

Cork Lower Harbour Main Drainage Project

March 2017



If you have any questions or wish to register for updates you can contact the project team in the following ways:

Post: **Cork Lower Harbour Main Drainage Project**
PO Box 900, Webworks, Eglinton Street, Cork

Web: **www.water.ie/corklowerharbour**

Email: **corklowerharbour@water.ie**

Other Irish Water Queries:

General queries:

9am – 5.30pm Mon – Fri

Telephone: Callsave 0818 448 448 or +353 10 707 2824

Emergency queries

24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Telephone: Callsave 1800 278 278 or +353 1 707 2828

Minicom: **LoCall 1890 378 378**
(for hearing impaired customers
with their own minicom equipment)

Please note that the rates charged for 1850 (LoCall) numbers may vary across different service providers. Calls made using mobiles may be more expensive.

This publication is available in braille, on CD and in large text format on

request by calling 0818 448 448.

Safeguarding our water for our future

Background

Cork Harbour is the second largest natural harbour in the world. Located at the estuary of the River Lee it has significant environmental importance, has a rich maritime history and a proud industrial tradition. As an economic hub, it supports employment, promotes tourism in the area and is used for a variety of recreational activities such as fishing, rowing, swimming, sailing and windsurfing.

The issue

Untreated raw sewage has been discharging directly into the lower harbour for decades. Wastewater is collected from homes and businesses across the lower harbour area and undergoes no treatment before being discharged into the sea. This practice is in breach of national and European legislation and means Ireland is currently in contravention of the European Union Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive.

What does the project involve?

We are addressing this issue with a long term investment in wastewater in Cork, as part of our national commitment to end the practice of discharging untreated sewage to rivers and seas by 2021.

The project consists of:

- > A new wastewater treatment plant at Shanbally
- > 14 new pumping stations
- > 30km of new sewers
- > Repair work on existing sewers
- > A drilled crossing under the estuary

The towns of Crosshaven, Carrigaline and Shanbally were connected to the wastewater network for treatment in December 2016. On completion, the extensive upgrade to the sewer network will ensure all wastewater from these towns, along with Passage West, Monkstown, Ringaskiddy, Glenbrook, Coolmore and Cobh will be transferred by new pipes and pumped to the new treatment plant, before safe discharge to the sea, through an outfall at Dog Nose Point.

This will support future economic growth in the Cork harbour area and improve water quality, benefitting our health and environment, and enabling us to enjoy this wonderful natural resource even more.

Delivery of a new wastewater treatment plant for Cork Lower Harbour

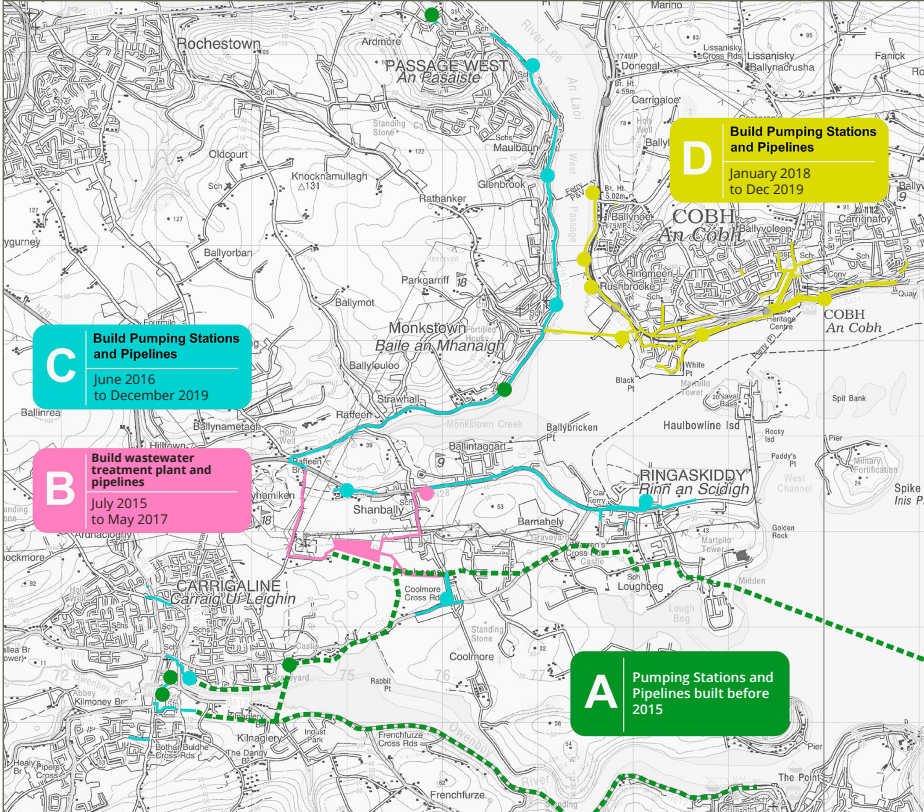
A new wastewater treatment plant at Shanbally commenced operations in December 2016. Construction of the treatment plant started in August 2015 and in less than eighteen months, we have gone from a greenfield site to an operational wastewater treatment plant. 50% of the untreated raw sewage – the wastewater from over 10,000 homes and businesses across Crosshaven, Carrigaline and Shanbally – is no longer discharging untreated into Cork Lower Harbour.

The innovative technology at the plant means that less sludge is produced, less chemicals are used and less land is needed than for conventional treatment plants. This gives a more environmentally and economically sustainable wastewater treatment solution.



Courtesy of Port of Cork.

Cork Lower Harbour Main Drainage Project construction plan



Cork Lower Harbour Main Drainage Project Timeline

2015

- > Design of network continues
- > Construction of wastewater treatment plant (WwTP) at Shanbally starts

2016

- > Construction of network with traffic management on south of estuary starts
- > Design of network, including public consultation on north of estuary
- > Construction of WwTP at Shanbally continues
- > WwTP starts to treat wastewater from Carrigaline and Crosshaven

2017

- > Design and public consultation of network on north of estuary continues
- > Construction of network with traffic management on south of estuary continues
- > WwTP operational, treating wastewater from Carrigaline, Coolmore, Crosshaven, Ringaskiddy, Shanbally and Coolmore

2018

- > Construction of network with traffic management in Cobh starts
- > Construction of network on south of estuary complete
- > WwTP operational, treating additional wastewater from Glenbrook, Monkstown and Passage West

2019

- > Construction of network with traffic management on north side of estuary complete
- > WwTP starts to treat wastewater from Cobh

Work is still underway

Work on the pumping stations and pipelines on the south side of the harbour started last year and will continue until 2018. The project also includes the laying of new sewer pipelines across the Cork Lower Harbour area, a new drilled crossing under the estuary and the construction of a number of new pumping stations.

On completion, the Cork Lower Harbour Main Drainage Project will treat all wastewater from Passage West, Monkstown, Ringaskiddy, Crosshaven, Carrigaline, Glenbrook, Shanbally, Coolmore and Cobh. It is anticipated that the project will be fully complete by 2020, which will mean 20,000 homes and businesses will be connected to the new scheme and raw sewage will no longer be discharged into Cork Lower Harbour.



What are the benefits of the project?

- > Ends the practice of discharging raw sewage into the harbour
- > Improves water quality
- > Brings health and environmental benefits
- > Enhances the harbour's amenity value
- > Enables social and economic development
- > Ensures environmental compliance

The new pipes, pumping stations and treatment plant have been designed to accommodate growth in the harbour area.

Irish Water is making a long term investment in Cork to ensure that the water quality standards set down by regulatory bodies will be achieved and the people of Cork can continue to enjoy the benefits of the harbour into the future.



How is Irish Water engaging with the community?

Irish Water has sought to engage with the public at all stages throughout the project. We have hosted a number of information days for residents and businesses as we progress the planning applications and also as work on construction of the sewer network is delivered. We are also engaging directly with people as we carry out work in towns along the south side of the harbour through dedicated information evenings for local communities and a dedicated community liaison officer available to meet with people during the construction period. Irish Water is committed to working closely with the local community and to keeping people informed as we progress this important infrastructure project for the benefit of all.

Is there a commitment to traffic management?

In order to build the scheme safely, there will be some interruptions to everyday life, including traffic delays. These necessary delays will be kept to a minimum. We will work with the community to ensure people are kept informed and can continue with their day to day activities, with as little disruption as possible.

Cork Lower Harbour Main Drainage Project - In numbers

14 new pumping stations

30 kilometres of new sewers

20,000 homes and businesses connecting to the scheme

40,000 wheelie bins is the daily volume of sewage that will be diverted to the WwTP rather than discharging untreated to sea

12 million litres of wastewater will pass through the treatment plant daily

How can I be kept up to date?

Delivering this project is a big undertaking and marks a major investment in modern infrastructure to support economic growth and development in the Cork region. Irish Water will continue to engage with the local community to ensure you are informed of developments at every stage and that the project takes account of local issues.

Please email corklowerharbour@water.ie if you would like to be added to our mailing list or register online at www.water.ie/corklowerharbour for regular updates on the project.

Safety is our number one priority and every effort will be made to keep disruption to a minimum.

