

connswater community
greenway

The Utility Regulator
Water Service
Queens House
14 Queen Street
Belfast
BT1 6ED

2nd November 2009

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Utility Regulator ELECTRICITY GAS WATER NIAUR WATER GROUP		
For		
03 NOV 2009		
To Act		
Reply		File
To See		CC

We welcome the opportunity to comment on NI Water's 2010-13 PC10 Business Plan, which will determine NI Water's priorities for 2010- 2013.

East Belfast has suffered from decades of underinvestment in infrastructure and will commence the construction of the Connswater Community Greenway (CCG) / Flood Alleviation Scheme (FAS) in September 2010. The joint project includes the construction of a combined Community Greenway and in partnership with Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Rivers Agency, major Flood Alleviation works. The Community Greenway has a value of approximately £23m and consists of 19km of shared pedestrian and cycle paths, approximately 26 bridges, riverside paths, cantilevered boardwalks, lighting/CCTV, miscellaneous public realm and river enhancement works. The Flood Alleviation scheme with a value of up to £16m consists of replacing a number of major road culverts, construction of flood walls, flood earth embankments and river realignment. The total estimated value of the contract is between £33m-£39m.

We request that the regulator prioritises the Loop, Knock and Connswater rivers in East Belfast in order to maximise and build on the investment from other stakeholders, including government agencies, during this period: *Big Lottery Fund £23.5m, Belfast City Council £4.2m, the Department for Social Development £3.3m, Rivers Agency £16m, Queens University Belfast £1m.*

The implementation of the **East Belfast Drainage Area Plan** should be given the highest priority and a programme of works for the area must be developed to address the internal sewer flooding and unsatisfactory discharges and spills from combined sewer overflows.

NI Water should work in Partnership with us and others in the area, complying with Government 'joined up working' policies by 'working together to deliver mutual objectives and achieve value for money', obtaining project cost advantage for all parties involved and minimising the disruption caused to the local communities affected.

eastBELFAST
PARTNERSHIP



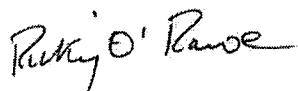
274 Newtownards Road,
Belfast, BT4 1HE
T: 028 9045 1900
E: heather@eastbelfast.com

www.communitygreenway.co.uk

Works undertaken by NI Water will have a considerable impact on the sustainability of the CCG project and the ongoing management and maintenance costs, incurred by Belfast City Council / rate payers.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on NI Water's 2010-13 PC10 Business Plan.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard O'Rawe', written in a cursive style.

Richard O'Rawe
Chair
Connswater Community Greenway