



**INLAND WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND**  
Cumann Uiscebhealaigh Intíre na h-Éireann

**IWAI CARRICK-ON-SHANNON**  
Annual General Meeting

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2019  
Bush Hotel, Carrick on Shannon, Co. Leitrim

**Attendance:**

Executive: Jean Kennedy (Chair) Colin Corcoran (Vice Chair); Catherine Cashman (Sec); Ciaran Morgan (PRO); Brian Fitzgerald (Webmaster); Paul Henry (Property Officer); John Fitzgerald (Council Rep); Patricia Byrne; Linda Garland

Additional 22 Branch members per attendance sheet

**1. Apologies**

Paddy & Irene Bowen, Ron & Myra Glover; Graham Nolan; Joseph Dowse Martin Craig Michael & Lia Cashin; Maeve Duffy; Paul Laycott; Joe & Denise Byrne (Treasurer); Dony Cashman; Martin Donnelly; Kevin & Sheelagh Wickham.

**2. Minutes**

CC (Sec) read minutes into meeting with no matters arising minutes were proposed by Paul Henry and approved by John Fitzgerald.

**3. Correspondence**

- Alan Kelly President – email re Constitution
- Alan Kelly President – email to Dunrovin
- Alan Kelly President – email re urban designer named Jenny Donovan who is researching a book about how design in the built environment can help achieve desirable social outcomes. She like write a piece on work on canal regeneration. Any member interested in contributing please contact Secretary.
- Alan Kelly re Update on Council and EGM – see chair report

**4. Chair Report**

**Dunrovin**

- Decision made to proceed to construction made at council on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November.
- Cost of construction is 153,475 + VAT. VAT issued to be dealt with through the VAT refund scheme for charities.
- Funding stands at €93.9k. Shortfall in funding to be raised through various fund-raising exercises. Leader has expressed interest in the funding the fit-out.
- A short video was presented to show the finished product that has been approved.



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### Waterways Ireland/IWAI Meetings

During the year there was two meetings with Waterways Ireland to discuss various issues that the Shannon branches may have.

- Concern raised re speed of craft on the river when passing moored vessels especially at Carnadoe, Kilglass and Ardnaffin- good progress being made in making people aware and is having good results.
- Roosky jetties update. Planning has been lodged again and more information submitted as requested - No change
- Harbour Hogging. – IWAI recorded a vote of thanks and well done to Paddy Harkin for the progress made in dealing with this issue. Great to see moorings available in prime locations including the public moorings in Carrick on Shannon. There is approximately 90% compliance of 5 day mooring rule.
- Derrycarne Access – between Bofin and Boderg. Used to be able to get in there. There is a stone jetty there in quite good condition. Could a floating jetty be put in? This is Coillte's land, WI has no access. Enna Rowe to raise matter with Coillte.
- Clarendon Lock – Can traffic lights be moved to RHS going upstream and concave mirrors put in to improve visibility of holding jetties? WI said concave mirrors don't work on the river as you have to be close to them to be able to see what is happening. Brian Treacy is going to arrange to cut the trees in the area to see would this solve the problem.
- Lockkeepers at Albert Lock – IWAI want to commend the new lock keepers for their great attitude and flexibility.
- Carrick Cares Day – IWAI thanked WI for their continued support of this great event. WI acknowledged it was probably one of the most rewarding events on the waterways.
- Shannon Boat Rally and Lough Key Forest Park – Lough Key Forest Park are not willing to accommodate the SBR. Alan Kelly and Kay Baxter to follow up on this issue.

### Waterways Ireland Master Plan

- To reposition the Shannon as a destination of international scale and singularity at the centre of Ireland's hidden heartlands.
- Identify and deliver a coordinated strategy and proposals
- Reposition the Shannon and Shannon Erne as a key tourism destination
- Identify world class visitor experiences
- Establish a framework for tourism development
- Define the areas unique tourism offering
- Formulate a Destination Vision. Establish key themes and products for the area
- Identify key Strategic Initiatives to realize the tourism offering.



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### Events 2019

- Trip to Titanic in Belfast was attended by approx. 30 people.
- June Weekend to Kilglass and Drumsna. 20 Boats in attendance.
- Solstice Cruise in Company to Erris Bay. 20 boats in attendance.
- Shannon Boat Rally – Congratulated Commodore Denise Byrne. Weather played a blinder! Hopefully next year will be the same.
- Carrick Care Day – A big thank you to all members who took part and made it yet again a fantastic day. IWAI President attended and congratulated Branch on a well-ran event.
- Bowling Challenge between Carrick and Boyle. Paul Henry donated new trophy as trophy had been mislaid. The trophy was retained by Carrick
- End of season rally run by John and Annette Fitzgerald was a great success. Chair congratulated John and Annette on a job well done.

### Events Calendar 2020

- 7<sup>th</sup> March Trip to Boyne River to see the work being carried out by the branch.
- 29<sup>th</sup> May to 1<sup>st</sup> June – June Weekend
- 20<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> June – Solstice Cruising – Venue to be advised
- 25<sup>th</sup> July – 3<sup>rd</sup> Aug – Shannon Boat Rally – Commodore to be advised by Athlone.
- 29<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> August – Carrick Care Day
- September - Carrick/Boyle Bowling Challenge – going for 3 in a row!!
- 23<sup>rd</sup> October – 26<sup>th</sup> October – End of season rally – Commodore David Garland

### Council Meeting

- Meeting was address by WI Acting Chief Executive. 1<sup>st</sup> address by WI CEO to IWAI – Detailed structures of WI and advised on a number of vacancies to be filled.
- Dunrovin presentation by Martin Donnelly and Carthage Conlon (Legal Advisor).
  - Peppercorn Lease
  - Buildings separated by Fence
  - RNLI responsible for own repairs
  - €93.9k currently in bank. MD assured meeting that cost will be met as payments schedule will be 1/3 at start 1/3 at turnkey and final 1/3 at end of warranty period.
  - The proposal to proceed with the extra costs was carried by a majority vote.
- John Martin addressed the council and asked that all treasurers get their accounts in early as we must have an audit this year due to income being above €100K.
- A discussion was had regarding Winter Mooring and the turning off of water and electricity at all public jetties. A survey of members will be carried out with the Executive putting together the questions, so each Branch are answering the same questions.



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- A presentation was made by the Kildare branch regarding Nav Watch system for the Canals and the Borrow. This is a reporting app for any problems on these waterways.
- Child Protection and Garda Vetting. This is mandatory for each branch. Our child protection Office is Karl Byrne with Colin Corcoran CPO for events..
- A fund has been set up for special projects. The capitation has been reduced by 5% to fund this.
- Colin Becker is retiring from the IWN and anyone interest in putting their name forward for the position needs to do it by the 17<sup>th</sup> November 2019.
- An EGM took place after the council meeting and the new Articles and Memorandum of Association was passed. The position of National Secretary is still outstanding and it was put to the EGM but nobody put their name forward. Anyone interested in position should contact Alan Kelly.

### **5. Secretary's Report**

4 Executive Meetings: Feb, April Sept and Nov

3 Branch Meetings: April, Sept and Nov (AGM)



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**Branch Membership November 2019:**

<b>Carrick on Shannon</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
<b>Membership</b>	279 (178 Family)	270	277	272	284
<b>Renewal Due</b>	17	15	22	23	20
<b>Active</b>	262	255	255	249	257
<b>New Members*</b>	24 (13 Family)	14	15		
<b>Life Members</b>	6	6	6	5	5
<b>Honorary Member – Michael D Higgins - President of Ireland</b>	1	1	1	1	1

Membership currently at 279 up on 2018 by 9; Highest since 2015 where membership stood at 284. In saying that Active Members is currently 262 which is above the 2015 figure 2019 Member includes 178 Family Membership.

New members are 24 which is up on previous years with Family membership of 13

We have 6 Life Members and 1 Honorary Member

## **6. Treasurers Report**

In the absence of Denise Byrne, Treasurer, chair presented the Treasurer's Report. A copy of the Annual Accounts Report was circulated at the meeting. Chair highlighted

- Meetings expenditure was up on 2018 from €715 to €1352
- CCD spend €1286 vs WI Grant of €1200
- Capitation increased on 2018 to €5249 bearing in mind that Capitation is 45% as against 50% with the 5% balance being given over to National Special Project Initiative which Carrick Branch can apply to.
- Other Expenditure of €1359 included trailer fitout of bars etc @ €267 and purchased of Kayaks @ €780.
- Income vs Expenditure = €759
- Bank Balance is currently €13,144 included repayment of loan from Boyne Branch. Boyne Branch were very appreciated of the Branch Support.
- Total Assets equate to €40969 which includes €25000 for Dunrovin Project which is now most likely not to be refunded, which is good news.



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Accounts proposed by Brian Fitzgerald and seconded by Tony Byron.

**7. Election of COS Branch Officers**

- Trish Byron stepping down from Committee. Chair thanked Trish to her years of hard work and dedication. She did a marvellous a job of Secretary over the years.
- Chair announced that Margaret Byrne has agreed to become a committee member
- Chair also thanked Linda Garland for her work on the committee and in particular on the Carrick Cares Day over the years, which is greatly appreciated.
- Chair acknowledged work and dedication of the other members of the committee, Brian Fitzgerald, John Fitzgerald and Paul Henry.
- Officers were elected as follows

Position	Nominee	Proposed by	Seconded by
<b>Chairman</b>	<b>Jean Kennedy</b>	<b>Blaithin Fitzgerald</b>	<b>Paddy Connolly</b>
Vice Chairman	Ciaran Morgan	<b>Patsy Garland</b>	<b>John Fitzgerald</b>
Hon. Secretary	Catherine Cashman	<b>Paul Henry</b>	<b>Mary Henry</b>
Hon. Treasurer	Denise Byrne	<b>Trish Byron</b>	<b>Nuala Morgan</b>

Child Protection Officer: Karl Byrne  
Events Child Protection Officer: Colin Corcoran  
Council Rep: John Fitzgerald  
PRO: Margaret Byrne  
Web Master: Brian Fitzgerald  
Logistics: Paul Henry  
Linda Garland

**8. Shannon Boat Rally**

Chair announced with pleasure that Margaret Byrne would be the Vice Commodore for the 2020 Shannon Boat Rally and is confident that Margaret will do a fantastic job representing the Branch.

Chair called for volunteers for the SBR Committee and the following persons put forward their names



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John Fitzgerald  
Paul Henry  
Nuala Morgan

**AOB**

- **Albert Lock Landscaping Project**

Chair advised that in discussion Kay Baxter (National VP) that it has been suggested that Albert Lock could be landscaped to bring the area in front of the cottage back to the beauty it was when the Burkes worked the lock. CEO WI had suggested at the Council Meeting in November that perhaps there may be some initiatives that IWAI/WI could collaborate on. This would be a nice project to involve ourselves with. It is proposed that a workday be scheduled in Spring in conjunction with Boyle Branch and WI. Further details will follow once arrangements have been agreed.

- **Marked Diesel**

Members were reminded that legislation regarding the use of marked diesel comes into effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 making it illegal to use marked diesel in boats from said date. Members felt that it will take some years before staining from tanks would abate. Members are of the mind that it would be best to keep receipts for purchase of white diesel to prove compliance of regulation. Secretary will forward link to Government Notification to all members.

- **Communications**

Paddy Connolly requested, for those members who are not on Facebook, if communications could be sent by text message. Brian Fitzgerald advised the meeting that text systems have a high failure rate. Communications will continue to be channelled through emails, website and Facebook.

Paddy Connolly also requested if webpage contact details for lockkeepers could be updated. Brian Fitzgerald commented that he thought that the Branch webpage was linked to the National Webpage. Brian undertook to look at this issue. Exec will revert to the Branch on this issue.

**Lockkeeper Issue**

Chair advised that Paddy Harkin wishes to be informed by telephoning him at the time of incident if locks are not open at the times they should be. Members should ring Paddy directly. The meeting noted that during Shannon Boat Rally 2019 the lock was not open at the official designated opening times. Chair emphasised that individual members should not confront the lockkeeper but to advise Paddy Harkin only. Several members indicated that they never have an issue with the lockkeeper.



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Chair closed the meeting, thanking all for attending and inviting members for a drink in the bar.