

PRESS RELEASE

For Release on 21st June at 13.00 hrs

Have your say on water matters in the Shannon basin

Are you concerned about the quality of the water in your local river or lake? If yes and you live in the Shannon region then a new booklet published today is essential reading for you. The booklet, called “Water Matters – *Have your Say*” is published jointly by all the local authorities along the River Shannon and the Department of Environment, Northern Ireland, and was launched today at the Hodson Bay Hotel, Athlone by the outgoing and incoming Chairs of the Shannon International River Basin District Advisory Council.

Speaking at the launch the outgoing Chair of the Advisory Council, Cllr. Ned O’ Sullivan said “this booklet sets out the key issues which affect the water quality in the region in a very easy-to-read manner and I encourage everyone living in the area to get a copy of it and use the opportunity to “have your say” on what you think of the water in your area and what the problems are.” The newly-elected Chair of the Advisory Council, Cllr. Albert Higgins added “For too long it has been somebody else’s responsibility but now our Governments here and throughout the European Union have handed us all a way to get involved and have a say into what the problems are and what actions should be taken to put things right.” The booklet is a key step in getting public involvement in the process of managing water quality and is available for free from the headquarters of any of the local authorities in the region or from their websites, or from the Shannon River Basin District offices in Newtown Centre, Annacotty, Co. Limerick. There will be a six month consultation period up to 22nd December and all comments received will feed into the draft management plan for the Shannon basin.

The Shannon basin stretches from the source of the Shannon river in the Cuilcagh mountains in County Cavan on the border with Northern Ireland to the tip of the Dingle peninsula in north Kerry. On its way it passes through 14 counties, either directly or indirectly through the smaller rivers and streams which flow into it before it reaches the Shannon estuary at Limerick city.

If you require any further information about the process please contact Enda Thompson, the Shannon IRBD Project Co-ordinator at his office in Newtown Centre, Annacotty, Co. Limerick (tel: 061 337914 or email: info@shannonrbd.com)

ENDS.

Source: Enda Thompson, Project Co-ordinator, Tel: 061 337914/087 6457259 (or Limerick Co. Co. 061 496000 and ask for Tom Tarpey, Senior Engineer, Environmental and Emergency Services)