

Lagan Navigation Draft Reopening Plan – from Belfast Harbour to Lough Neagh

Public Information and Consultation Events

The **Lagan Canal Trust** is asking members of the public for their opinion on its draft plans for the re-opening of the Lagan Navigation from Belfast Harbour to Lough Neagh.

Reopening the Navigation will contribute to creating a living Lagan as it traverses the 27 miles through the three counties of Antrim, Down and Armagh. Over 250,000 people live within the insert new area total square mile area of this historic Navigation with over 141 schools with 35K+ pupil population. The Navigation tow path presents the opportunity to connect to current transportation services, including 8 railway stations, to provide ready access to green spaces and many existing and proposed new outdoor recreation pursuits. The opportunity to connect with a wealth of existing heritage features the re opening will create will benefit rural and urban communities and special interest groups.

The Lagan Canal Trust has also commissioned a Strategic Environmental Assessment: how the engineering and other works will impact on the environment and how to get the balance right. It has also commissioned engineering designs and costings for all re-opening works along the route from Belfast Harbour right through to Lough Neagh. These reports will also be available for comment. In order that the project can meet community expectations and be sustainable and economically vibrant over time we need your input.

During June and July 2012, here's how:

Public information meetings on the Trusts' work at the following venues/times

Shaftsbury Community Centre, Belfast	Monday 16 th July at 6.30 pm
Castlereagh Community Centre	Tuesday 17 th July at 6.30 pm
Island Civic Centre, Lisburn	Thursday 19 th July at 6.30 pm
Finaghy Community Centre	Monday 23 rd July at 6.30 pm
Aghalee Village Hall	Tuesday 24 th July at 6.30 pm
Lough Neagh Discovery Centre	Wednesday 25 th July at 6.30 pm
Craigavon Civic Centre	Thursday 26 th July at 6.30 pm

In addition two major consultation events will be held to examine public response to the Strategic Environmental Assessment and Engineering Design and costings report at:

- 1.. Ramada Hotel, Shaws Bridge, Belfast – Tuesday 31st July @ 10.00 a.m.
2. Lough Neagh Discovery Centre Craigavon Thursday 2nd August @10.00am

For further information regarding any of the events detailed above please contact:

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