



## News Email 21 October 2020

Dear Friends of Lough Carra,

We hope you are all keeping well.

Lots has been happening with the LCCA over the past few weeks. Please find an update below.

If you no longer wish to receive emails from the LCCA please let us know.

Best regards Lynda Huxley

Secretary LCCA

### Burren Winterage Webinars

The Burren Winterage programme of talks starts tomorrow, 21 October. There's a series of webinars which you can register for and all look very interesting. Attached is the programme of events.

### New NPWS Ranger for Lough Carra

We have a new NPWS Ranger for Lough Carra, Jamie Durrant. Jamie has replaced Eugene Finnerty who is now working in a new area - we wish him all the best. We'd like to welcome Jamie and look forward to working with him.

### LIFE project application

We are still waiting to hear if our Concept Note has been selected for the completion of a full application. The decision was scheduled to be announced in October, so we should know the outcome very soon. Philip Doddy is keeping an eye on this for us.

### Finances

We have submitted our grant draw down form to the Water Communities for the grant of €5,000 related to the LIFE Concept Note. We expect to receive these funds in the near future.

We are expecting a contribution of €2,000 from Pdraig Philbin at Mayo Co Co.

The current balance in the Credit Union is just over €900.

### Charitable status

Our application for charitable status was re-submitted after slight modifications on 3<sup>rd</sup> September. We were told that the average time for a decision is around 15 weeks, so we hope to hear before Christmas. It seems to be a very slow process.

### EPA research

We recently discovered, by chance, that last year the EPA commissioned some research on "Supporting conditions for Marl lakes – case study" (nutrient-based criteria to support marl lakes). The work was primarily a desk study which required the consultants (CDM Smith in Dublin) to select a lake for the study. They selected Lough Carra and a copy of their summary is attached. The study was scheduled to be finished by the end of 2019.

From the **summary (attached)**, you will see that there was a further aspect which would involve taking sediment samples to see what has happened to P levels (phosphorus) in the marl since the TCD research in 2002 which had shown massive build-up of P in the lakebed.

The sampling has now taken place and we expect to hear the results in the next few weeks. We had hoped to provide input in relation to the sites where (18) samples were to be taken, but this had already been decided. However, while they were on the lake, we were able to persuade the consultants to take two extra samples in areas where the reed dieback is occurring (see below) and to also take a sample from Castleburke bay near where the Ballintubber stream enters the lake (which had not been included in the sample sites).

### Reedbed dieback

Over recent years, people have noticed that some reedbeds are suffering from dieback, whereas others are continuing to proliferate. It is a most peculiar phenomenon and is puzzling the experts. It is noticeable in several places around the lake and, in particular, several acres of reedbed off the Kilkeeran shore seem to have died completely. There have been similar events elsewhere in the UK and Europe which have been studied, but without definite identification of cause. It is suspected to be linked to nutrient enrichment. We are keen to have this investigated further, either as part of the LIFE project or as a separate project.

The reedbeds are an extremely important part of the Carra ecosystem as they provide an essential habitat for a wide range of fauna.

We'll be uploading some videos and photos on the LCCA Facebook page and website [www.loughcarra.org](http://www.loughcarra.org)