24/7 Elected Representative Hotline:**
0345 3006461
- **Email :** waterline@niwater.com
- **Website:** www.niwater.com
- **Twitter:** @niwnews
- **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/niwater
- **24/7 Waterline for public:** 03457 440088.
- #deliveringwhatmatters

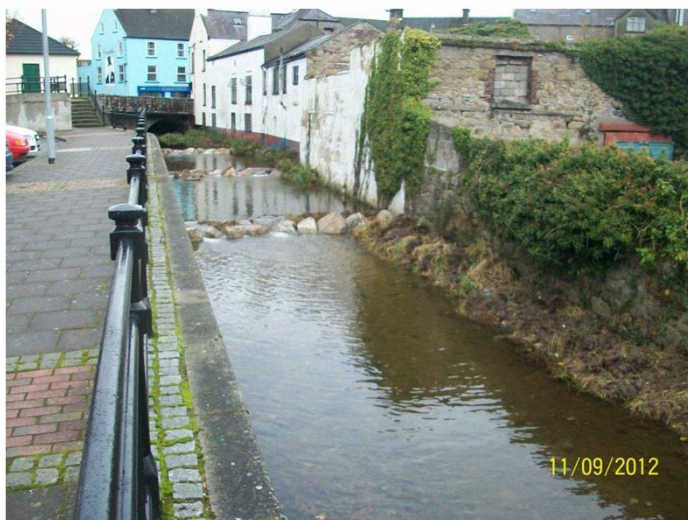
northern ireland
water



Delivering what matters



Question on Kilkeel River Rehabilitation



Question on Kilkeel River Rehabilitation



Question on Kilkeel River Rehabilitation

