



Press Release

Date: 27th July 2018

CARLINGFORD LOUGH GREENWAY – NEWRY TO VICTORIA LOCK

The official opening of the Carlingford Lough Greenway from Newry to Victoria Lock took place on 27th July 2018.

Work has been completed on the section of the Carlingford Lough Greenway from Dublin Road Bridge in Newry through the Albert Basin site and along Middlebank as far as Victoria Lock - a distance of 5.7 kilometres approx. This linear section has been open for use by the public from 4th May 2018.

Initial funding was secured by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council through the Landfill Communities Fund administered by Ulster Wildlife and DAERA to complete the Greenway from Newry to the Weir on the Middlebank.

Newry Mourne and Down Council in partnership with Louth County Council and East Border Region then secured funding of 3.46 Million euros from the European Union's INTERREG VA Programme managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB), to deliver the Carlingford Lough Cross Border Greenway.

Match-funding for the project under the INTERREG VA Programme has been provided by the Department for Infrastructure in Northern Ireland and the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport in Ireland.

The new stretch will build on the recently completed and already popular Carlingford Marina to Omeath Greenway. This scheme is scheduled to be completed in 2020 and will incorporate a Greenway Activity programme to raise awareness of the benefits of cycling and walking.

When completed, the Carlingford Lough Greenway will provide a world-class cross-border green travel route. The project will extend for approximately 20 km from Newry City to Carlingford, providing a much needed recreational facility for this area. When fully completed, it will link with the existing Newry/ Portadown Cycleway/Towpath resulting in a



total length of 52km of Greenway along the East coast of Ireland enabling walkers and cyclists to travel off-road between Belfast and Dublin using Sustrans Route 9 (The Great Eastern Greenway). It will see commuters and tourists alike able to travel from Carlingford to Newry on foot or by bike on a scenic, safe and traffic-free route.

Chairperson of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, Councillor Mark Murnin said: **"I would like to pay tribute to the staff in each partner organisation for their foresight and commitment in developing this genuinely cross border project and in securing a significant amount of EU funding for its implementation. I look forward to returning in the future to see the finished greenway which will greatly enhance our cross border region"**.

Welcoming the completion of this stage of the project Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB said: **"I am delighted to see that this important section of the project has been constructed and that the greenway is in progress for its final completion. The project will help us to deliver upon the important sustainable transport objective of the EU's INTERREG VA Programme. It will create a new travel link that will encourage commuters to get out of their cars and choose a more environmentally friendly way to cross the border. This will help to reduce carbon emissions and improve air quality now and in the future,"** she continued.

Chief Executive of Ulster Wildlife, Jennifer Fulton said: **"This project has demonstrated partnership at its best and we are delighted to have helped Newry Mourne and Down District Council secure funding through their contributions to the Landfill Communities Fund for the first phase of the Carlingford Lough Greenway.**

One objective of the Landfill Communities Fund is to develop amenities that directly benefit the general public. This is consistent with the strategic goal of Ulster Wildlife to improve health and well-being by allowing families and people of all ages to get outdoors and take exercise, particularly important in today's world of modern technology."

Commenting Cathaoire of Louth County Council Councillor Liam Reilly said **"We're delighted to be working with Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and East**



Border Region on this greenway, which, when completed, will see commuters and tourists alike able to travel from Carlingford to Newry on foot or by bike on a scenic, safe and traffic-free route.”

This route will form part of the Great Eastern Greenway, which once completed, will provide a traffic-free link from Carlingford, Co Louth to Portadown, Co Armagh.

- **ENDS**

(Notes for Greenway Users)

Newry Mourne and Down District Council asks all users of the Greenway to use the facility in a safe, considerate, and respectful manner so that everyone can enjoy it fully.

Please follow the code of conduct for shared path users:

- Dogs must be kept on a lead at all times and all dog fouling collected and placed in the bins provided
- Cyclists must ensure that their bicycles are in good working order with working bells and lights
- Cycling and walking events are not permitted on the Greenway without prior consent of all Council areas involved
- Motor cycles and quad bikes are not permitted on the Greenway, other than Council maintenance vehicles
- Pedestrians have priority on the Greenway but should be vigilant and considerate of other users
- Cyclists must not use excessive speeds and should be prepared to slow down or stop if necessary
- Cyclists must dismount and carefully walk their bike over the lock gates
- Keep to the Path – there is deep water at either side of path
- Take your litter home
- Protect wildlife, trees and plants

Your co-operation in this matter is very much appreciated.



Notes to Editor:

- Ulster Wildlife is Northern Ireland's largest conservation charity and is an environmental body approved by ENTRUST to distribute the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF), a tax credit scheme which allows Landfill Operators to contribute a portion of the monies they pay as landfill tax to fund community and environmental projects in the vicinity of landfill sites. The LCF is regulated by ENTRUST and managed by Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs.
For more information please visit www.ulsterwildlife.org
- **INTERREG VA Programme**
The Special EU Programmes Body is a North/South Implementation Body sponsored by the Department of Finance in Northern Ireland and the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in Ireland. It is responsible for managing two EU Structural Funds Programmes, PEACE IV and INTERREG VA which are designed to enhance cross border co-operation, promote reconciliation and create a more peaceful and prosperous society.
- The Programmes operate within a clearly defined area including Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and in the case of INTERREG VA, Western Scotland.
- The INTERREG VA Programme has a value of €283 million and aims to address the economic and social problems, which result from the existence of borders.
- For more information on the SEUPB please visit www.seupb.eu please visit www.seupb.eu

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