

The background is a light blue gradient with several realistic water droplets of various sizes scattered across the surface. The droplets have highlights and shadows, giving them a three-dimensional appearance.

# LIMERICK OPEN NAVIGATION GROUP

ACHIEVING USER FRIENDLY SAFE NAVIGATION IN LIMERICK

# RIVERFEST

- NEXT WEEK IS ONE OF LIMERICK LARGEST FESTIVALS ON THE RIVER RIVERFEST
- THERE ARE NO PLANS FOR ANY BOATS TO COME DOWN FROM LOUGH DERG OR UPPER SHANNON
  
- WHY ??

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# LIMERICK OPEN NAVIGATION GROUP

- FORMED ON 21<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2017
- THE LIMERICK OPEN NAVIGATION GROUP IS AN UMBRELLA LOBBY GROUP REPRESENTING SEVERAL OF THE LIMERICK WATERWAYS USER ORGANISATIONS.
  - INLAND WATERWAY ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND DERG BRANCH
  - INISCEALTRA SAILING CLUB
  - GARRYKENNEDY SAILING CLUB
  - CURRAGHOUR BOAT CLUB
  - ST MARYS PARISH MEN'S SHED
  - FOYNES YACHT CLUB
- **PRIMARY AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**
  - TO SATISFY THE NEEDS OF THE WATERWAYS USERS AND GET AN AGREEMENT WITH ALL THE ORGANISATIONS RESPONSIBLE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OPERATION OF THE NAVIGATION TO ACHIEVE REALISTIC, SAFE NAVIGATION OF THE WATERWAYS IN LIMERICK FOR BOAT OWNERS.

# OBSTACLES / CHALLENGES

## TO SAFE NAVIGATION IN LIMERICK

- WATER FLOW RATE ON ABBEY RIVER
- CHALLENGES FOR SMALL BOATS ( LOW WATER DRAFT/LOW AIR DRAFT)
- CHALLENGES FOR LARGE BOATS , AIR DRAFT, DRAFT
- SARSFIELD BRIDGE LOCK OPENING

# CHALLENGE FOR ALL BOATS— WATER FLOW RATE

- DEPENDING ON THE NUMBER OF TURBINES RUNNING AT ARDNACRUSHA THERE CAN BE VERY HIGH FLOW , UP TO 17KNOTS FLOW IN THE ABBEY RIVER
- TURBINES RUNNING CAUSES 8 KNOT FLOW MAKING USE OF NAVIGATION IMPOSSIBLE FOR MOST USERS
- VERY FEW BOATS WILL RISK NAVIGATION AT MEDIUM TO HIGH FLOW RATE
  - GOING UPSTREAM , BOAT NEEDS TO BE ABLE TO OVERCOME THE FLOW
  - GOING DOWNSTREAM , BOAT NEEDS TO GO FASTER THAN THE FLOW TO BE ABLE TO STEER
- 90DEGREE TURN AT ABBEY BRIDGE MAKES IT LIKELY THAT A BOAT COULD GET PUSHED UP AGAINST THE WALL OR HIT THE BRIDGE



# CHALLENGES FOR SMALL BOATS

- LIMERICK NAVIGATION IS TIDAL
  - SMALL BOATS GENERALLY HAVE LOW DRAFT AND LOW HEIGHT
  - USE OF NAVIGATION CAN BE MORE OR LESS ANYTIME
  - HIGH FLOW MAKES IT DANGEROUS FOR SMALL BOATS
  - LARGE BOATS HAVE TO GO FASTER THAN THE FLOW AND THE 90DEGREE BLIND TURN AT ABBEY BRIDGE MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO SEE WHAT'S IN THE RIVER BEFORE COMMITTING TO GOING THROUGH ABBEY BRIDGE, SMALL BOAT IN THE WAY IS AN ACCIDENT WAITING TO HAPPEN
- INSUFFICIENT MOORING FOR SMALL BOATS MEANS THEY USE MOORINGS FOR LARGE BOATS



# CHALLENGES FOR LARGE BOATS

- LIMERICK NAVIGATION IS TIDAL
  - LARGE BOAT NAVIGATION IS A COMPROMISE BETWEEN WATER DEPTH AND AIR BETWEEN WATER AND BRIDGE.
  - MOST USEFUL TIME IS AT HALF TIDE WHEN THERE IS SUFFICIENT WATER DEPTH AND AIR GAP.
  - NEEDS TO BE MINIMAL WATER FLOW DURING THESE TIMES TO MAKE THE JOURNEY SAFE AND PLEASANT.
- MARINA NEEDS TO BE SECURE TO PREVENT BOAT DAMAGE OTHERWISE BOAT OWNERS WILL NOT STAY.
- INSUFFICIENT MOORINGS FOR SMALL BOATS MEANS A MOORING IN LIMERICK MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE SO NO PLACE TO STOP.

# CHALLENGE FOR ALL BOATS - LOCK OPENING

- LOCK CAN ONLY BE OPENED AT CERTAIN STATE OF THE TIDE
  - WHEN THE WATER ON BOTH SIDES ARE EQUAL
  - 2HRS EITHER SIDE OF LOW TIDE , - INSUFFICIENT WATER DEPTH DOWNSTREAM OF LOCK
- LOCK CURRENTLY NEEDS A LOCK KEEPER TO OPEN AND CLOSE
  - 20/4/2017 WATERWAYS IRELAND ANNOUNCED A 1 HOUR OPENING ONE DAY PER WEEK
    - NAVIGATION IS EFFECTIVELY CLOSED TO MOST BOATS
      - TAKES NO ACCOUNT OF WEATHER OR WATER FLOW OR WATER HEIGHT
      - IF YOU MISS THE HOUR YOU HAVE TO WAIT A WEEK
- BOATS OWNERS WISHING TO TRANSIT IN EITHER DIRECTION NEED TO KNOW THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE AT A SUITABLE TIDE STATE.

# LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL RIVER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT

- LIMERICK OPEN NAVIGATION HAVE SIGNIFICANT CONCERNS REGARDING THE IMPACT OF A LOW BRIDGE OR BRIDGE SUPPORTS INCREASING THE OBSTACLES TO NAVIGATION IN LIMERICK AND WOULD OPPOSE THEM IF THEY IMPACT ON NAVIGATION
- CURRENT PROPOSALS HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO PREVENT / BLOCK ANY NAVIGATION THROUGH LIMERICK
- WHILE WE SUPPORT RELEVANT AND APPROPRIATE INFRASTRUCTURE ,WE WOULD NOT SUPPORT ANY INFRASTRUCTURE THAT WOULD IMPEDE OR FURTHER RESTRICT NAVIGATION AROUND AND THROUGH LIMERICK.
- WE ARE WILLING AND EAGER TO ENGAGE IN CONSULTATION ON THE POSSIBLE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS FOR LIMERICK CITY RIVERS AND CANALS
- IN LIGHT OF LIMERICK 2030 ASPIRATIONS SHOULD WE NOT CAPITALISE ON THE POTENTIALS OF THE RIVER AND CANALS AND INVEST IN APPROPRIATE RIVER INFRASTRUCTURE

# POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS

- PUBLISHED TIMES OF ZERO TURBINES AT APPROPRIATE TIDE STATE SO THAT THERE ARE KNOWN TIMES FOR SAFE BOAT MOVEMENT
- AUTOMATE LOCK OPENING SO THAT LOCK KEEPER IS NOT REQUIRED
- DEVELOP GROVE ISLAND AND OR PARK CANAL AS MOORINGS
  - MEANS BOATS DON'T HAVE TO NAVIGATE BRIDGES UNLESS TRANSITING OUT TO ESTUARY
  - PROVIDES SAFER SECURE MOORINGS FOR VISITORS AND REGULAR USERS



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

QUESTIONS ???

