

Kilmaley-Inagh GWS 2017 Review

Message From The Chairman

As we approach our Annual General Meeting on May 16th 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. New subsidy arrangements negotiated on our behalf by the NFGWS will ensure we have a strong financial footing into the future where charges will essentially exist for commercial and agricultural usage and only excessive domestic usage where normal usage is exceeded by leakage or wastage. The level of subsidy is also increased meaning our scheme can continue to invest in infrastructural upgrades on a regular basis allowing to continually improve the service we provide to you. 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

Water Allocation for GWS householders under 'Equity and Fairness' Agreement

Shortly before Christmas an agreement was negotiated by the National Federation of Group Water Schemes (NFGWS) that provides equity and fairness for GWS members with house holders on Irish Water supplies.

Up to now domestic connections on group schemes made a financial contribution towards the day to day running costs. This contribution was by metered charges over a free allowance. Under the terms of an agreement reached between the NFGWS and the Government, the rate of the domestic subsidy provided to group water schemes towards operational costs is substantially increased from January 1st 2018 so that domestic members will not receive a water bill except where their usage is above a much increased free allowance. Commercial and agricultural charges will still apply at the usual rate. Barring the rare instances where carelessness or leakage

results in excessive usage of water the 2017 water bills are likely to be the final payment that domestic connections will make for normal water usage towards the operation of the scheme unless and until there is political decision either to:

- Reintroduce domestic water charges on Irish Water supplies or
 - Substantially reduce the level of the free to allocation households.
- From time to time the scheme may need to build a fund towards financial contributions to approved capital upgrade projects such as replacement of leaking water mains. While there may be State funding towards the cost of such projects schemes must bear at least some of the costs involved, GWS members may be asked to make a financial contribution to meet this.

What is the new free allowance allocation?

While we know from experience that the vast majority of house holders will not waste water, we also know that there are those who (for whatever reason) will not fix a leaking tap

or toilet cistern unless there is a financial penalty for water wastage.

The average house hold usage across the group scheme sector nationally is 115,000 litres (115m³). From metered usage the NFGWS could demonstrate a lower domestic household use across schemes and a substantially lower rate of water loss (23% as opposed to 47% on Irish Water networks), the GWS average usage was multiplied by a factor of 1.4 to come up with a standard free allowance on group schemes of 160,000, (160m³). Unless a domestic household goes above this figure they will not receive a bill for water usage. A connection that is shared by either a farm or commercial activity and an occupied domestic dwelling will receive the same 160m³ free allowance and pay for what is considered the commercial or agricultural usage above the free allowance. We strongly urge you to continue your personal commitment to avoiding unnecessary water use and to deal with leaks as soon as they arise. Check your meter regularly, take action if you notice unusual usage.

Annual General Meeting—May 16th 2018.

Our AGM will take place in the Kilmaley Inn on Wednesday May 16th at 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 Tom Keane, Pat Crowe, Adrian McMahon and Tom Burke 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 Tuesday May 8th.

Secretary:

Noel Carmody, Feighroe, Connolly, Ennis. Co.Clare.

Email: ncarmody@kigws.ie

Tel 0872836118

Agenda

1. Minutes of 2017AGM.
2. Chairpersons Address.
3. Managers Report.
4. Financial Report plus Auditor's Report.
5. Appointment of Auditor.
6. Charging Structure: Increase free allowance from 100m³ to 160m³. Retain charge per m³ thereafter at €0.90
7. Election of Members to Committee.
8. Any other business.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING MAY 16TH 2018 8PM TO:

1. AMEND OUR CO-OP RULES

2. DISCUSS PART REFUND OF DOMESTIC WATER CHARGES FOR BILLING PERIOD 2015-2016 KILMALEY INN MAY 16TH AT 8PM

1. A special general meeting will be held in the Kilmaley-Inn on Wednesday May 16th at 8.00pm to amend Rule 16&48. In 2010 we adopted the new Co-op rules for Group Water Schemes as published by the Irish Co-operative society (ICOS). The rules can be downloaded from www.kigws.ie The 2 changes are as follows:

Rule 48 in NEW GWS version and rule 47 on CAR GWS version:

"Number 48 on model rules should be amended to state Section 1441 of the Companies Act 2014". ICOS had reference to section 187 of the Companies Act 1990.

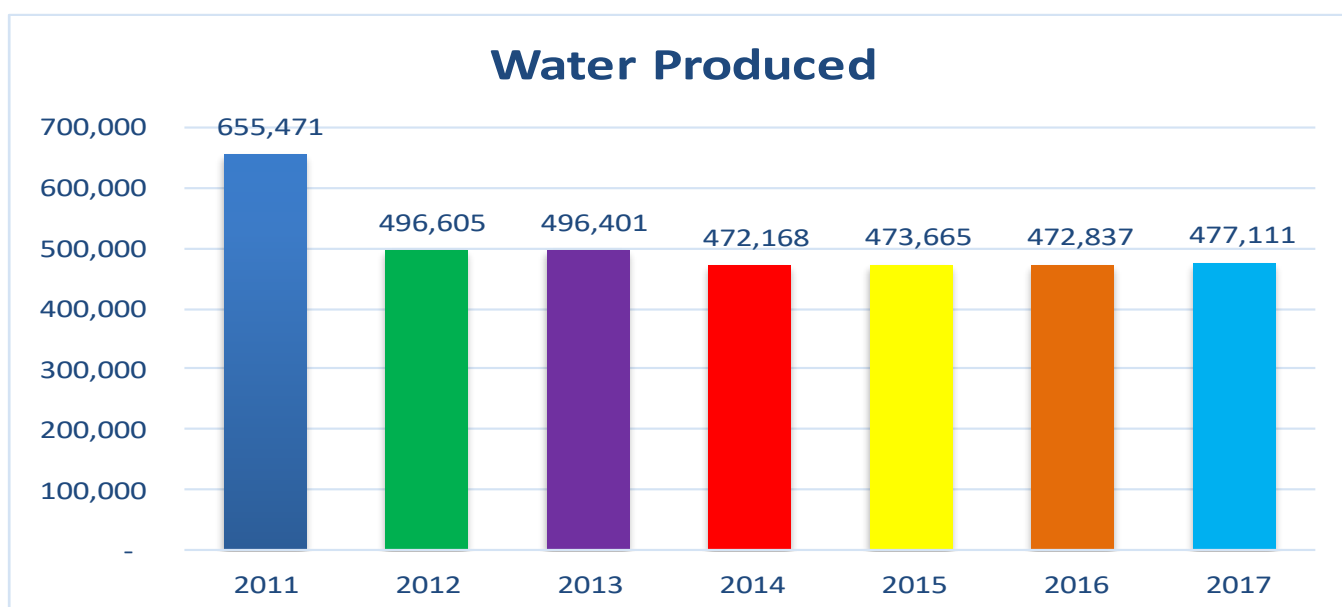
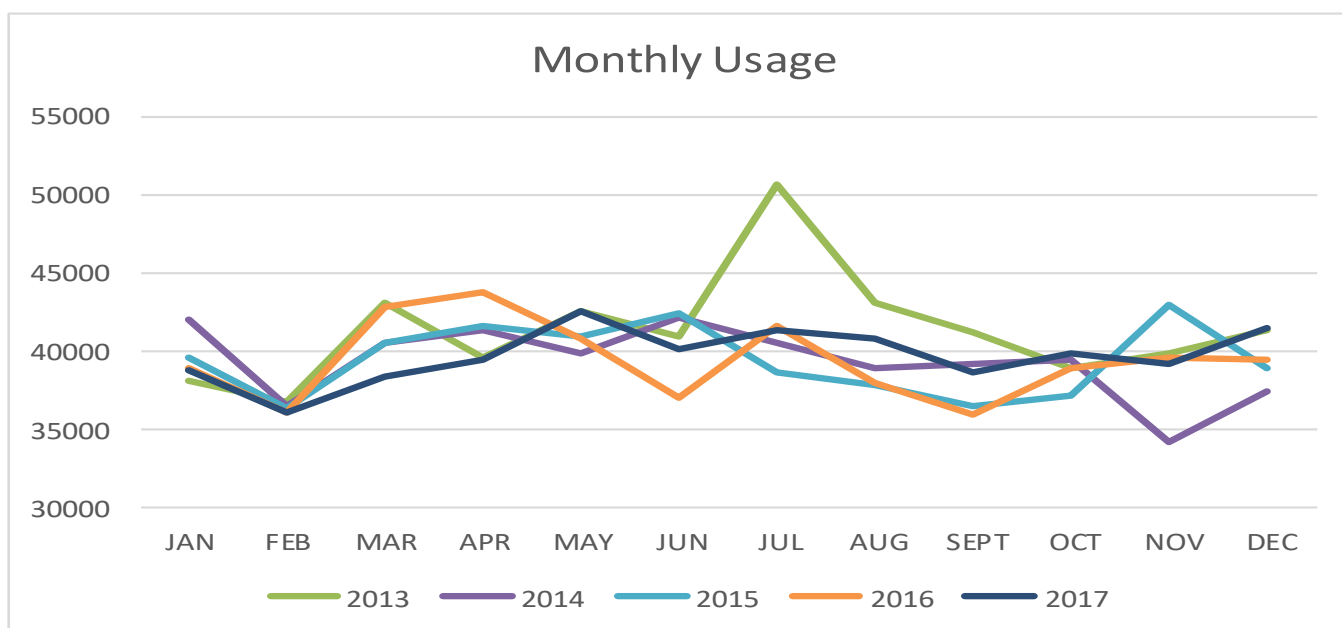
Rule 16 Notice of Special and General Meetings

Notice of a General Meeting shall be deemed to have been duly given if left at or posted or sent electronically to the registered address of the member.

Notice of every Annual or Ordinary or Special General Meeting shall be given at least seven clear days before the day fixed for the meeting and shall state the time and place at which it shall be held, provided however that where the Board deem the need for a Special General Meeting to be urgent it may call such a meeting after giving at least three clear days notice.

2. To discuss the options around the partial refund of Domestic water charges for the billing period 2015 and 2016. In response to cuts in Government subsidy the scheme decreased its free allowance from 100m³ to 50m³ in 2015 but increased it again from 50m³ to 75m³ in 2016. The net effect for an average household who used 100m³ in 2015 was an increase in their bill of €50 and €25 for 2016. The government have refunded the cut in subsidy to the scheme therefore we could look at a refund of a maximum of €75 to those members whose bills increased Those who's usage was below 100m³ would receive less based on the metered usage. Baring in mind that the scheme needs to contribute 15% towards capital investment we propose to retain this fund to reinvest in the scheme rather than bill members for capital contribution for 2017 and 2018. The sum refunded was €54,000. Capital investment in 2017 was €168,000, and for 2018 will be €280,000, the contribution required by the scheme for these projects is €67,000. We will be proposing a vote on the matter for our members to come to a final decision on the out come.

Water Demand Statistics 2017



Annual Consumption: The graph above shows the schemes water consumption over the last 7 years. As you can see the annual trend has been pretty consistent year on year since 2012. There was a slight increase in 2017 perhaps some driven by agricultural demand with many farmers in the GLAS scheme having to provide mains water supply to animals rather than use rivers and streams and the early housing of animals due to sustained bad weather conditions.
If you spot a water leak report it immediately to GWS staff on 0872836118 or 087 2547814.

Upgrade Plans 2018: KIGWS is planning the following upgrade works in 2018.

1. Rathcroona Mains Upgrade. This project involves the installation of 2KM of 4" mains in Rathcroona and the elimination of 1.4 KM of mains under heavily forested ground
2. Drumcarra Mains Upgrade, This project involves the installation of 200m of 2 inch mains in Drumcarra, Inagh that are leaking regularly
3. Telemetry Bulk Meter Installation. This includes the installation of telemetry bulk meters in Curraghodea, Monreel, Magowna Reservoir, Annaghduin, Drinagh.
4. Gortolougha Reservoir Refurbishment, This project involves a new inner layer of sealant on the reservoir and the repair to concrete work on the external reservoir structure.
5. Clonboula Mains Upgrade, 100M of 8 inch mains replacement in Clonboula

GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS (GDPR)

The New GDPR increased the obligations and responsibilities for organizations on how they collect and protect personal data. Kilmaley-Inagh GWS is in the process of ensuring compliance with this new legislation and we wish to provide you with the information on the personal data we retain on our shareholders/ members and for what purpose.

We currently hold a name, postal address and Eircode and water usage data for every shareholder on our scheme. We also hold a mobile phone number and email address for those who have provided these details to us. We require this information for the following purpose

- To maintain up to date records of our co-operative share register and membership
- For billing and information purposes, to provide you with up to date information on water consumption, quality and disruption issues etc.
- To claim operation subsidy from the Local Authority which enables us to provide domestic members with a free allocation of water

The information was provided by you when joining our scheme or over the intervening period and will be held by us as long as you are a member. The information is stored securely on both hard copy and electronic format. Should you wish to access this information or update that information please let us know.

We do not share any of this information with any third party with the exception of Clare County Council solely for the purpose of claiming our operational subsidy allowing us to give you the free allocation of water of 160m³. The information regarding your membership that is given to Clare County Council is your Name, Address, Eircode & the type of connection you hold with us.

Agreements are currently being put in place to ensure that any information shared with these bodies is solely for the specific purpose or service provided and it cannot be shared for any other purpose.

If any member has any difficulty with any of the above or if you require further information please contact Noel Carmody on 0872836118 or email ncarmody@kigws.ie

In an effort to cut postage costs we are trying to use email for distribution of information to scheme members. If you have not already done so, please forward your email address to ncarmody@kigws.ie so we can include it in our database. If you are not already on our text alert system you are missing out on information on water

Upgrade work completed 2017

- 1.8KM of 8" water mains was replaced in Clonboulia Connolly in 2017 by local company J&F Building and Civil.
- A new chlorination dosing station was installed at Cahermore reservoir to boost chlorine levels in the area. This construction of a road to the reservoir and the installation of new fencing around the site. involved