

Email news update from LCCA 24 December 2021

Dear Friends of Lough Carra,

First of all, on behalf of the Directors of the LCCA, I'd like to wish you and your families a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

I'd just like to give you an update on positive LCCA news from the past couple of weeks:

1) Carra LIFE Project Team Leader

The Carra LIFE Project Team Leader position has been advertised. It can be found on MayoCoCo website <https://www.mayo.ie/careers/current-vacancies> and the council put an advert in the local papers. In addition, it has been circulated to:

- The Wheel and they have asked them to include in their next newsletter
- The Rivers Trust who have circulated it to their network
- Icatch Network

The deadline for applications is 14 January 2022.

2) Finances

We have received news of the following:

1. grant allocation of €1,069 for office computer via MayoCoCo LCDC
2. €750 from LawPro towards LCCA expenses in 2021 e.g. accountant fees, website hosting
3. €2,000 from LawPro to refund our costs for the 'I've planted a tree...' school project - see below
4. €1,000 generous and greatly appreciated donation from the Ballinrobe and District Trout Anglers Association. The accompanying letter from their Chairman, Ray Broughton, says "how totally impressed we (the committee) are with the LCCA committee and interested parties, with how you have persevered..... We wish you success with your efforts in future to improve Lough Carra and its catchment We value your important work very highly."

2) Soil Testing Kits

We have received news via Phil Brookes (member of LCCA and international soil scientist) that the team from the Rothampsted Research facility in the UK will be coming to visit us in early March 2022 to bring their prototype soil testing kits and to demonstrate it. They have received funding to cover their travel expenses.

4) 'I've planted a tree and my garden is pesticide free' school project

Close to 500 native bare root trees were distributed to 8 schools in the Carra Catchment (Partry, Robeen, Roxboro, Lehinch, Mount Pleasant, Carnacon, Clogher, Ballintubber). All pupils and teachers received a tree to take home and plant in their gardens along with an information pack (info pack docs attached). In addition, a native tree was planted in the grounds of each school. The schools valued the project and we received a very nice message from one of the parents:

"Our children just came home from school full of excitement about planting their trees, showing us which one they got and all the information with them - what a lovely initiative!"

This LCCA project was funded by a LawPro Communities Water Development Grant and co-ordinated by Lynda Huxley, Teresa Horan, Tom Byrne and Sinead Higgins (NFGWS). We thank the NFGWS for allowing us to use and adapt their info pack. We were treated to xmas songs by the pupils of Lehinch and Roxboro schools. Links to 2 related videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g9KCZ7OoP-U>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yCuJRjwpYM4>

2021 has been a good year for the LCCA's work (despite the various challenges) and let's hope 2022 will be an even better one.

Thanks to you all for your continued support, it is very valuable and much appreciated.

Lynda Huxley

Secretary LCCA

Lough Carra Catchment Association

Registered Charity No. 20206138