

Lagan Canal - Key Outputs to date

Belfast:

- A Topographical and River Survey has been completed for Lock 1 Stranmillis Gateway.
- A Scoping Study was completed for the Lagan Gateway Project from the Lagan Weir to Edenderry (First Phase)
- An Economic Appraisal was conducted for the stretch of river from Lagan Weir to Edenderry. This study confirmed the feasibility of re-opening the Lagan Navigation.
- The Lagan Steering Group was established to exchange advice and information between stakeholders.
- A three dimensional model of the proposed development at Lock 1 Stranmillis Gateway has been completed.
- A virtual (computer generated) model completed. This allows detailed examination of the project through 360 degrees. This interactive 3D environment will allow the user to navigate around in real-time and assess views from any location. It is compatible with use on the Council Website and is being used as a marketing and promotional tool.
- Interpretative signage has been installed beside Lock 1 Stranmillis Gateway and includes interpretation of the Lagan Navigation, the history of the area, the river and canal.
- Held 2 successful Lagan boat rallies including the rally to coincide with Belfast Tall Ships event
- DSD has installed interpretative signs based on the Council's signage template. They link areas along the Lagan from Belfast Harbour to Stranmillis.
- Funding Research undertaken and liaison with potential funding bodies ongoing
- A workshop was held in June 2008, in Enniskillen to raise awareness of the potential to establish a single inland waterway with a maritime connection at either end linking the East and West coasts of Ulster to form new water based tourism products. (East-West Project) This workshop attracted support from Alderman Jeffrey Donaldson MP, MLA and Tánaiste, Mary Coughlan TD. The overall aim was to raise awareness and buy-in from stakeholders especially Central Government and Waterways Ireland.
- A reciprocal meeting was held in December 2008 at Lisburn City Council. Alderman Jeffrey Donaldson MP, MLA and Tánaiste, Mary Coughlan TD. Pledged their support for the East West project.

- New web pages have been constructed highlighting the Lagan Corridor Navigation and the proposed development at Lock 1 Stranmillis Gateway. This web page has been added to Belfast City Council's website www.belfastcity.gov.uk/lagan
- A site meeting was arranged for members of the Development Committee, in June 2008. Representatives from DSD, DCAL, Lagan Valley Regional Park Board, Lagan Trust Manager and Belfast City Council Officers visited the Lagan Lookout to Locks 1, 2 and 3 via the Tow Path.
- Waterways Ireland arranged a best practice visit for officers and steering group members in June 2008, for the Lagan Steering Group to Ballyconnell Lock in Co Cavan. The purpose of the visit was to view the operation of the lock and gain an understanding and insight into the benefits of canal restoration.
- DSD has currently undertaken a major refurbishment of the Lagan Weir worth £2 million. DSD have also commissioned a feasibility report on the redevelopment of the Lagan Lookout, and an economic appraisal on two proposed bridges over the lower Lagan. They have also undertaken dredging work of the tidal stretch of the Lagan from the Lagan Weir to Stranmillis Gateway Lock 1.
- Belfast Activity Centre - based in Barnett's Demesne, completed the building of a boat house at Shaw's Bridge in 2010, and rebuilt canoe steps and reinstated the slipway. (Cost approximately £270k)
- DCAL through the Lagan Navigation Trust conducted a Business Case for the re-opening of the Lagan Navigation from Stranmillis to Union Locks, Lisburn. This study confirmed the feasibility of re-opening the Lagan Navigation.
- Lock Keepers Cottage – Castlereagh Borough Council
The Lock keeper's cottage (Lock 3) grade B1 listed building has been refurbished and the new visitor centre, café, toilets and Interpreted space is opened. Canoe pontoons and moorings at the lock are currently being installed. DCAL restored the Lock and gates at Lock 3.
- Lagan Valley Regional Park worked in partnership with Castlereagh Borough Council in the development and refurbishment of the Lock 3 project. This has included towpath improvements, extension and interpretation signage.
- Lisburn Council operates a Lagan Corridor Programme. They re-opened lock 12 as part of the new Island Civic Centre. They have created a strategic framework – identified nodes for development along the canal which includes improvements in towpaths, interpretive signage, land purchase, and potential links to developments such as the Maze complex. These nodes pass through various eligible areas identified under the NISRA rural classification 2005.
- Received funding from NITB for the restoration of a Lagan barge "Lighter" for their proposed canal/waterways museum at Oxford Island. They have also developed a canal leaflet for the Craigavon section of the Lagan Canal.

- Lagan Canal Restoration trust Established. Partnership members recruited and structures formalized. Registered as company limited by guarantee and recognised as a charity
- Stakeholder workshops organised to inform the strategic way forward
- Identified key necessary pre-restoration tasks steps, action plan developed & delivery initiated
- Vision document developed and distributed
- Landownership database being developed and Geographical Information Systems database being developed
- Website launched
- Delivered program of events including, Walks, Lectures, Exhibitions and Community Events
- Secured funding from the Rural Development Program to develop the Guide to the Lagan Canal, Past, Present and Future.