

North South Ministerial Council
Joint Secretariat



An Chomhairle Aireachta
Thuaidh Theas
An Chomhrúnaíocht

NORTH SOUTH MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

INLAND WATERWAYS MEETING

NSMC JOINT SECRETARIAT OFFICES, ARMAGH

9 JULY 2012

JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ

1. The sixteenth North South Ministerial Council Inland Waterways meeting was held at the NSMC Joint Secretariat offices in Armagh on 9 July 2012. The meeting was attended by Carál Ní Chuilín MLA, Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, OFMDFM Junior Minister Jonathan Bell MLA, Jimmy Deenihan TD, Minister for Arts Heritage and the Gaeltacht and Dinny McGinley TD, Minister of State with special responsibility for Gaeltacht Affairs. Minister Ní Chuilín chaired the meeting.

PROGRESS REPORT

2. The Council received a progress report from Mr John Martin, Chief Executive of Waterways Ireland, on the work of Waterways Ireland including the following significant achievements:
 - (i) provision of 591 metres of additional moorings;
 - (ii) the proposed sponsorship of 101 events to promote the awareness of the waterways across all navigations;

- (iii) ongoing maintenance of the waterways with 97.5% of waterways remaining open during the months of April and May;
- (iv) two new publications to promote and support use of the waterways, "A Taste of the Waterways" and "What's On"; and
- (v) continued involvement and engagement with the INTERREG IVC Waterways Forward Project.

BUSINESS PLAN AND BUDGET 2012

- 3. The Council noted progress on the development of the Waterways Ireland 2012 Business Plan and Budget.

WATERWAYS IRELAND ANNUAL REPORT AND DRAFT ACCOUNTS 2011

- 4. The Council noted the Waterways Ireland Annual Report and Draft Accounts 2011.

UPDATE ON THE RESTORATION OF THE CLONES-UPPER LOUGH ERNE SECTION OF THE ULSTER CANAL

- 5. The Council received a progress report on the restoration of the Ulster Canal from Clones to Upper Lough Erne. Ministers noted that the project is progressing through the planning application process in both jurisdictions and that an inter-agency group that has been set up to examine all possible options to advance the project, will hold its first meeting in July. Ministers discussed options, prepared by Waterways Ireland, for progressing the Ulster Canal project. These will be explored taking account of fiscal constraints.

PROPERTY DISPOSALS

- 6. The Council consented to a number of property disposals.

NEXT MEETING

- 7. The Council agreed to hold its next Inland Waterways meeting in late 2012.

**Joint Secretariat
9 July 2012**