

Kilmaley-Inagh GWS

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APRIL 2017

Message From The Chairman

As we approach our Annual General Meeting on April 27th we can reflect on another successful and busy year for the scheme. Our newsletter is intended to highlight some of the issues encountered by the committee over the last year.

Our treated water continues to pass all quality assurance testing by the scheme itself, Clare County Council and the HSE.

Our scheme will continue to operate independently of Irish Water into the future as long as our financial viability is maintained. The future of the provision of public water services is unknown right now and what the knock on effect to the group water sector will have is yet to be decided.

Any changes imposed on charging structure of group schemes will have to be met with an increased subsidy payment if schemes are to meet their ongoing financial commitments and remain financially secure into the future

Revenue collection is ongoing and we would like to thank all those who have paid their charges and remind those who have yet to pay, to forward their payment as soon as possible.

Thank you for your cooperation and support.

James B. Lynch
Chairman

Kilmaley Inagh GWS.

Kilmaley-Inagh GWS 2016 Review

Charges Review

Following the suspension of domestic water charges for Irish Water customers from June 2016 to March 2017, the group water scheme operational subsidy was restored to €117 from €95 per house. This allowed the domestic free allowance to be increased from 50m³ to 75m³ thereby passing this increased funding to you our members.

What the future holds in terms of the charging of domestic water is unknown as yet. If domestic water charges are to be paid from general taxation then those on group schemes have a right to equal and fair treatment to those on public water supplies.

However this can only be achieved by a major increase in funding to the group scheme sector. If this does not happen, then group schemes will have to continue with existing charging policies of giving a free allowance and charging for water used above this allowance. Capital grants for upgrade works require a 15% contribution from the scheme. This contribution is built into our existing water charge.

The proposition that Irish Water customers can use

or waste as much water as they wish without any penalty is completely against the polluter pays principal operated successfully by group schemes for many years. It would be impossible to run any group scheme or to properly manage a water network in such circumstances. The full Dail will ultimately have the final say when they vote on any of the recommendations of the all party committee on water charges. We can only await their decisions in the coming weeks.

Upgrade Works

Funding of €54K was secured in October 2016 for the upgrade of 565m of 8 inch mains in Clonboula, Connolly.

However due to issues over obtaining the required road opening license, the works had to be re-tendered.

Unfortunately the works had to be completed by the mid-November deadline and therefore it was not possible to proceed with the upgrade.

The late announcement of the Rural water program affected schemes all over the country. It is hoped this years allocation will be

announced in the coming weeks to allow schemes the time to spend their allocations

WE NEED YOUR MOBILE PHONE NUMBER AND EMAIL ADDRESS

We are all well aware that postage costs are increasing in April to €1 for a standard letter. In an effort to cut costs we would like to use email as opposed to postage for the delivery of all scheme information where possible including the delivery of bills, statements and the annual newsletter.

Please email:

ncarmody@kigws.ie and include your mobile number for use in our text alert system. Our annual postage bill is approximately €8000 and we intend to reduce this going forward but it can only happen if you send us your email address !!

Payment Options

Our online bill payment portal on our website has been very popular allowing you to pay your bill online using Visa or debit card or through PayPal. We are encouraging all members to use this easy and Secure payment system

Annual General Meeting—April 27th 2017.

Our AGM will take place in the Kilmaley Inn on Thursday April 27th @ 8.30pm.

All our members are welcome to attend. We always welcome new committee members. We would encourage members to put themselves forward and get involved in the committee.

Retirement

In accordance with the rules of the society, one third of the board shall retire each year but are eligible for re-election without nomination. This year Roisin Killeen, Vincent Barry, David Sheedy and Johnny McInerney will retire but

all 4 are offering themselves for re-election. Nominations for the board, other than retiring members shall be in writing to the secretary and shall contain a statement by the member nominated of his or her willingness to be elected. Nominations should be forwarded to the secretary to arrive on or before 4pm on April 26th 2017.

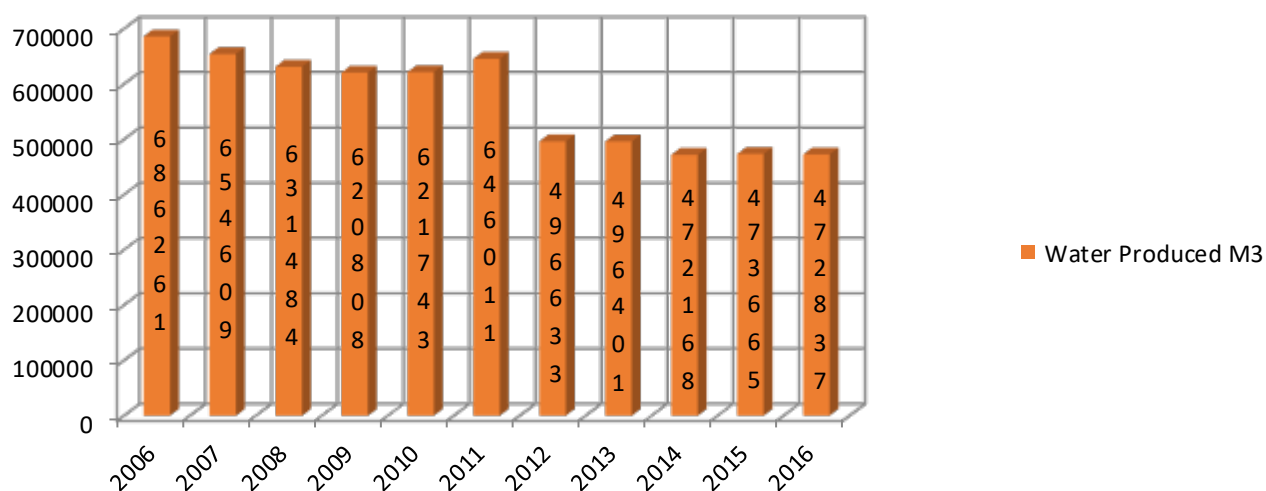
Secretary:

Noel Carmody, Feighroe,
Connolly, Ennis. Co.Clare.
Email: ncarmody@kigws.ie
Tel 0872836118

Agenda

1. Minutes of 2016 AGM.
2. Chairpersons Address.
3. Managers Report.
4. Financial Report plus Auditor's Report.
5. Appointment of Auditor.
6. Charging Structure
7. Election of Members to Committee.
8. Any other business.

Annual Consumption



Annual Consumption: The graph above shows the schemes water consumption over the last 11 years. As you can see there is a reduction in demand of 32% since 2006. This is due to a number of factors including critical mains replacement, introduction of metered billing, installation of telemetry bulk metering & alarms and reservoir repair. Daily network monitoring using information sent from our bulk meters allow us to track water usage all over the scheme. Major leakage can be tracked to an area instantly, enabling quick location of burst mains.

If you spot a water leak report it immediately to a member of the GWS staff on 0872836118 or 0872547814.

Upgrade Plans 2017: KIGWS is planning the following upgrade works over the next 3 years subject to funding. Clonboula: 2KM, Drumcarra: 300m, Kinturk: 200m, Derrymore: 50m, Kilcolumb: 300m, Gortmore: 50m, Knocknacilla: 200m, Inagh Village: 500m, Lisroe– Kilmaley: 9KM. These works are entirely dependent on funding from the Rural Water Program (RWP), which should be announced in the coming weeks. The late announcement of the 2016 allocation and not implementing an agreed rolling budget meant works could not be completed on many group schemes in 2016. These works require a 15% contribution from the scheme which is built into our water charge structure.

Capital replacement works are planned for the water treatment plant totaling €45K. These works are already co-funded through the RWP also requiring a 15% contribution from KIGWS. Replacement continues of existing concrete meter box's with sealed plastic units. Plans are also in place for the installation of a secondary chlorination unit in Knockatunna that will boost chlorine levels to the surrounding area.