



'The Lay of the Land'

A series of art-based community participation workshops to reveal the potential of the River Suir.

A description of community events and workshops held in South Tipperary from 2nd- 9th July 2011

**South Tipperary County Council Heritage Office and The Landscape Interface Studio at Kingston University
working together as part of Waterways Forward**

Lucy Tauber , 9th July 2011



Events and Workshops

The Lay of the Land is a series of events and workshops to extend the reach of the River Suir. The project has been designed to engage with the wider community to map, reveal and celebrate the River Suir and to develop a 'shared vision' for the future.

These workshops and events were designed to allow us to:

- understand and present the wider community's perceptions, experiences and memories of the River Suir.
- work with and introduce different community groups that share similar connections to the River.
- investigate specific local opportunities adjacent to the River.
- present and explore the history and time line of the River
- provide a platform for engagement and understanding between the local community and the authorities.
- All data gathered shall be collated and recorded and ultimately be used to inform the planning process and act to support proposals for future funding



Photographs taken during the presentation and discussions with the South Tipperary Heritage Forum

South Tipperary Heritage Forum

The Lay of the Land concluded with a presentation to the South Tipperary Heritage Forum (Regional Stakeholder Platform).

All documentation summarising the comments and feedback made during the individual workshops in Cahir, Carrick-on-Suir, Ardfinnan and Clonmel was presented to the South Tipperary Heritage Forum at the Suir River Café.

Different aspects of the comments, observations and possibilities revealed during the community workshops were discussed in depth and developed by the expert advisory stakeholder group.



Photographs taken during the presentation and discussions with the South Tipperary Heritage Forum

Heritage Forum Members

The South Tipperary Heritage Forum is made up of various representatives from the community including local government, national government departments, local community groups, local businesses, NGOs, specialist interest groups and the farming sector. The Forum is a working group that meet 4 times a year to direct and support heritage projects in the county annually. Forum members are the key components in the Regional Stakeholder Platform for the Waterways Forward project as they represent many of the broad and diverse range of skills, resources, interests and enterprises in South Tipperary along the River Suir and its environs.

Members present on that day were:

Kaye Mullaney, South Tipperary V.E.C. (Vocational Education College). Mayor Patsy Fitzgerald, Carrick-on-Suir Town Council. Róisín O'Grady, South Tipperary County Archives. Marie McMahon, South Tipperary County Museum. Labhaoise McKenna, South Tipperary Heritage Officer. Dan Hogan, Tipperary Branch, BirdWatch Ireland. Richard Auler, An Taisce. Kevin Collins, Environment Pillar and BirdWatch Ireland. Michael Carew, Irish Farmers Association (IFA). Sean Breen, National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). Mary-Guinan Darmody, Tipperary Libraries. Eleanor Morrissey, Office of Public Works (OPW). Noreen Higgins-McHugh, South Tipperary Historical Societies. Clare Lee, South Tipperary County Council – Forward Planning. Ruth Hennessy, South Tipperary County Council – Environment. Shay Hurley, Workmens Boat Club (WBC). Frank O'Donoghue, Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI)



Labhaoise McKenna



Pat Brown



Lucy Tauber

key participants

Labhaoise McKenna

Labhaoise is the Heritage Officer for South Tipperary County Council and is the project manager for the Waterways Forward European project on behalf of South Tipperary County Council. She is a key proponent in the development of potential projects for the River Suir and is responsible for bringing this dynamic group together during the Junction Festival in Clonmel. Labhaoise works alongside the South Tipperary Heritage Forum to deliver heritage projects in South Tipperary.

Pat Brown

Pat founded the Landscape Interface Studio at Kingston University and is a consultant to British Waterways in the British Waterways EU Interegg IVC project communicating future development potential, policies and management for inland waterways and their regions. Pat has considerable experience working with local communities and experts, on projects, internationally and is a practicing chartered Landscape Architect.

Lucy Tauber

Lucy is an associate at the Landscape Interface Studio and designed and led the Lay of the Land workshops to engage with the communities on The River Suir. Lucy teaches Masters and Diploma at Kingston University is a practising ARB registered Architect, maker and artist and specialises in art-based community engagement and consultation.



Tom Ginnett



Tom Roberts



Lyn Mather

key participants

Tom Ginnett and Tom Roberts

Tom and Tom are both highly commended graduate students from Kingston University Landscape Architecture Diploma. Both have supported the workshops and are considering Masters projects involving the Suir River and its communities.

Lyn Mathers

Lyn is a local artist and connector of people and was the Artist in Residence at the Suir River Cafe. She is actively involved with SuirCan in Clonmel and is a champion of the Sui River.

Carine Brannan

Carine is Project Manager and Coordinator in the Landscape Interface Studio at Kingston University. She is managing the consultancy with British Waterways and the Waterways Forward EU Interreg IVC Project team. Carine is responsible for working with Labhoise and other Waterways Forward Partners.

Orla Kennedy

Orla is a volunteer at the River Suir Cafe and has a keen interest in Heritage.

Please note:

The preceding information is taken directly from the workshops and may include some inconsistencies or factual errors. The ideas, suggestions and possibilities are quoted directly from the comments made by Participants in the Lay of the Land workshops.

They should not read as the opinion of South Tipperary County Council or of the Interface Studio.

Ideas are listed systematically and are not listed in order of importance, nor do they represent any technical or financial review.

It is hoped that the information and ideas are useful in taking forward discussions of the many opportunities of the River Suir and its tributaries.

the Lay of the land was made possible by the support and funding from South Tipperary County Council as part of the EU Interreg IVC Waterways Forward Project funded under the European Regional Development Fund and by the time and generosity of local people.

with many thanks,

Labhaoise McKenna (for South Tipperary County Council) and Lucy Tauber and Pat Brown (for the Landscape Interface Studio)

July 2011