

Lagan Canal Trust: Recent Organisation Activity relating to the Belfast City Council area:

- Partnering in an application to 'improve eco-system delivery systems in the Lagan Valley through the re-opening of the Lagan Navigation' to be submitted to Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in October this year. The geographic focus is on the area from Stranmillis to Edenderry.
- Reaching stage 2 of the EU funding instrument for the environment and climate change in 2015, final decision pending.
- Development of the 'Just Add Water' project which will develop an on-line platform to capture information about the Canal, to be used in multi-media resource to support educational materials. While Just Add Water will cover the entire length of the canal, in 2016/17 the focus will be on working with communities around locks 1 to 4 – the section from the Harbour to Drumbridge. An application will be submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund this month to support work over five years. A decision over stage 1 pass will be received in December which will support a development phase, with a final decision being obtained between six months and a year later.
- Development of a pilot Waterways College from 2014-2016 which aims to build waterways heritage skills with learners from communities along the Canal. In 2015, participants included representatives from east and west Belfast.
- In the current year a community heritage audit will be developed with 48 Champions or Ambassadors from communities along the Canal. The number from Belfast will be proportionate the length of Canal within the council boundary, about 10 people.

The Canal Trust is also partnering with Council in a Rural Development Programme application to support work around Edenderry, especially the survey, clearance and interpretation work at lock 4, some of which would be carried out by volunteers under appropriate supervision and with Scheduled Monument permission.