



CAHERDANIEL RIVER REPORT

2020

Natural and Cultural Heritage Strategy

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1 Executive Summary

The song of the river ends not at her banks but in the hearts of those who have loved her.

Buffalo Joe

During the period between 2015 - 2019, the Caherdaniel Japanese Knotweed Group (CJKG) had undertaken an impressive amount of work. This included a major funding application to undertake research that looked to investigate non-chemical solutions to the extensive impact of Japanese Knotweed on the Coomnahorna river. As an invasive species Japanese Knotweed has strict regulations around management usually only undertaken through licensed contractors using chemical approaches.

Increasingly there are research projects that seek to use investigate unconventional methods. Despite this the group's application had been unsuccessful and had depleted the groups's energy, creating a period of stasis. One recommendation in light of this was to reconsider the objectives of the group and refocus attention towards a river restoration project. A river restoration project can redeliver the work on the ground by acting as a hub through which coordination of all relevant parties and authorities; including landowners, contractors and planning can take place.

This approach could also incorporate a more integrated approach to the two key issues residents and participants are deeply concerned by: the impact of knotweed on the river and the ongoing issue of waste water management. An integrated approach would enable non-chemical methods and a naturalised approach to water and waste water management could enable cost-benefits for the social, environmental and economic well-being of the village and the broader ecology.

Naturally functioning rivers and floodplains provide ample benefits to society including flood regulation, freshwater supply, tourism/recreation, water purification, carbon storage and improved human health. Naturalising rivers so they do not require costly maintenance and improving the habitat for aquatic species while mitigating for size and frequency of floods due to climate change is a key benefit to developing a river restoration project.

River restoration projects help re-connect river channels with their floodplains and help mitigate against flood damage, a reality that will only increase as the climate changes or collapses. In general, river restoration is a management process that reinstates natural processes and provides benefits to both people and wildlife through an integrated approach. The reintroduction of natural processes, such as variation in flow, connection with the floodplain and sediment transport processes, can reshape rivers to provide the diversity of habitats required for a healthy river ecosystem and ensure their long-term recovery.

To explore the potential of re-invigorating the group in order to

refocus their aims and objectives, members of the CJKG approached, Dr Anita McKeown (ASU) and principal investigator of the CoDesRes research project to develop a creative community engagement process. Dr Anita McKeown, Sean O'Laoghaire and Eleanor Turner facilitated, a creative community re-engagement process and this document sets out some potential directions that could refocus the group's efforts and re-energise their activities through a strategic action plan.

The methods used sought to encourage the group and other residents to think differently about the river and utilise their creativity, knowledge and imagination to develop an innovative response to the river. This approach aims to enable the group to develop new perspectives around engagement and opportunities that could enable the restoration of the river as a central feature and asset of the village. The purpose of this plan is to provide a direction and a framework for development by building upon what already exists and has been achieved and identify what could be done.

The team worked with 30 residents of Caherdaniel village, S. Kerry, including those who had been part of the Caherdaniel Japanese Knotweed group. The development of a strategic plan is an important activity for an organisation and offers an opportunity to reflect on its purpose and core aims. It offers an opportunity to consider what is required and to set out a vision for the future: a roadmap to focus their efforts to achieve their goals. A strategic plan is therefore a statement of intent and a renewal of commitment.

The events brought together individuals and groups within the community to strengthen the network and improve communications between community members. The creation of a strategic plan will assist the newly formed group, if that is the direction chosen, to ensure integrating of the interests of the wider community and wider environmental impact through greater engagement.

It is beyond the scope of this process to develop a complete integrated strategic plan that would include addressing the water treatment concerns and Japanese Knotweed as this would require in-depth research involving a number of experts. Implementing a number of smaller scale partnerships would still be an important and necessary step to developing such an idea. To this end the plan presents a staged approach to this by offering interim standalone projects and activities that could begin this process yet offer tangible contributions to an overarching plan that is not yet finalised.



**A river is the cosiest of friends.
You must love it and live with it
before you can know it.**

G.W. Curtis, Lotus Eating: Hudson and Rhine

2 Project Background

Any river is really the summation of the whole valley. To think of it as nothing but water is to ignore the greater part.

Hal Borland, This Hill, This Valley

The Coomnahorna river that flows through Caherdaniel has long been neglected and overlooked. The main industry within Caherdaniel parish is Tourism, driven by the natural beauty and ecology of the area. Despite this, the river has been underutilised as an asset to the community, serving as a dumping for sewerage and other waste. Caherdaniel Village lacks a waste water treatment system and raw untreated sewerage is currently disposed of into the river just below the village.

Other pressures on the water quality and bank stability include encroachment of invasive species and a reduction in native species in the riparian zone. The local community here has long been involved in projects to protect and enhance the quality of our river the Coomnahorna River, operating as independent individuals or as individual working groups of Coiste Pobail Cathair Donal, Caherdaniel's Community Council organisation.

In 2012 the community also created a development plan to assist in driving development within the parish, this was a five year plan and has now come to a close. Several projects within the development plan were highly successful and undertaken by three sub-groups. One group focused on dealing with the sewage treatment issue including the possibility of an integrated wetland area treatment system, another was working towards the creation of a public access point to the river in the form of a river walk. The third group undertook an invasive species management project to the final stages in contest for EIP funding, regrettably were unsuccessful in securing the funding.

It is now felt within the community that the local environment must take a front seat in ongoing concerns, as the local economy depends heavily upon tourism which is driven by our unique landscape and ecology. The residents are keen to develop a strategic plan to achieve these environmental and sustainability goals ensuring the momentum and motivation of the volunteer work within in the parish is supported and used to best effect.

The aim of this series of workshops is to encourage the groups to work collaboratively to create a strategic plan to improve the health of the river ecosystem by including existing ideas. The engagement with their local environment will raise the community's awareness and this in turn is hoped to encourage wider environmental action and understanding within the community and in visitors to the community.

3 Objectives

Supported by the EPA and LAWPRO, project aids the development of a integrated strategy and community action plan for the Coomnahorna river, using the pCr methodology. Considered as a vital part of the village, the aim is to look at the potential opportunities available for restoring the river as a focal point of the village that contributes to the village's natural and cultural heritage while seeking to contribute new approaches to long-standing environmental issues.

The aims of the process are, with a view to restore the river, to host three workshops within our local community and develop a group working towards restoring the riverbanks and native vegetation along the riverbanks, encouraging wider community engagement with water quality issues in the area and how to protect our freshwater environments. This will include the creation of a strategic plan to map the aims and actions for the groups working within the community to ensure the most effective use of their volunteer time and energy.

The events will aid in bringing together groups within the community to strengthen the network and improve communications between community members. The creation of a strategic plan will assist the newly formed group to ensure integrating of the interests of the wider community and wider environmental impact through greater engagement.

Objectives of the event:

1. Identify issues, challenges, objectives and practical solutions
2. Create an action plan for local projects to protect, maintain and improve the water quality, biodiversity and habitat of the river catchment
3. Plan a strategy to carry out the action plan (including agreed timelines & priorities and working structure of the catchment partnership



The care of rivers is not a question of rivers but of the human heart.

Shozo Tanaka

As with many SWOT analyses, the weaknesses and threats can often, with some creative thinking, become strengths and opportunities. The strategic action plan recommends a SWOT analysis is undertaken when the group is established to extend the initial SWOT analysis and applied to any projects that might be developed.

STRENGTHS

Caherdaniel has an enviable natural and cultural heritage that inspires residents and visitors through its folklore, archaeology and stunning landscape, untouched by large-scale industrialised activities for decades.

Caherdaniel is at the heart of the gold-tier Dark Sky Reserve, one of only three in the Western Hemisphere, offering a unique asset that could be utilised more.

The local landscape offers a diversity and richness of natural heritage that includes unique habitats, minimal light pollution and low-density population - an increasingly sought after offering in a 21st Century context.

The river is a part of the Coomnahorna catchment, which has a number of unique ecological features including two types of wetland, upland bog, salt marshes, and sand dunes. These aspects provide habitats for a diverse range of wildlife including wading birds, butterflies and amphibians.

The village has the potential to maximise quality of life and quality of place factors that are attractive to local, national, and international visitors. Its location on the Wild Atlantic Way, the Ring of Kerry, and its proximity to Cork give it a high tourism value.

Bronze mines and antiquities that places Caherdaniel at the centre of European Bronze Age trade.

WEAKNESSES

As with most of SW Kerry, out-migration results in a very young and aging demographic, with significant and persistent decline in youth and 30-somethings.

The village's loss of the post office and more recently the shop means residents and visitors have to travel out of Caherdaniel for simple day-to-day errands.

Remoteness inhibits choices for sustainable economic means, with limited access to urban centres and service nodes.

Resident population is small which inhibits capacity to build scale. This also impacts on volunteerism with a small group of people already over-committed, under resourced and burnt out from previous projects.

Limited engagement of younger people in the social, economic and environmental development of the village; both residents and visitors.

Tourism offerings often focus on 'passing through' and visits to featured locations (e.g. Derrynane house, Sneem and Kenmare).

OPPORTUNITIES

The creation of a coherent story and timeline due to the extensive evidence of cultural and natural heritage surrounding the river is easily achievable.

Caherdaniel is attractive to visitors with evidence of loyal returning visitors that could be engaged in a river restoration project.

Potential for ecological, social and sustainable development research opportunities e.g. the salt marshes where the river enters the sea have been identified as a qualifying interest; 1410 Mediterranean saltmeadows (*Juncetalia maritima*) under the habitats directive, (Kenmare Special Area of Conservation 2013).

The Bronze Age archaeology could also attract and support research and tourism opportunities. Bronze-age mines and other antiquities place Caherdaniel at the centre of European Bronze Age trade, which offers additional opportunities to showcase the village as well as living lab and field work education.

Viewing platforms along the river could capitalise on the river's location within the Dark Sky Reserve and could also host unique wayfinding signage and educational nodes as part of a living field lab and outdoor classrooms.

The village has local characters with unique stories that could be utilised within a coherent narrative of innovation and immigration (e.g. Maurice O'Sullivan and hydro-electricity).

Potential to attract younger residents looking for more quality of life opportunities and keen to be engaged in local projects and contribute to community activities

THREATS

The UN Millennium Ecosystem Assessment determined that environmental degradation is more prominent within wetland systems than any other ecosystem on Earth. The Coomnahorna catchment has 2 types of wetlands systems: upland bog and saltmarsh.

Japanese Knotweed is suffocating the river and reducing biodiversity in certain areas and a long-term management plan needs to be established ideally that does not use methods detrimental to the local ecology.

Waste Water and Sewage management is inadequate and causes an odour and other environmental issues. This is increasingly detrimental to the well-being of the village across social, economic and environmental criteria.

Limited viable economic choices contributes to a cycle of depopulation that has ramifications for the social and cultural well-being of the village.

Indeed the river is a perpetual gala, and boasts each month a new ornament.

Ralph Waldo Emerson, Nature



5 Methodology

The workshops used elements of a particular methodology that has been trialled in Ireland, New Mexico and London and underpinned by interdisciplinary knowledge bases: arts, education, open source culture, sustainable community development and systems thinking. The permaCultural resilience (pCr) critical praxis (McKeown, 2015) for Creative Placemaking encourages the creative innovative participatory development of place, a web of complex relationships and systems.

The pCr praxis (theoretical framework and toolkit) offers a systematic approach to Creative Placemaking through a situated, networked co-production that embeds eco-social justice at its core. As an operating system, the pCr praxis presents an Open Source resilient approach to design and encourages the triad of capitals - social, environmental and economic to be integrated into the process as a means to cultivate the creation of conditions towards a healthy, resilient, eco-socio-cultural ecosystem.

An introduction: the pCr ROLE in Creative Placemaking is sustainable and resilient. Collectively, the toolkit and framework have been shown to facilitate self-organisation towards community development, a design thinking approach to local concerns and a process of developing innovative solutions collaboratively and systemically.

R - Relationships Using an intensive 'audit' tool to map cultural, economic, socio-political and environmental dynamics, the pCr praxis reveals relationships, resources and opportunities to help re-configure and re-imagine an understanding of place. Stakeholder consultation is the first stage in the process.

The construction of flexible micro-ecologies aids the revelation of multiple knowledge cultures and entities, integrating their place-based knowledge, valued for its potential to contribute to a local resilience.

O - OBREDIM The pCr approach to Creative Placemaking develops a strategic intervention tactic as a core component for achieving permaCultural resilience (pCr) – a situated cultural resilience that is established over time



Moon, sun an' stars oversee peculiar journey ta yon sea

Water Trick Stone, Duane Short

through continual evolution. Permaculture tools adapted to suit situated art practices (where the art emerges out of specific situation and is context responsive) are used to move beyond site-specific or traditional art forms that are often static or monumental towards generative practices.

L - Lifecycle Analysis The pCr framework offers a simple visual tool that embeds an eco-social commitment within Creative Placemaking by addressing the full life cycle of a project and beyond. By plotting the position of the inputs, processes, and outputs of a project against the proximity to project's 'Zone 0', an initial assessment of all production processes can be considered.

E - Evaluation The pCr toolkit includes an evaluative matrix based on the concept of the vital signs of a project and contributing to the vital signs of a place. The Vital Signs Matrix acts as indicators of a healthy system – human and non-human. The matrix, developed through the research, uses the proposed foundational characteristics of pCr:

- Building Micro-ecologies
- Strategic Intervention Tactics
- Re-seeding Local Knowledge
- Re-situating Arts, Design and Culture

and integrates three other key factors – earth care, people care and fair share – often commonly known as the triple bottom line. An additional indicator, the inclusive fitness theory evidences where the ethos behind the project spreads into other organisations or working practices towards long-term behavioural change.

The Vital Signs Matrix tool can also be used as a collaborative project development tool that serves as a foundation to address social and environmental equity within a project in the short medium and long-term. The methodology also developed an extended concept of SMART goals that sought to integrate goals reflective of the current and future context:



5 Methodology

- S - Socio-culturally Specific, Simple, and Sincere
- M - Meaningful as well as Manageable and Measurable
- A - Appropriate, Achievable, Aspirational, Ambitious
- R – Relevant, Responsive, Reviewed and Revised
- T – Timely and Time-specific
- E - Eco-considerate and Ethical
- R – Resilient, Resourceful and far – Reaching

SMART goals Adapted (McKeown, 2014)

The methodology is a durational intervention and it should be noted that the process of the workshops and the information reflected in this report emerged from a limited use of the pCr's methods due to the time-limits on the process and it would be productive to apply the full methodology with the group should the opportunity arise. This would involve additional funding and time commitments but would offer a supported, structured process that could be applied across all aspects of the proposed strategic plan.

**Water gentle, soft an' light ~ victory's mark a gorgeous sight
Channels cut so deep an' smooth ~ victor's badge, a sandstone groove
Water gentle, battle won ~ but won in peace under sun
Carried gently one by one stones sands free on beaches run**

Water Trick Stone, Duane Stuart



Re-discovery of Maurice O'Sullivan's Hydro-electric dam infrastructure, June 2019



It has shaped us and the valley

Workshop 1 attendee

Workshop 1

Session 1: World Café style engagement with the catchment including problem-finding and considering the challenges as perceived by the participants.

This included a facilitated discussion with participants around the visual and narrative history of the river.

Participants were invited to contribute photographs / stories of the catchment to add to a public river timeline exhibit to look for and consider any changes and the emergence of the problem over time.

Arrival and introductions

- Brief intro / context
- Facilitator's experience
- Process - Past Present and Future story

Construct timeline

Materials: Large scroll - pens, glue, blank wall paper

- Gather copies of images and articles and any other info - stories / anecdotes to place in timeline
- Set time boundaries and facilitate the scroll.

The workshop was 2 hrs longer than proposed to enable participants to attend at different times during the session due to existing time-pressured schedules. This more flexible approach proved productive as was a more inclusive approach and enabled some participants to contribute whereas a shorter workshop would not.

Situating the participants: The session opened with an introduction to the day, the aims of the day and an introduction to each other.

This then involved placing themselves on the map of the river and sharing their personal daily experiences of the river - the initial process of problem finding and considering the challenges as perceived by the participants.

This quickly showed clustering of participation (age and location) and identified certain demographics and physical locations lower in the catchment that may need further engagement with to get the fullest picture and diversity of experience and knowledge. Follow-up activities could be created and targeted to this aim.



Situating the participants in the landscape and gathering knowledge from their personal experience. May 2019

How could drops of water know
themselves to be a river?

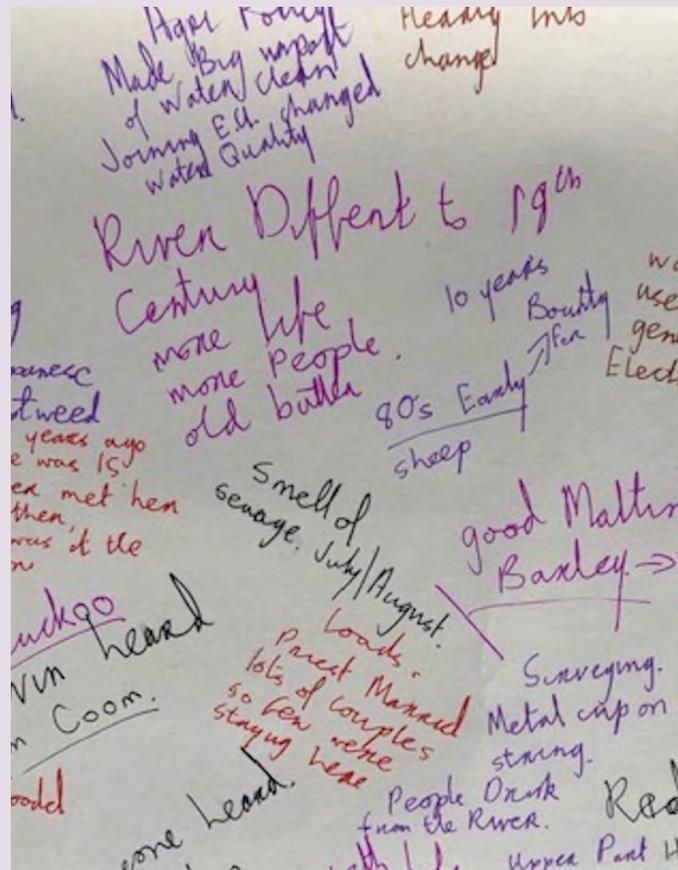
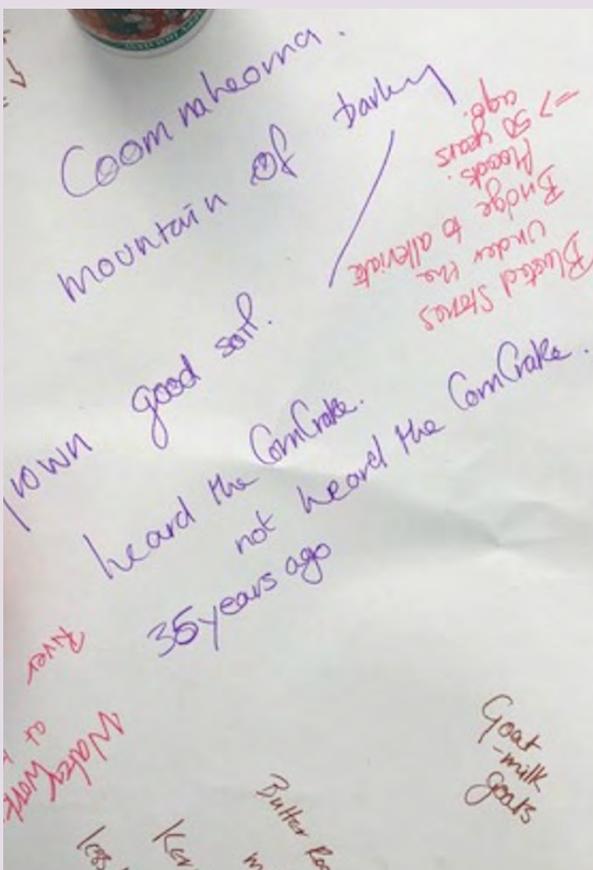
Yet the river flows on.

Antoine de Saint-Exupery, Wind, Sand and Stars

Workshop 1

Visual narrative history: None of the participants brought images of the river to complete the visual narrative history of the river so this activity was adapted to create a scroll of knowledge through stories of the catchment. Participants were encouraged through structured questioning prepared in advance, through the artist's curiosity and specific methodology used, and the initial sharing of lived experience and personal narratives.

The discussion seemed to identify key changes in the last 20 - 30 years with pre-knotweed and pollution problems within the memory of the participants. While these problems could be attributed to increased seasonal residents increasing volume as well as inefficient use of septic tanks (e.g. dormancy in winter), the knotweed problem was more illusive. The artists have been gathering knowledge were possible in addition to this to create a public visual timeline that will be exhibited as part of the strategic plan development.



Examples from knowledge scroll, May 2019

World Cafe style questions with groups: The World Cafe section was developed around three structured questions to gather specific knowledge;

1. What is your personal relationship to the river?
2. Do you think your relationship to the river could be better?
3. Name one thing that could make YOUR relationship to the river better, what would it be?



A river seems a magic thing.
A magic, moving, living part of the very earth itself.

Laura Gilpin

Workshop 1

Each group feeding back to the whole group after each question with open reflection and sharing across the groups. The final 'question' involved swapping question 2 so that a different group begins to look for initial possibilities to developing solutions to making their relationship to the river better.

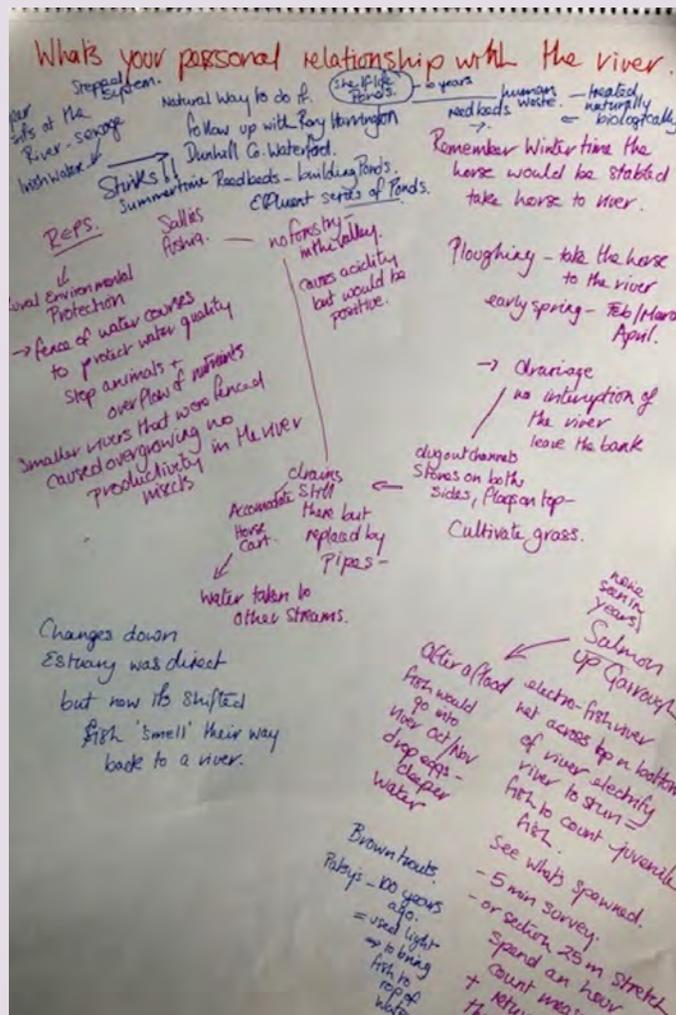
This section of the session enabled the facilitators to gather the ideas and concerns of the participants, moving them from their personal / past experiences towards thinking about the future. This process shared a range of ideas and began to identify the issues, challenges and objectives that build the foundations for the practical solutions and local projects that will encourage further participation and develop ways of protecting, maintaining and improving the water quality, biodiversity and habitat of the river catchment.

A number of ongoing concerns presented themselves.

1. Invasive species: The ongoing issues with the Japanese knotweed.
2. Pollution: The sewage in the summer with increased residents in the village.
3. More local participation needed.
4. More student engagement - primary schools.
5. Need to develop tourism opportunities.

There were also a number of initial solutions to these concerns mooted;

1. Provide resources for landowners to maintain the river and the invasive species where it crosses their land.
2. Competitive planting to try to address the invasive species.
3. Pollution - consideration of 'hot spots' above and below the town and possible mixed solutions.
4. Make the river more accessible and enable walking / leisure activities.
5. Work with students and citizen science projects to encourage more participation with the primary school students.



Example from World Cafe session, May 2019



A river or stream is a cycle of energy from sun to plants to insects to fish.
It is a continuum broken only by humans.

Aldo Leopold

Workshop 2

Session 2: Walking and sensing the catchment

ASU facilitators: Dr. Anita McKeown and Sean O'Laoghaire

This session was adapted to encourage maximum engagement and was reduced to a 4 hr. session including food as a means to encourage those who could not complete the walk to still contribute. The aim of session 2 was to situate the participants in the landscape and connect to the physicality of the river. The session began close to the source of the river, which in itself showed issues of accessibility and even knowledge of where the source was.

The session involved focusing activities in 4 key locations along the course of the river using key pCr methods. Each participant was given a notebook and pen to undertake a series of focused tasks over the duration of the walk at key focus points to develop a more sensory engagement with the catchment and highlight overlooked knowledge.

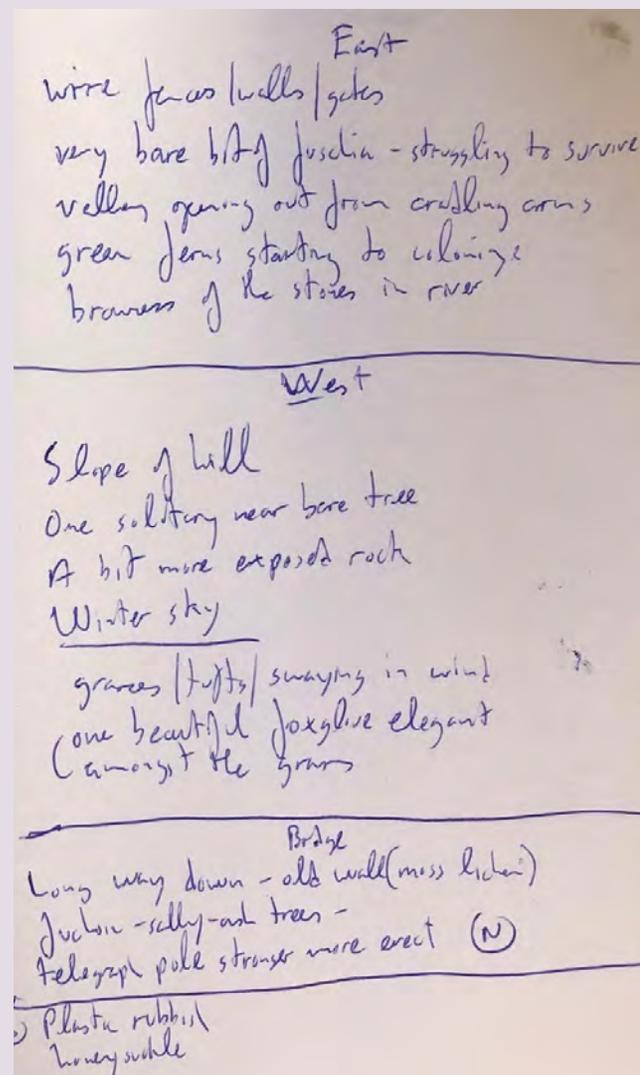
This involved short timed observations both visual and audio observation tasks such as listening and positioning themselves in the directions and noticing the different perspectives and aspects of the landscape.

These activities encouraged discussion and provoked the sharing of other information that would not normally be presented within community development facilitation. This included childhood memories and discussion about the changes to the river over the years.

This helped to reposition the participants in relation to their landscape, and make new connections, which enabled new ideas and possibilities to emerge.

The process promoted a more creative response to finding and solving problems as the participants were able to re-position the problems within broader systems which offered additional knowledge from within the 'problem-landscape' or knowledge from other fields or situations that can be adapted.

This type engagement helps to raise a different awareness that aims to encourage a wider environmental action and understanding within the community, which can then be utilised to develop other engagement activities and visitors to the community.



Examples from river walk observational notebook, June 2019



We must begin thinking like a river if we are to leave a legacy of beauty and life for future generations.

David Brower

Workshop 3

Session 3: Mapping the catchment in relation to the region and strategic and local agendas - Oct, 2019

ASU facilitators: Dr. Anita McKeown and Sean O’Laoghaire

The third session took place on the 5th Oct, 2019. The session had three aims:

1. To map the catchment in terms of national, regional, strategic and local agendas to identify potential partners, resources and financial support.

2. To present the initial findings and potential strategy using information from the previous sessions, including models from the facilitators. This knowledge can serve as inspiration for development of local context-responsive projects.

3. To get feedback from the participants on what may be of most interest to develop and begin to plan a strategy to carry out the action plan including agreed timelines, priorities and working structure of the catchment partnership.

The third session was developed slightly differently than proposed and utilised active process to engage the participants. This included the pCr zonal mapping as well as discussing five river restoration projects from around the world with the session completion focused on the potential of using policy to discuss projects.

Activity 1. Working in 3 groups, each group considered specially selected global restoration case study summaries, often led by artists in combination with carefully considered prompt questions to begin to analyse aspects of the projects that might have relevance for the Coomnahorna river. The restoration projects included:

1. The Vaigai River Restoration Pageant project, Madurai, South India Earth Celebrations, DHAN Foundation & Asia Initiatives,

<https://earthcelebrations.com/vaigai-river-restoration-pageant-project/>

This was a social action art initiative and an international collaborative effort to restore the sacred Vaigai River, from a severe environmental crisis due to pollution, waste dumping and the drying effects of climate change.

2. Freshkills Park, NY, Meirle Laderman Ukeles, transforming the world’s largest landfill into a sustainable park through re-imagining reclaimed landscapes with landfill infrastructure being an essential part of the park’s design by adding to its complexity.

<https://freshkillspark.org/>

3. Ellis Creek Water Treatment Facility, Patricia Johanson, 2001 Petaluma, CA and the creation of a wetlands to manage waste water and sewage treatment.

<https://www.water-technology.net/projects/ellis-creek/>

4. LA River restoration and awareness raising project to make the river visible through exploration and to participate in its future as a public space serving the communities of Los Angeles County

www.lariver.org

5. Sante Fe River, Santa Fe Drain Basin, 2000 - 2008, Helen and Newton Harrison’s response to Santa Fean’s distress about the destruction of their river, their problems with water and the fact that nothing could get done. The artists utilised public engagement and permaculture principles to re-imagine the river as an integrated park and trail.

The groups assessed the case study examples using a series of discussion questions to begin to engage with the potential of the river restoration in a different way. The questions with directions were as follows:

Workshop 3

**A river doesn't just carry water,
it carries life**

Amit Kalantri, Wealth of Words



General Discussion questions (there is no right or wrong answer) , the questions are used simply to facilitate discussion about the project - if they instigate other ideas please write them down - Thank you)

Share project sheet and give participants time to read the projects.

Q1. Project Title: Did you like the project? If yes, why? If no, why not?

Q2. What struck you most about the project? Think and comment about the ambition, the diversity of approaches, the people involved and the various aspects within the project.

Q3. List the potential elements of the project (e.g. citizen science, visitor attraction, art, education, engineering, culture, awareness raising).

Q4. Do you think any of the elements you identified could be suitable or adapted for the Caherdaniel River restoration project? If yes say why. If no please say why

Q5.If a similar project was to be developed in Caherdaniel, which groups, organisations and residents need to be involved? Please add ideas for inclusion.

Q6. Please add anything else you would like to say about the project including other ideas it has sparked, funding or potential partnerships.

Although only six questions, the exercise proved useful in gathering insights into elements of the projects the participants connected with and that would form building blocks for any future work.

Connected themes:

The scale of the selected case studies were much bigger than a Coomnahorna river restoration would be; in part to show what can be achieved with coherent strategic partnerships as well as to show projects that had a number of elements that could inspire and be easily translated and scaled when using a context responsive integrated approach.

For the most part, participants liked the projects although the scale of the projects and some their specific aspects seemed irrelevant to the Caherdaniel context. In general the opportunities for citizen science and education were clear and deemed appropriate elements that could be considered.

The integrated approach offered areas of interest that could be honed to participants' interests and expertise (e.g. engineering aspects or ecological knowledge). The Freshkills park and the Ellis Water Treatment centre project showed participants what could be achieved with a coherent vision and cohesive partnership that could leverage the large-scale funding that would be required for projects of this nature.

There was discussion regarding regulation and how this could impede some aspects of the natural management of human waste or erosion but precedents in Ireland of landfill, constructed wetlands show this need not be a permanent obstacle.

Context-responsive research and partnerships would ensure that any integrated project would be grounded in best practice. Furthermore, the projects shown and projects closer to home (e.g. Tramore Valley Park, Cork Fairview Park, Dublin and Waterford Wetlands) can also become educational visitor attractions. Waste managers at the EPA are on-record as stating the potential of parks for ecological remediation. Utilising industrial heritage narratives and ecological best practice educational experience (e.g. the Rediscovery Centre Ballymun) show Irish success stories in this area.

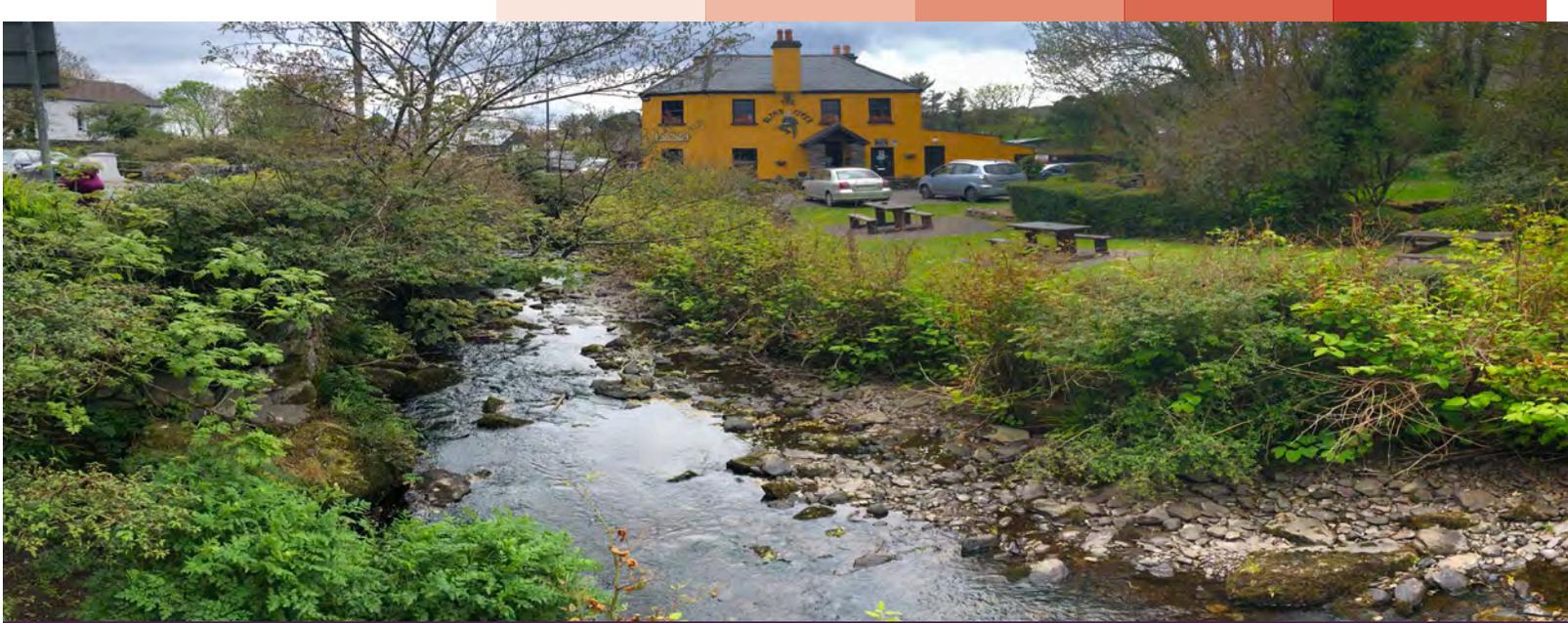
Participants also connected with the opportunities presented through leisure activities (e.g. bird watching, walking and star gazing). Although there are currently obstacles to these due to river access they are not insurmountable and could be, with creative problem-solving turned from weaknesses into strengths and ultimately opportunities such as boardwalks and floating platforms that become pause points or educational nodes.

The LA River project and its 'game' approach was received somewhat negatively by some of the participants. However, this was more to do with the potential of a 'game' applied directly rather than being tailored to context for example educational apps. If the river is also to appeal to visitors, then opportunities for 'edutainment' should be considered, despite participant bias or interest. The best aspects of this field involve a solid grounding in pedagogical theory and practice, user experience and interface design with aspects from entertainment and gaming that make learning fun and engaging. Furthermore, there is a precedent in the area: the star map produced by Vincent Hyland is just one example of integrating technology with landscape and information.

Integrating local research assets e.g. SMARTlab Skelligs and their community Virtual and Augmented Reality and equipment and funded research expertise, an opportunity to explore some of these aspects could be integrated. The participants also recognised how this work can be monitored and evaluated and used to share impact, which has been included in the strategic action plan. Sharing success and impact will also enable the group to undertake more ambitious projects.

Also leveraging cultural aspects from the projects struck a chord with participants e.g. the natural and cultural heritage within the Vaigai River project's use of festival and mythology as a celebration of the river's ecology. The creation of new forms of natural / cultural heritage celebration could be supported through funding from FLAG, Udaras, Arts Council and Creative Ireland, while raising awareness about the river and its ecology. A number of participants referenced the possibility of a river festival as a means to engage diverse stakeholders from repeat summer visitors. Such a project would also offer a focus to engage with a range of the project elements that the participants thought valuable e.g. citizen science, intergenerational work and education. These points are reflected in the strategic plan and could be revisited if they are selected as opportunities to explore further.

Activity 2 - Mapping the potential stakeholders of the Coomnahorna catchment, asking the question 'Whats at Stake?' to generate a broader understanding of who could be stakeholders. This process utilised one of the key pCr tools to look at where the project could sit within a broader ecology and identify other opportunities so that they could achieve the aims required in ways that may have been previously overlooked and with people who may not conventionally be considered stakeholders.



7 Initial Findings

The application supported working with two creative facilitators to host three workshops within the Caherdaniel community and develop a group working towards restoring the riverbanks and native vegetation along the riverbanks, encouraging wider community engagement with water quality issues in the area and how to protect our freshwater environments.

The workshops introduced different methods through creative facilitation to identify different knowledge and resources beyond the extensive work previously undertaken to encourage new ways of working, develop new relationships to the river and to reveal potential opportunities previously overlooked.

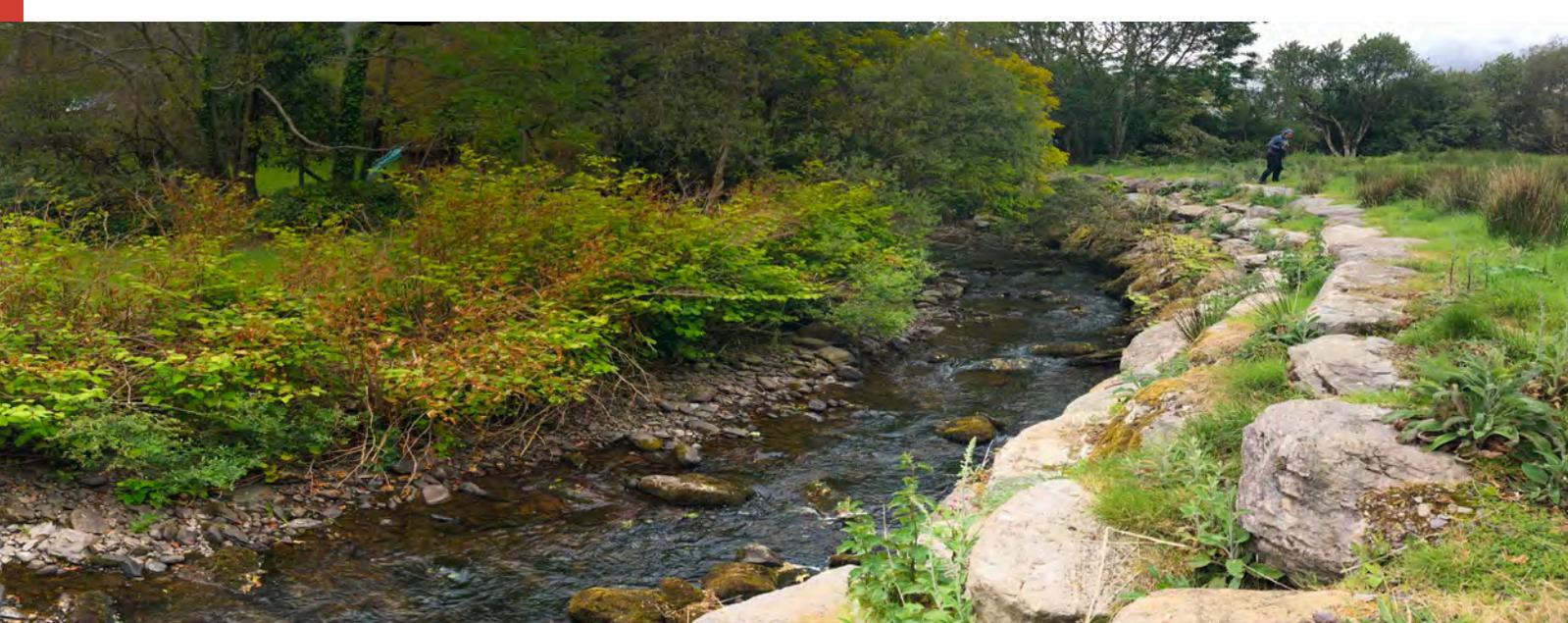
The final workshop will complete the process and the information revealed will result in the co-creation of the strategic plan to improve the health of the river ecosystem. This includes a number of tangible projects and avenues for future activities that encourage collaborative working, engage greater diversity in participation and ensure the most effective use of volunteer's time and energy.

Scheduling the workshops proved

difficult with living in a rural peripheral community that relies on tourism therefore finding days that the community participants could attend between April and September had to be factored in and had an impact on the project's timeline. It was agreed at the end of workshop 2 that the next workshop would take place in the Autumn.

However, despite this additional time factor, the two completed workshops were well attended and resulted in a wealth of beneficial local knowledge that can be factored into the strategic plan and developed through initial ideas that the project and the facilitation process has revealed. Some of the key aspects were as follows:

- Identifying the two rivers that converge upstream and connecting participants with the micro-catchment of the Coomnahorna river
- Identifying clustering of participation in age and location - offers opportunities for further engagement
- Bringing local knowledge from individuals back into 'currency' for future projects and strategic plan



- Tracing the use of the river back to the bronze age
- Revealing and locating a hydro-electric dam built in 1953 by a local farmer that ran his farm electrically pre-grid
- Changes to wildlife - flora and fauna over approx. 40 years
- Potential of existing projects elsewhere to be used as models that could be adapted locally

This offers multiple directions for local action that can address some of the key issues within the river restoration group and show how to maximise local existing resources and leverage county and national resources such as funding.

The workshop's form encouraged participants' thinking with regards to generating ideas towards solutions by sharing their knowledge and responses to the examples of what is possible and different forms of questioning.

Activating the participants' creativity and imagination in a different way; provoking their response to an example

If you grew up in the country, chances are you have fond memories of lazy days down by a river, creek or pond.

Darlene Donaldson, The River

is a structured generative approach that is more productive than developing ideas from scratch. These skills evolve from art and design training but are not necessarily embedded in other professions. This can be why charettes and other forms of consultation can be limiting in their outcomes.

By showing examples of what can be achieved and what has been done in other areas, the participants were able to see aspects that could be relevant to their context and begin to move beyond their concerns towards solutions.

Collectively the workshops provided fertile avenues for development and formed the basic of the strategic plan's goals and priorities, including the development of a new group should this be what the participants decide to do.



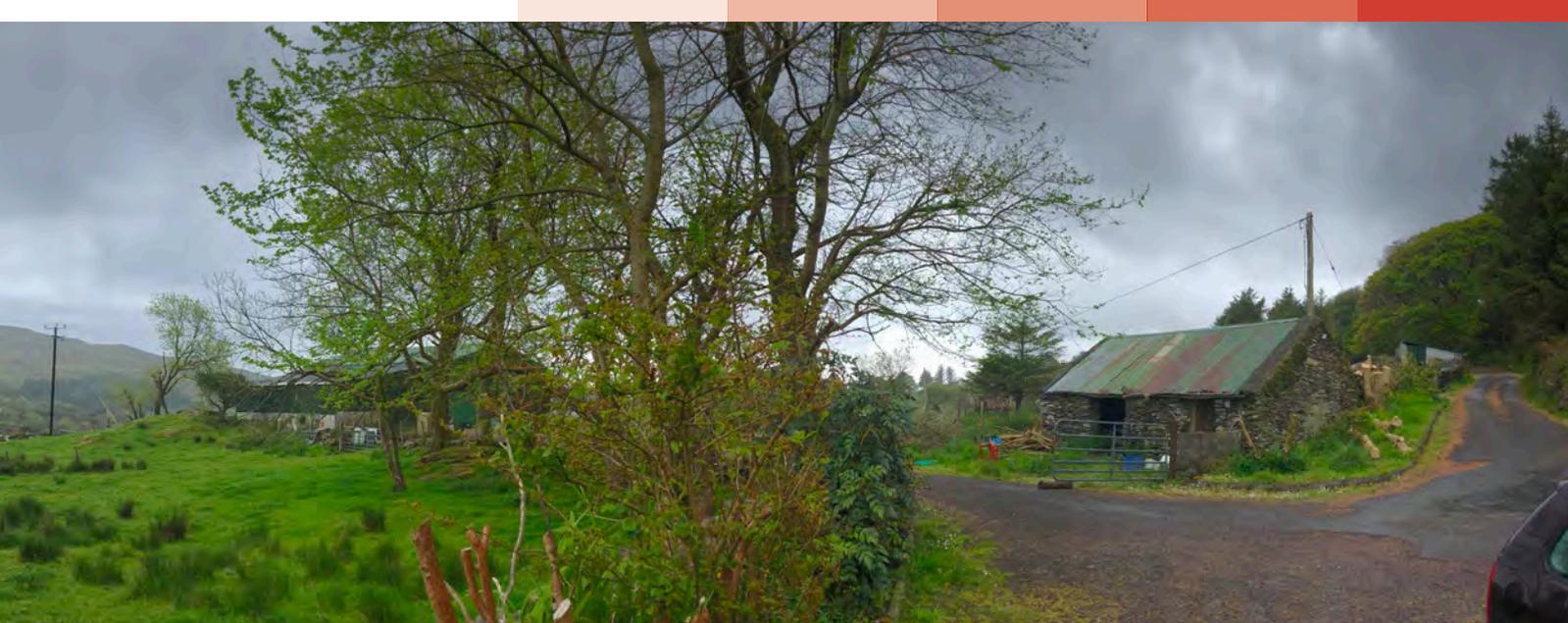


8 Interim Actions

The report offers a strategic action plan for initiating and developing a potential river restoration group which will require input from any group that is formed out of the process with ASU. However, there are also some small projects that could be developed with relative ease that would provide opportunities for tangible actions and visible engagement, to inspire the group during group formation and governance actions are being undertaken.

These also include a few possibilities to share the workload, through effective utilisation of existing resources, infrastructure and mutually beneficial partnerships with institutions, state agencies or government initiatives.

1. All GAISCE students have to complete a 'community service' aspect to their GAISCE programme. Encourage a local teen undertaking GAISCE to set up social media accounts to announce the group - This would offer 13 hours of committed time to establish the group through social media channels and encourage youth engagement and intergenerational skills sharing
2. Contact CE / RSS Scheme co-ordinators to explore the potential of working with these structures e.g. administrative support for the group or inclusion in physical projects e.g. like the reconstructed fort in Cahersiveen
3. Using the wordle images produced from Workshop 2 create a series 'invitation' cards - these could be used to share information about the river, publicise the new group and invite people to share skills they could volunteer to a nascent group. This could raise awareness of the group and share the workload
4. Produce a series of postcards using local photographs or art works submitted through an open call - these could be sold as fundraising packs in local shops and online
5. Host a river celebration day to introduce residents and visitors to the river, the group and encourage sign-up and involvement from diverse stakeholders; local and visiting. Tying in with Water Heritage Day / Heritage week giving enough time to organise.



6. Develop an arts and storytelling residency project utilising the timeline scroll and working with local primary school, toddlers groups and community organisations and residents to build on the comprehensive storytelling and branding exercise started in Workshop 3 and develop modular aspects that have emerged from the process.

This could be developed to create unique signage or a wayfinding trail and could be supported through any existing funding or upcoming applications to Failte Ireland or EPA funding. Importantly this could be the initiation of a new phase in the village's story that includes intergenerational and knowledge exchanges.

7. Although the strategic action plan suggests mapping and selecting potential research partnerships in the medium and long-term, a short term intervention could easily be developed as a pilot / demonstration project.

Invite UCD / UCC / NUIG tutors (e.g. Engineering, Ecology, Landscape Architecture) an opportunity to engage in a real-world constructed wetlands research project as part of their final year undergrad / post-grad students' assessment. This could be used to develop an integrated constructed wetlands plan incorporating the rain gardens and river and star viewing platforms ideas from workshop three.

8. Pilot a Caherdaniel Air BnB style catchment experiences or activity packages - residents book accommodation to do specific activities in the area that is part of a co-ordinated programme of work, leisure and education e.g. river clean-ups, citizen science weekends, flora and fauna walks, edible-medicinal walk and tincture making.

Depending on success this could act as a demonstration project to build a complete platform focused on Caherdaniel's unique offerings and local expertise

9. There is enough potential to develop a major funding grant to create an integrated 'Source to Sea' master plan that would include many of the physical ideas ideas that have emerged from the workshops. It would be useful to try to find funding to develop a full feasibility study, including support for a project worker - LEADER / upcoming EPA funding could have potential to support this. This is something that ASU could develop from the information gathered to date.

9 Strategy Summary

Introduction:



Visual key to the recommendations for river group's goals

The recommendations have been divided into four goals with short, medium and long-term actions, indicated by four priorities, to enable the group to develop a manageable program of work. While ASU offers recommends this approach and suggested timeline it will be the group's responsibility to discuss the recommendations, define working groups and select the priorities and devise and manage appropriate projects to undertake the actions suggested.

The short, medium and long-term aims will enable the group to build momentum and see tangible results from their efforts, creating success that it is hoped will contribute to on-going motivation. Burn out is one of the most damaging aspects of volunteerism and the recommendations are presented with this in mind, not least given the history of the river restoration project as a legacy of the Caherdaniel Japanese Knotweed Group.

Short Term

The initial task for the participants is to decide if they wish to form a group to coalesce around the river restoration project. The project will be an ongoing project that involves both tangible, physical activities pertaining to the river restoration, related projects that form the broader ecology e.g. Japanese Knotweed control and the village sewage system and intangible actions such as raising awareness and broadening support.

Early stage actions would include considering group structure and governance, developing a mission statement and setting up working groups to focus activities on the actions the group decides to develop from the facilitated process undertaken in 2019 with ASU.

Much of this could be carried out with the groups existing expertise and support from agencies such as LAWPRO and other local organisations Iveragh Lakes and Rivers Trust. An initial skills audit of those keen to actively participate in the river restoration project would prove invaluable in developing a number of working groups to share the workload effectively to match skills and interests to activities.

Medium Term

Developing partnerships and relationships to create a broader ecology around the project is critical to insure against burn out of individuals and the group. Restoration projects and their maintenance are on-going and this should be factored into any action plan from the start.

The CJKG has suffered from burn out and if the river restoration project is to be a success, mitigating against this happening again, is one of the key foci in the development of the proposed strategic action plan. There are numerous opportunities to extend support for the project presenting its value to others and forming mutually beneficial partnerships that are both strategic and practical. The potential of linking with local educational institutions e.g. primary and secondary schools as well as research projects are evident.

College students and universities are increasingly looking for opportunities to undertake fieldwork and applied research. This could be used to the advantage of the river restoration project. Also funding for post-grad research that builds the bridge between private, public and non-profit or voluntary organisations is supported by National and International agendas and funding. This is an area that could be capitalised upon by the river restoration project.

Long Term: Two of the key long-term projects central to the village and the process were desite to develop a management programme for Japanese Knotweed and to address the village's sewage requirements.

A river is more than an amenity, it is a treasure

Oliver Wendell Holmes

9 Strategy Summary

Long Term:

Many of the participants referenced the management of the village's waste water and its impact as detrimental to the development of the village. This was due to impact from odours and build-up causing problems for residents and visitors to the village, especially in the summer months when the population increases. and the temprature rises.

This issue impacts the social, environmental and economic well-being of the village and although a key priority, it will require the greatest effort and the longest timeframe to achieve - but it is not impossible.

It is clear from the work the CJKG have undertaken previously and the work of other local organisations e.g. Coiste Pobail Cathair Dónall in regards to the village's waste water management that external funding, county council and development of appropriate infrastructure is required. There are a number of municipal constructed wetlands in Ireland that are receiving primary and secondary settled effluent, gravel reed beds for sludge treatment and drying beds that show effective treatment of effluent.

Participants made reference to a plan regarding waste water management in line with other integrated ecological precedents, e.g. Waste water gardens, constructed wetlands. CJKG could support Coiste Pobail Cathair Dónall within a research project e.g. citizen science to monitor Water-quality including visits to see the realities of implementation.

Reed beds and constructed wetlands have been listed in global EPA guidance since 1999 although Irish EPA regulations would need to be checked for compliance. However, with national precedents this could be a realistic option for Caherdaniel. Increasing pressure from Europe and national policy agendas for environmentally sensitive mitigation solutions should see funding oppoortunities increase for such projects.

As an approach, such a solution would help protect the catchment and could be an appropriate solution to the village's waste water problem and offer as shown in workshop 3 a cohesive project that is modular and scaleable and include diverse stakeholders and interests.

Partnering with Universities would also add weight to any funding application submitted. This could also leverage masters and PhD studeents that could align with Munster University, SMARTlab Skellig or UCD increasing residents and capacity for the village and the group.

This could be developed in collaboration with local research institutions and attract funding as well as aligning to local, national and international development policies e.g. Sustainable Development Goals, National and Marine planning frameworks and Failte Ireland storytelling themes.

This could also be a means of gathering more interest from the village including encouraging the primary school to get involved with a combined educational trip with activities, which could be undertaken in the short-term.

It is also worth noting that despite the immense workload of the group and the impact on them that over the course of the workshops all of the start-up group took part in the workshops at some stage. This interest and commitment bodes well for the future and the implementation of the action plan



Rivers flow not past, but through us; tingling, vibrating, exciting every cell and fiber in our bodies, making them sing and glide

John Muir

10 Strategic Goals

Short Term: 3 months - 8 months

Goal One: Facilitate meaningful engagement between the Coomnahorna River catchment and residents; permanent and visiting

Priority One: Build capacity for the group and develop nurturing transformative relationships.

- Create a diverse multi-stakeholder steering committee for the group to forefront the river as a natural and cultural asset for Caherdaniel
- Discuss and select your legal structure and governance policies
- Begin the process of developing a Vision, Mission and Objectives for a river restoration group with local and visiting participants.
- Consider areas of work and relevant of sub-committees to aid discussion that offers depth and meaning to strategic plan e.g. outreach, education, communications, activities, expanding SWOT
- Creation of sub-committees that can manage a range of activities and group discussion offering depth and meaning to strategic plan

Priority Two: Ensure a commitment to social and environmental justice, authenticity, equity and inclusion

- Leverage communications tools to better inform and connect stakeholders with the river and river activities.
- Development of public forums to prioritise, expand and implement actions on the strategic plan
- Share developments on the group's Vision and Mission statement with potential stakeholders encouraging opportunities to feedback
- Consider applications to Erasmus programmes and colleges to host interns that work on the catchment and river groups projects

Priority Three: Prioritise research and evaluation to identify needs and opportunities and build evidence of effectiveness

- Map national university research relevant to the Coomnahorna river restoration to understand the partnership landscape e.g. ecology, community development, the arts, humanities and science
- Consider the development of a series of science research partnerships based on the research mapping to encourage more activities, citizen science and enhance the river's profile
- On completion of mapping and consideration of partnerships Contact potential partners to discuss opportunities for collaboration

Priority Four: Direct strategic investment in conjunction with regional and state agency partners

- Undertake an extensive mapping of river and catchment agencies, national priorities and community initiatives related to river restoration / ecological projects e.g. Magharees, Bog conservation projects e.g.
- Explore inviting UCD / UCC / NUIG tutors (e.g. Engineering, Ecology, Landscape Architecture) an opportunity to engage in a real-world constructed wetlands research project as part of their final year undergrad / post-grad students' assessment. could develop an integrated plan including the rain gardens and viewing platforms.

Goal Two: Provide pathways to learning about and engaging with the Coomnahorna for all

Priority One: Build capacity for the development and nurturing of transformative relationships.

- Contacting KCC and the PPN for opportunities around training or support for group development e.g. facilitation on developing vision, mission and objectives, using social media and other tools for communication and engagement.
- Within the skills audit explore activities that could be presented as a series of talks or information sharing about the area by local people
- Map projects and practitioners e.g. Transition Kerry, Agroforestry, Gortback Farm / Permaculture that could become part of a series of public river related learning events
- Discuss the potential of an app or game that integrates education, ecology and encourages exploration of the catchment - a number of options are possible but this may not be a direction the group wishes to take

Priority Two: Ensure a commitment to the principles of excellence, authenticity, equity and inclusion

- Incorporate a commitment to community engagement learning into the river restoration group's vision, mission and objectives.
- Development of public forums to prioritize and expand and develop the strategic plan

Priority Three: Prioritise research and evaluation to identify needs and opportunities and build evidence of effectiveness

- Provide ongoing and strategic skill-building opportunities; this includes the development of opportunities for in-the-field training, capacity-building, communications and engagement work
- Monitor the field's evaluation tools and processes to ensure ongoing commitment to assessment and improvement.

10 Strategic Goals

Priority Four: Direct strategic investment in conjunction with our Regional Partners and state agency partner

- Develop a strong relationship with Iveragh Lakes and Rivers Trust to insure specific representation for the Coomnahorna catchment

Goal Three: Nurture and acknowledge all stakeholders unique creative expression and interests in the Coomnahorna catchment and river.

Priority One: Build capacity for the development and nurturing of transformative relationships.

- Develop a comprehensive storytelling communications strategy that celebrates the river and activities of citizens this could be done in conjunction with artist Sean O’Laoghaire.
- Explore the development of partnerships with practitioners and regional / national Arts partners to develop further intentional cultural activities to serve stakeholders and the river.

Priority Two: Ensure a commitment to the principles of excellence, authenticity, equity and inclusion

- Explore arts funding opportunities from the Arts Council of Ireland to engage a community artist in residence to develop projects that commit to the principles of principles of excellence, authenticity, equity and inclusion
- Explore FLAG and LA 21 funding to develop cultural and arts / sci project that commit to the principles of principles of excellence, authenticity, equity and inclusion

Priority Three: Prioritise research and evaluation to identify needs and opportunities and build evidence of effectiveness

- Utilise the pCr Vital signs matrix to consider indicators of success that are relevant to the catchments projects, this could be developed through a CoDesRes partnership and WP3 lead Eleanor Turner

Priority Four: Direct strategic investment in conjunction with our regional arts partners and various state agency partners

- Use the communications strategy to incorporate an increasingly higher level of understanding of and commitment by grantees to serving creative citizens in existing grant programs.
- Develop a relationship with Creative Ireland, KCC. This is the only all department unit in the local authority and would be important if

developing a full blown 'Source to Sea' integrated plan to address the long term issues referenced in the strategic action plan; managing Japanese Knotweed and Waste Water.

Goal Four: Support deeper understanding of an integrated creative approach by and in communities within the river restoration group

Priority One: Build capacity for the development and nurturing of transformative relationships.

- Develop and support deeper understanding and integration of the arts by and in communities through relevant activities
- Provide ongoing and strategic skill-building opportunities within arts and culture; this includes the development of opportunities for training, capacity-building, communications and engagement work
- Consider and explore the possibility of hosting a public arts event e.g. river celebration day to launch the new group and engage potential visiting stakeholders

Priority Two: Ensure a commitment to the principles of excellence, authenticity, equity and inclusion

- Develop, nurture and acknowledge the potential of unique creative expression and artistic interests within the river groups' vision, mission and objectives that inform activities.
- Facilitate meaningful engagement between arts practitioners and the catchment's communities to develop authentic and relevant work

Priority Three: Prioritise research and evaluation to identify needs and opportunities and build evidence of effectiveness

- Map national university arts research relevant to the Coomnahorna river restoration
- Consider the development of a series of arts and culture research residencies partnerships based on the arts research mapping to encourage more cultural and activities to enhance the river's profile
- Contact Burren School of Art, NCAD, U.of Limerick, Crawford School of Art, IT Tralee to discuss the development of student projects that could contribute to enhancing the river's profile

Priority Four: Direct strategic investment in conjunction with our Regional Arts Partners and state agency partner

- Map national arts projects relevant to the Coomnahorna river restoration, this could be developed through an arts research partnership

10 Strategic Goals

Medium Term: 6 months - 24 months

Goal One: Facilitate meaningful engagement between the Coomnahorna River catchment and residents; permanent and visiting

Priority One: Build capacity for the group and develop nurturing transformative relationships.

- Contact CE / RSS Scheme co-ordinators to explore the potential of utilising these structures e.g. administrative support for the group or inclusion in physical projects e.g. reconstructed fort in Cahersiveen
- Using the wordle images produced from Workshop 2 create a series 'invitation' cards - these could be used to share information about the river, publicise the new group and invite people to share skills they could volunteer to a nascent group. This could raise awareness of the group and share the workload
- Develop and emphasise in-the-field training, capacity-building, communications and engagement work aligned to groups needs and interests. This could be administrative or linked to the natural and cultural heritage and co-delivered by local 'faculty' or research partnerships

Priority Two: Ensure a commitment to social and environmental justice, authenticity, equity and inclusion

- Write policy documents as required that enshrine the principles of excellence, authenticity, equity and inclusion
- Advertise locally and contact Mr. Shane O'Neill, Colaiste na Sceilge, the TY co-ordinator's of Kenmare High School and Pobalscoil Inbhear Scéine! to engage a GAISCE student to help leverage communications tools to better inform and connect stakeholders with the river and river activities.
- Develop an engaging newsletter and request a section in the annual Caherdaniel Magazine - this could also be a GAISCE project
- Circulate invitations widely to the first AGM and use as a PR opportunity

Priority Three: Prioritise research and evaluation to identify needs and opportunities and build evidence of effectiveness

- Select and develop a series of research partnerships to encourage more activities, citizen science and enhance the river's profile
- Develop with researchers an evaluation programme to document engagement with citizen science including schools, Tidy Towns and other organisations.
- Develop meaningful indicators and disseminate evidence of community-level citizen science and other research activities

Priority Four: Direct strategic investment in conjunction with our Regional Partners and state agency partners

- Host community roundtables in partnership with the various relevant agencies to encourage on-going ownership

Goal Two: Provide pathways to learning about and engaging with the Coomnahorna for all

Priority One: Build capacity for the development and nurturing of transformative relationships.

- Partner on county and countrywide catchment activities with other communities

Priority Two: Ensure a commitment to social and environmental justice, authenticity, equity and inclusion

- On completion of the skills audit and mapping of residents, practitioners and projects begin to develop a programme of talks and information sharing
- Explore the development of a sponsorship programme for the group- this could develop a revenue stream with supporters enabling specific activities
- Development of an educational ecological app for gamified education about the river. This could be as simple as a treasure hunt with QR codes or a more complex locative media piece including augmented reality

Priority Three: Prioritise research and evaluation to identify needs and opportunities and build evidence of effectiveness

- Develop meaningful indicators and use them to disseminate and provide evidence of impact - the group could use the pCr vital signs matrix which develops indicators of success in social, environmental and economic factors
- Apply to Erasmus programmes and colleges to host interns that work on the catchment and river groups projects
- Produce a series of research / fieldwork residencies across the Arts, Science, Technology and the Humanities

Priority Four: Direct strategic investment in conjunction with our Regional Partners and state agency partner

- Pilot a Caherdaniel Air BnB style catchment experiences or activity packages including accommodation and specific activities as part of a co-ordinated programme of work, leisure and education e.g. river clean-ups, citizen science weekends, flora and fauna walks, edible-medicinal walk and tincture making.

Depending on success this could act as a demonstration project to build a complete platform focused on Caherdaniel's unique offerings and local expertise

Goal Three: Nurture and acknowledge all stakeholders unique creative expression and interests in the Coomnahorna River.

Priority One: Build capacity for the development and nurturing of transformative relationships.

- Partner with communities, related practitioners, regional and national partners to provide stakeholders with networking, convening and resource opportunities.

Priority Two: Ensure a commitment to the principles of excellence, authenticity, equity and inclusion

- Explore the development of a Friends group for the river to generate broader engagement and revenue. This could have tiered membership to enable inclusion including a junior or 'kids' tier, age-appropriately branded to the river

Priority Three: Prioritise research and evaluation to identify needs and opportunities and build evidence of effectiveness

- Develop a partnership bid to undertake a feasibility study for an integrated Source to Sea integrated project

Priority Four: Direct strategic investment in conjunction with our Regional Arts Partners and state agency partner

- Host a river celebration day to introduce residents and visitors to the river, the group and encourage sign-up and involvement from diverse stakeholders; local and visiting. Tying in with Water Heritage Day / Heritage week giving enough time to organise.

Goal Four: Support deeper understanding of an integrated creative approach by and in communities within the river restoration group

Priority One: Build capacity for the development and nurturing of transformative relationships.

- Consider the production of a series of postcards using local photographs or art works submitted through an open call - these could be sold as fundraising packs in local shops and online or used within an exhibition of the catchment
- Develop an arts residency project utilising the timeline scroll and working with local primary school, toddlers groups and community organisations and residents to build on the comprehensive storytelling and branding exercise started in Workshop 3 and develop modular aspects that have emerged from the process. This could be developed to create unique signage or a wayfinding trail and could be supported through any existing funding or upcoming applications to Failte Ireland or EPA funding

Priority Two: Ensure a commitment to the principles of excellence, authenticity, equity and inclusion

- Work with regional arts partners to recognize and celebrate creative citizens

in the regions and include their work in creative projects and activities that enhances engagement with the river

Priority Three: Prioritise research and evaluation to identify needs and opportunities and build evidence of effectiveness

- Develop a place-based STEAM education programme with Green Space Education / Sea Synergy around the various research activities that would work with primary secondary and tertiary level education
- Develop an ongoing living lab research programme that ties into the catchment e.g. geology, catchment ecology, SMART Farming, Flora and Fauna, Marine Biology
- Partner with Green Space Education / Sea Synergy to develop an outdoor learning teacher training programme based on the catchment
- Partner with Valentia Energy Co-op to share research and develop feasibility of community and micro-hydro electric projects

Priority Four: Direct strategic investment in conjunction with our Regional Partners and state agency partner

- Build an ecology of arts practitioners, and Regional Arts Partners' abilities to embrace creative expression at all levels

Indicative Timeline:

The proposal outlines a number of goals and priorities organised into a short, medium and long-term timeline, however depending on the groups capacity some of these goals can be worked on simultaneously or moved into different timeframes. Also, while the findings present a number of possible activities and options, the group will need to decide which direction to go in. There are a number of activities that could be realised e.g. education / edutainment but it depends on the funding and the groups motivation and focus.

Long Term: 18 months - 36 months

It is beyond the scope of this process and report to present a complete Integrated 'Source to Sea' plan. Instead, the action plan has been developed to stage activities in a modular way that would contribute to developing a complete integrated 'Source to Sea' masterplan, with many of the actions outlined in the short and medium term if undertaken will contribute to a larger overarching plan.

By approaching it this way it is hoped that this will enable the group to move towards this action in a manageable way by gathering more support and addressing the process strategically. It would be useful to try to find funding to develop a full feasibility study, including support for a project worker - LEADER / upcoming EPA funding could have potential to support this. Such a long term strategy would develop and fund resolutions towards the two main recurring issues that emerged from the workshops and from previous work; the issue with the Japanese Knotweed and the Waste Water and Sewage treatment. The workshop process has shown there are precedents and clear directions to develop this but an integrated approach is necessary.

11 Funding Sources

The CJKG is currently aware of Local Authority and regional funding and any new group forming would get regular reminders of funding calls and deadlines through registration in the Public Participation Network. For this reason the funding below references links to upcoming, larger funding that would be relevant to the mid - long term activities within the strategic plan.

Charitable Donations Scheme - in partnership with primary, secondary and tertiary education institutions <https://www.revenue.ie/en/companies-and-charities/charities-and-sports-bodies/charitable-donation-scheme/index.aspx>

CLÁR support sustainable development in identified areas by attracting people to live and work there <https://www.gov.ie/en/policy-information/91ba52-clar/>

Cohesion Fund - reduce economic and social disparities and to promote sustainable development. https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/funding/cohesion-fund/

Connecting Europe Facility - transition towards connected, sustainable, inclusive, mobility, Smart and digitised energy grids and high capacity digital networks <https://ec.europa.eu/inea/en/connecting-europe-facility>

Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment - funding for environmental initiatives and climate mitigation measures

Digital Europe - ambitious projects using digital capacities and of the latest digital technologies in areas of public interest. <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/digital-europe-programme-proposed-eu92-billion-funding-2021-2027>

Enterprise Ireland - Could help with research partnerships as provide supports for both companies and researchers in Higher Education Institutes to develop new technologies and processes that will lead to job creation and increased exports <https://enterprise-ireland.com/en/Research-Innovation/>

EPA - funding under three pillars - Sustainability, Climate and Water.announced between April and June <http://www.epa.ie/researchandeducation/research/epafunding/>

European Regional Development Fund - strengthen economic and social cohesion in the European Union by correcting imbalances between its regions. https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/funding/erdf/

European Social Fund+ supports skills and training <https://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=385&langId=en>

Fáilte Ireland - opportunity exists for festivals and events to play a more significant role in driving Ireland's tourism performance.

<https://www.failteireland.ie/Supports/Identify-Available-Funding/Festivals-and-Participative-Events.aspx>

FLAG - Fisheries Local Action Group, funding for

Horizon Europe - next round 2021 https://ec.europa.eu/info/horizon-europe-next-research-and-innovation-framework-programme_en

Invest EU - investments promoting sustainable infrastructure, research and innovation, digital transformation, the access to finance for small and mediumsized enterprises, education, skills, social infrastructure. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/publications/investeu-programme_en

Local Agenda 21 Environmental Partnership Fund - promotes sustainable development by assisting small-scale environmental projects at local level.

LEADER 3 themes and project alignment to the priorities of the Local Development Strategy (LDS). to support the sustainable development of the area <https://www.pobal.ie/programmes/leader-programme-2014-2020/>

LIFE - support the transition towards a circular, resource- and energy-efficient, low-carbon and climate-resilient economy. <https://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/life>

Rural Regional Development Fund - integrated projects between government departments, State agencies, local authorities, other public bodies, communities and, where appropriate, philanthropic funders and/or the private sector, sustainable economic and social development in rural areas <https://www.gov.ie/en/policy-information/c77144-rural-regeneration-and-development-fund/>

Town and Village Renewal Scheme - an initiative under the Action Plan for Rural Development. The scheme is one of a series of national and local support measures designed to rejuvenate rural towns and villages throughout Ireland. <https://www.gov.ie/en/policy-information/01125e-town-and-village-renewal-scheme/?referrer=/about/rural/town-village-renewal-scheme/>

Other Useful Funding links

Coca Cola Ireland - Thank you fund <https://www.coca-cola.ie/thank-you-fund>

Corporate and Social Responsibility (CSR) - One Stop Shop www.csrhub.ie

Community Foundation of Ireland Grant Support hub <https://www.communityfoundation.ie/grantsThe Ireland Funds>

Single Electronic Data Interchange Area <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/>

Social Innovation Fund Ireland - www.socialinnovation.ie

Welcome Europe <https://www.welcomeeurope.com/>

The Wheel - One Stop Shop <https://www.wheel.ie/funding>

12 Useful Resources

Catchments / River Restoration

Amber - Adaptive Management in European rivers to achieve a more effective and efficient restoration of stream connectivity. To do this, we are developing tools, models, and toolkits that will allow hydropower companies and river managers to maximize benefits and minimize ecological impacts. <https://amber.international/about/>

<https://amber.international/portfolio-item/munster-blackwater-ireland/>

Catchments.ie shares science and stories about Ireland's water catchments, and people's connections to their water. <https://www.catchments.ie>

Clean Coasts - The Clean Coasts programme works with communities to help protect and care for Ireland's waterways, coastline, seas, ocean and marine life. <https://cleancoasts.org>

Irish Lakes and Rivers Trusts map - <https://therivertrust.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=a24215d94b204867b4c8c607d2fb5025>

Iveragh Lakes and Rivers Trust (formerly Waterville Lakes and Rivers Trust - reforming <https://www.facebook.com/lakesandriverstrust/>)

The Rivers Trust - The Rivers Trust is the umbrella organisation for 60 local member Trusts, we are the only group of environmental charities in the UK and Ireland, dedicated to protecting and improving river environments for the benefit of people and wildlife. <https://www.therivertrust.org/2017/03/24/rivers-trusts-across-ireland/>

Teagasc <https://www.teagasc.ie/media/website/publications/2018/IrishWetlandsGuide.pdf>

Community Development Support

The Community Toolbox - assessing community needs and resources, addressing social determinants of health, engaging stakeholders, action planning, building leadership, improving cultural competency, planning an evaluation, and sustaining your efforts over time <https://ctb.ku.edu/>

The Wheel - Ireland's national association of community and voluntary organisations, charities and social enterprises. We are a registered charity in Ireland and are unique in our role as a 'one-stop-shop' for anything related to the charity and nonprofit sector. <https://www.wheel.ie/>

The Resource Centre is a charity serving voluntary and

community groups in the Brighton and Hove area. We are used by around 800 different local groups every year, from playgroups to environmental campaigns, residents associations to arts organisations. <https://www.resourcecentre.org.uk/information-category/starting-a-group/>

Making your group work well <https://www.resourcecentre.org.uk/information-category/making-your-group-work-well/>

Japanese Knotweed Management

Differential allelopathic effects of Japanese knotweed on willow and cottonwood cuttings used in riverbank restoration techniques <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0301479713006774>

Optimising physiochemical control of invasive Japanese knotweed <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs10530-018-1684-5>

Penn State, Dept of Horticulture fact sheet - <https://plantscience.psu.edu/research/projects/vegetative-management/publications/roadside-vegetative-mangement-factsheets/5managing-knotweed-on-roadsides>

Research

Burren School of Art - Burren College of Art is a small, independent art school situated on the Wild Atlantic Way on the northwest coast of County Clare in Ireland. It is located in the Burren, a region famous for its natural beauty and unique ecosystem. We are an internationally recognized Irish non-profit college specializing in undergraduate, postgraduate and alternative approaches to fine art education. <https://www.burrencollege.ie>

The National College of Art and Design It offers the largest range of art and design degrees in the State at undergraduate and postgraduate level. <https://www.ncad.ie/research-and-innovation/>

CIT Crawford College of Art, Cork - The Crawford College of Art & Design in Cork is a diverse, dynamic & creative community exploring art, design, technology, culture, visual arts education & media through theory, research and professional as well as independent practice. <https://crawford.cit.ie>

Citizen Science, EPA - <http://www.epa.ie/irelandsenvironment/getinvolved/citizenscience/>

UCC Centre for Law and Environment The Centre for Law and the Environment at University College Cork (UCC) draws together our research, teaching and policy work relating to law and the environment. <https://www.ucc.ie/en/lawenvironment/people/>

UCD Earth Institute The UCD Earth Institute fosters multidisciplinary research and works with stakeholders to address global, regional and national environmental challenges. www.ucd.ie/earth/

12 Useful Resources

University of Limerick - Centre for Environmental Research. The expertise of this multidisciplinary Centre encompasses many areas of environmental research, including environmental chemistry and catalysis, ecology, geology, hydrogeology, hydrology, geochemistry, computer modelling, environmental management, environmental impact assessment, sustainable development.
<https://ulsites.ul.ie/cer/>

Policy documents

2030 Agenda

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>

County Development Plan - http://cdp.kerrycoco.ie/wordpress/?page_id=4

The National Planning Framework (NPF) (includes links to Marine Planning Framework <https://www.fema.gov/national-planning-frameworks>)

Project Ireland 2040 Plan

<https://www.gov.ie/en/policy/project-ireland-2040-policy/>

Skellig Coast Visitor Experience Development Plan

https://www.failteireland.ie/FailteIreland/media/WebsiteStructure/Documents/2_Develop_Your_Business/Key%20Projects/FINAL-Skellig-Coast-Visitor-Experience-Development-Plan-1-12-2016.pdf

Waste Management

Constructed Wetlands Research Group - <https://constructedwetlands.net/research.html>

Constructed wetlands

<https://www.epa.gov/wetlands/constructed-wetlands>

Landfill parks <https://www.irishtimes.com/life-and-style/travel/ireland/what-a-dump-the-landfills-that-became-parks-1.3815250>

Natural Solutions Waste treatment

<http://www.engineersjournal.ie/2017/11/07/reed-beds-natural-solution-irelands-waste-treatment-problems/>

Waste Water Gardens

<https://www.wastewatergardens.com/pdf/WWGAboutConstructedWetlands.pdf>

I choose to listen to the river for a while, thinking river thoughts, before joining the night and the stars.

Edward Abbey, Desert Solitaire

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