



**LOUGH NEAGH
PARTNERSHIP**

**RIVER BLACKWATER
PRESENTATION TO
MUDC COUNCIL
DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE**

12/5/2022

**LNP GERRY DARBY
DR WILLIAM BURKE**

RIVER BLACKWATER NEEDS

- **Priority Need to Open Blackwater and Develop Tourism Infrastructure and link to Ulster Canal**

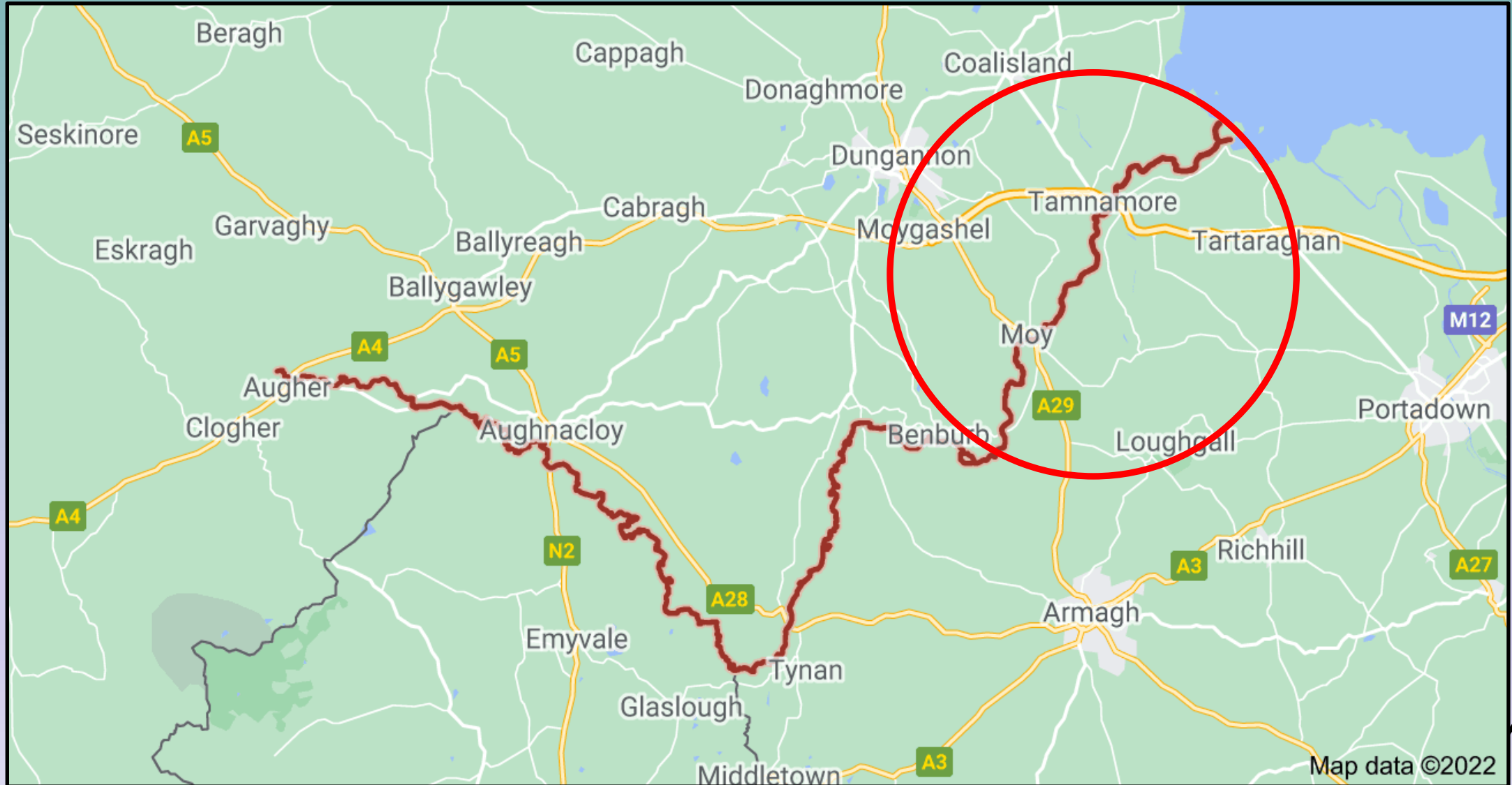
Other wider Lough needs

- Need Cross Party and Cross Council Support
- Need Lough Interdepartmental/Council Body
- Need Interim Navigation Markers and Dredging
- Need Protect Lough Neagh Environment
- Need help Farming Economy
- Need to address Bed and Soil Ownership
- Need LNP Financial Sustainability





BLACKWATER RIVER

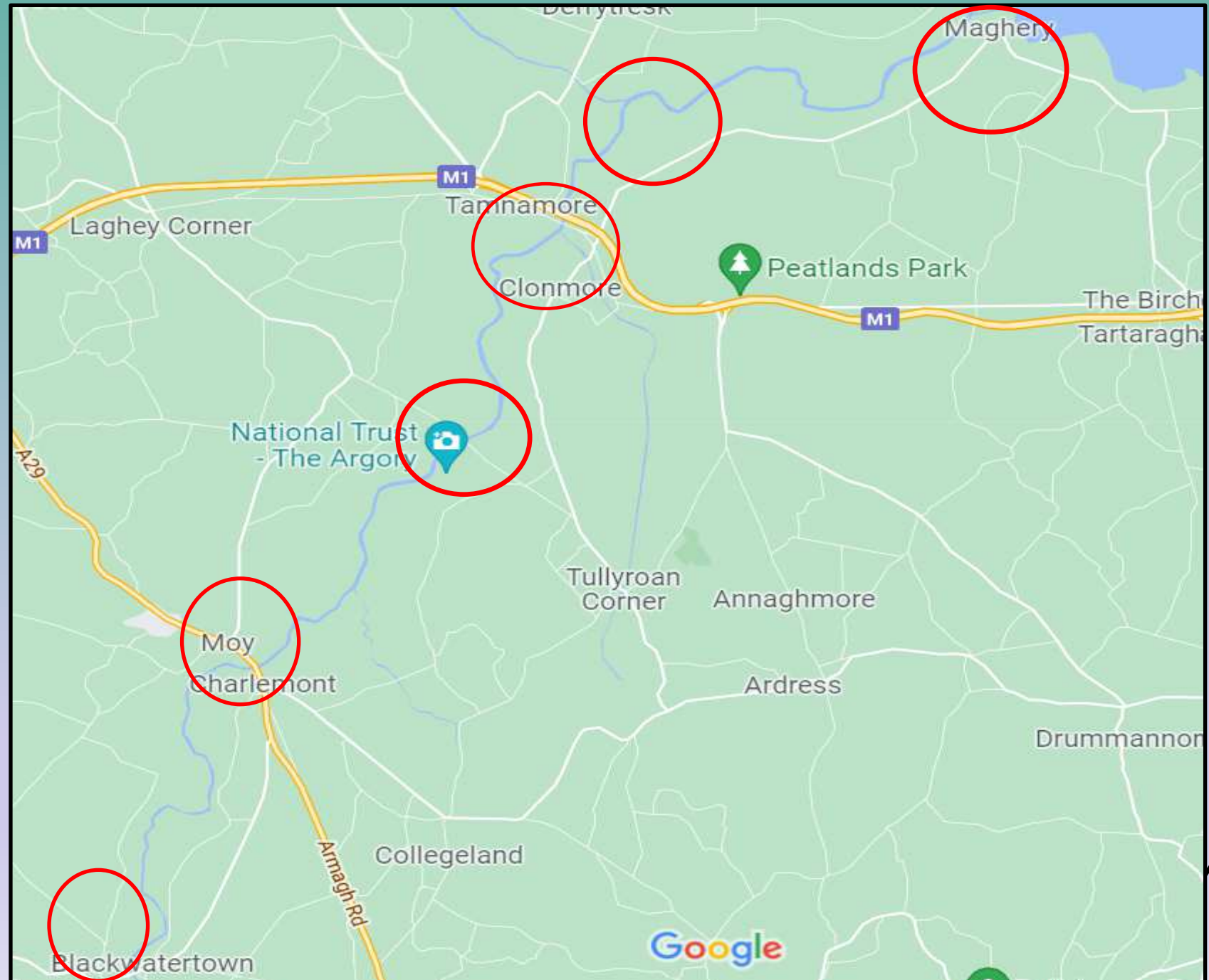


Wider Ulster Canal Context





Navigable
Part of
Blackwater
River
19 km





Blackwater Infrastructure Estimated Costs

Item	Cost	
	ABC Area	MUDC Area
ConeyIsland Jetty/s replacement	£520000	
Maghery Coney Island Markers installation	£3000	
Maghery Road and Car Park Upgrade	£55000	
Maghery Toilet	£2500	
Maghery Canal Cut Dredging	£250000	
Maghery Jetty Upgrade	£25000	
Ferry Bridge Upgrade	£2500	£2500
Ferry Bridge Carpark upgrade	£10000	£1000
Coalisland Point new jetty and berthing Facility		£490000
Coalisland Canal Path Improvement		£25000
ABC Campsite Upgrade	£4500	
Bond Bridge Jetty Car Park and Slipway repair	£25000	
Replace Argory Jetty	£490000	
Historical tidy up of First Ulster Canal Lock	£10000	
New additional Moy Jetty		£490000
Upgrade existing Moy Carpark Jetty and slipway		£65000
Upgrade Blackwatertown Jetty and slipway		£45000
Canoe Access upgrades	£32500	£32500
New Information Signage	£2250	£2250
Maintenance Boat	£3250	£3250
Evaluation Report	£4500	£4500
	£1397500	£1161000
Design and Supervision	£209625	£174150
Overall Estimated total exl vat	£1,607,125	£1,335150

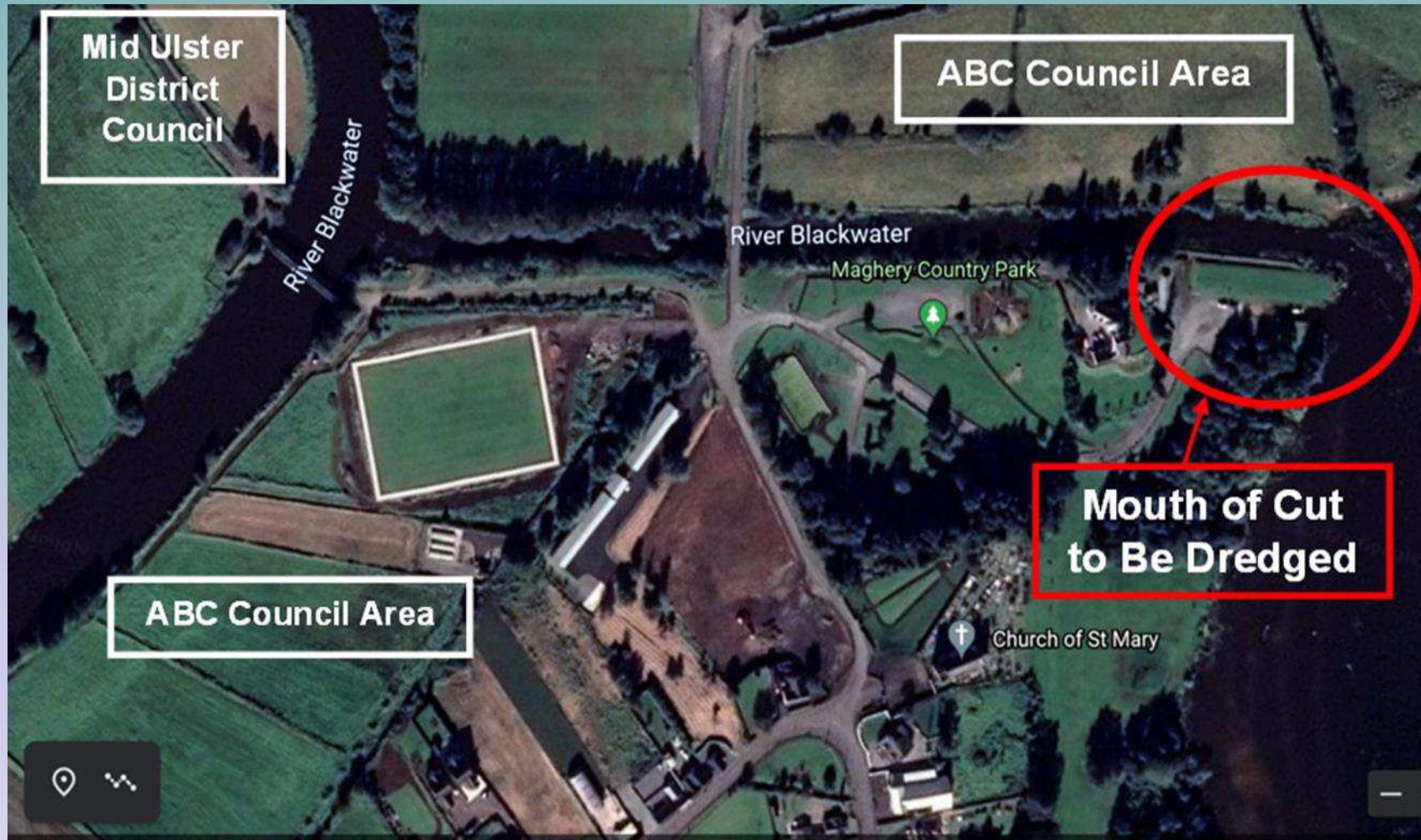


○ 5 year running costs

Item	Cost					
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	
Blackwater Co ordinator	£42000	£42000	£43000	£43000	£44000	
Marketing	£15000	£15000	£15000	£15000	£15000	
Maintenance of Mouth	£8000	£8000	£8000	£9000	£9000	
Maintenance of boat and river	£5000	£5000	£5000	£5000	£6000	
Annual Total	£70000	£70000	£71000	£72000	£74000	
Total over 5 years						£357000



○ Two Council Approach



○ Blackwater and Ulster Canal

Strategic Recommendations

- MUDC and ABC approve recommendations of Draft Blackwater Study and identify funding in Levelling Up, SEUPB and Shared Island Fund Jun 2022
- MUDC and ABC CEO meet with Shared Island Fund/Waterways Ireland regarding Ulster Canal development extension Sep 2022
- MUDC and ABC CEO lobby North South Ministerial Political members to include extension of Ulster Canal Sep 2022
- MUDC and 2 Councils work to promote whole Lough Navigation, Sustainable Dredging, Infrastructure, Marketing and Protection



○ Recommendations (Mouth)

1) **Set up Joint Technical River Blackwater Mouth working group to:**

- Prepare DFI Business Plan requirement for dredging and marker system at Mouth
- Meet at early stage with NIEA Waste Section and argue strongly for need for section 25 exemption
- Apply for all other appropriate permissions and licences such as Natura 2000 and ASSI permission and a waste licence for dredged material
- Implement and project manage dredging the mouth of the River Blackwater
- Regularly dredging and remove debris in river keep it open for boat traffic from Lough Neagh with involvement of DFI
- Prepare full costing, engineering report and tender specification on identified infrastructure and project manage work
- Update existing Ferguson Mc Elveen costed engineering report on the restoration of the Coalisland Canal
- Invite Waterways Ireland to give advice and help and become a partner in development of any Levelling Up, Shared Island and Peace Plus Programme funding application
- Develop and agree a basic voluntary navigation code particularly in relation to staying overnight at jetties.



○ Recommendations (Whole river/Ulster Canal)

2) Set up joint MUDC/ABC River Blackwater Tourism group to:

- Lobby North South Ministerial Council for Ulster Canal inclusion along Blackwater.
- Arrange Blackwater Tourism Development Seminar
- Develop and apply for funding programme for development of infrastructure as indicated later in report.
- Employ coordinator to promote and develop tourism programme on river and liaise with private sector to develop a new small marketing programme.
- Create River Blackwater private public and community tourism connectivity and new marketing group through new private public tourism cluster.
- ABC to include Lough Neagh and navigable rivers (Blackwater and Upper Bann) as a new Tier I Strategic Tourism priority. MUDC to realign Tourism strategy to River Blackwater.
- Development Motorway Barrier solutions



○ Other Wider Lough Neagh needs

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THANKS TO MUDC FOR ALL THEIR HELP TO DATE

GREATLY APPRECIATED



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