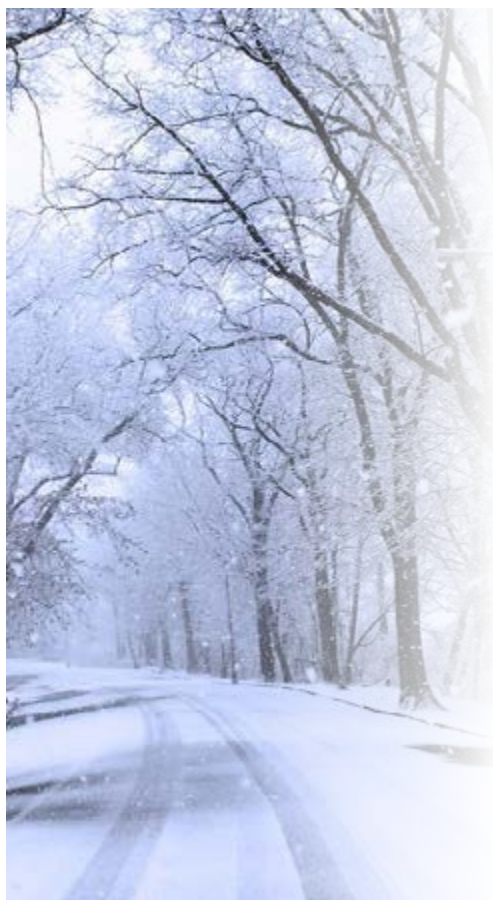




## Getting ready for Winter Driving



As the evenings start to draw in and the weather turns autumnal, it's a great time to start thinking about getting your car ready for winter driving.

Your mechanic should check;

- Brakes are properly functioning,
- Anti-freeze levels are correct – ideally 50/50 ratio,
- The battery is still effective and can cope with colder temperatures and increased usage,
- Tyre tread - whilst 1.6mm is the legal limit, ideally 3mm for winter driving and
- Lights are all functioning,

including full beam, fog lights and indicators.

A careful driver will also be thinking about how they will modify their driving including always wearing their seatbelt and extra precautions they might take to cope with any weather related eventuality.

Allow yourself additional space and time in slippery or wet conditions and you should make manoeuvres smoothly with no harsh acceleration or braking.

Carry a cold weather kit in your car to include a shovel, torch, blanket, hi-visibility vest, screen wash, food and drink supplies, scraper and de-icer, and even snow grips for your shoes in case you need to walk to safety.

Keep your windscreen clean, regularly check your washer and anti-freeze levels and check the

condition of your wiper blades. There's nothing worse than your view being obscured due to wipers that don't effectively clear the screen.

Finally, don't let your fuel tank drift into the red, make sure your phone is fully charged/ carry a charger. If poor weather is forecast check **TrafficwatchNI** for travel up-dates, leave yourself more time for your journey and lastly, always remember to respect everyone's journey and drive safely.



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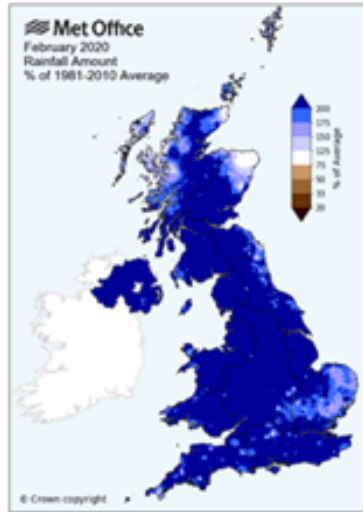
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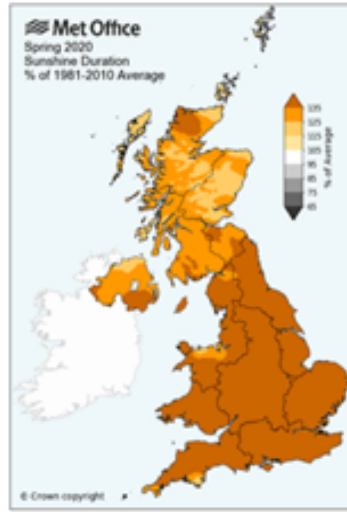
# Weather Summary

Thus far, 2020 has been a notable year weather wise. In February storms Ciara and Dennis gave wet and windy conditions and contributed to the wettest February on record in Northern Ireland with 222mm smashing the previous record of 194mm in 1990.

Flooding of some low lying roads in Fermanagh and Tyrone was a feature of this period though Northern Ireland in general was spared the worst compared to England and Wales.



A dramatic change occurred in March however as fine, sunny and very dry conditions became established for nearly 3 months. It was the second driest spring since 1900 and the sunniest spring on record with 564 hours of sunshine. The combination of dry and sunny conditions led to water resource issues and a heightened wildfire risk for many areas.



Rainfall has since returned to more normal levels, August turned out to be the wettest since 2008 making the summer season rather disappointing and relatively cool for holidaying at home.

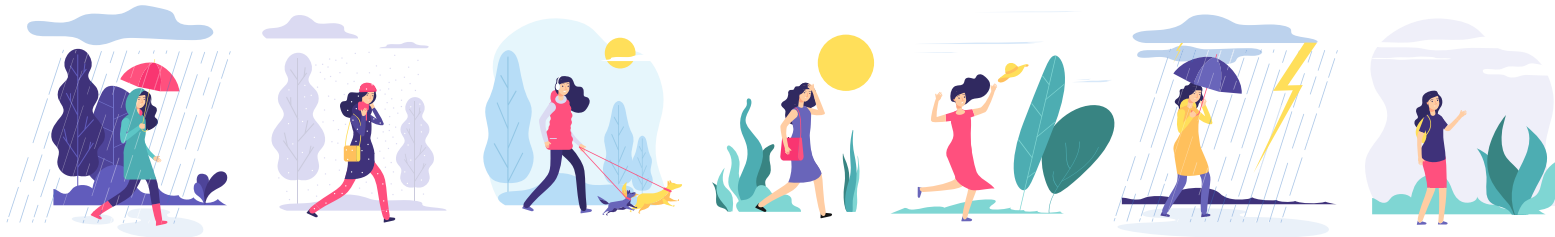
## All Island Warnings

In June Met Éireann updated their website to include the display of Met Office warnings issued for Northern Ireland. This will ensure that citizens

who travel across the border for work or other activities have access to the latest warnings, allowing them the opportunity to prepare for cross-border weather events.

The Met Office and Met Éireann agreed upon this as part of their partnership work and better sharing of warnings across Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Both organisations have collaborated on the high profile storm naming project and this initiative will build on that working relationship with further co-operation expected due to our shared weather systems.

The Met Office is always keen to ensure the communication of our National Severe Weather Warning Service (NSWWS) is as accessible and understandable as possible. With this aim in mind the way we communicate severe weather warnings is constantly under review and we may consider including Met Éireann warnings on our channels in future.



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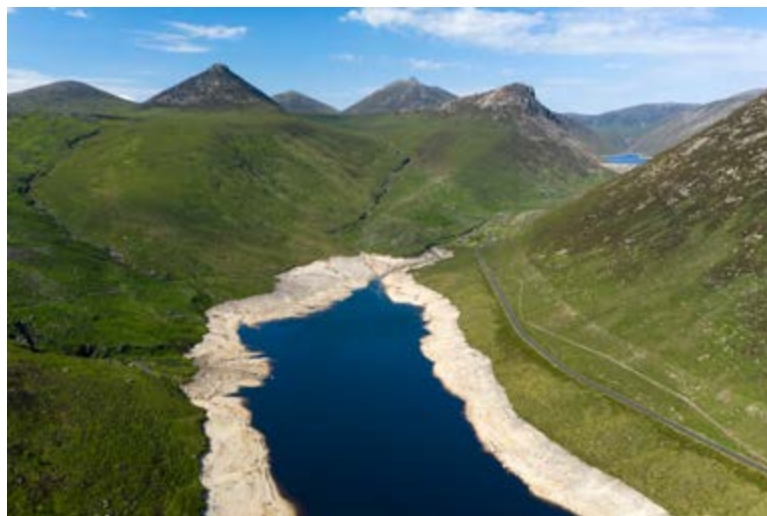
# NI Water – Demand Surge & Water Efficiency Campaign

Water plays an essential role in the battle against Covid 19 with regular, thorough handwashing and staying hydrated being advised as two of the main ways to fight it.

With many people based at home from early April NI Water saw a significant increase in household water use which was largely offset by a reduction in business water use with many businesses forced to close.

However the hot sunny weather in May saw a further huge spike in household water use. This has not only significantly heightened demand for water pushing our Water Treatment Works to their limits but as there had been little to no rain since March reservoir levels had dropped to worrying levels. The challenge was to launch a public information campaign for customers to reduce water use and ensure there was enough water for everyone's basic hygiene needs.

In order to avoid a potential drought situation, NI Water encouraged people to save water around the home and garden. The campaign was



Silent Valley reservoir

wide ranging from interactive videos on social media, to TV and radio advertisements. For example, NI Water encouraged everyone to save just 30 litres of water per day with 3 simple steps:

1. **Shorten your shower by 1 min - this would save 7 litres per day;**
2. **Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth - this would save 12 litres a day**
3. **Put a jug in the fridge instead of running the tap (6 glasses of water), this would save 12 litres a day.**

These small changes were not only relatable but also easily achievable by everyone and would make a big difference to our water storage levels.

Going one step further, the team regionalised this advice and actively showed customers a recent drone photo of their reservoir showing how the levels had dropped.

All of it was then backed up by a live interactive map on niwater.com where a simple click would display where your water comes from and what level the reservoir was sitting at.

The campaign as a whole was a resounding success with colleagues in the clean water side of our business seeing an improving situation week on week; demand and water use had reduced. This, coupled with recent rainfall, has seen most reservoirs fully recover.

If you would like some FREE water saving items for your home such as a shower timer, a toothy timer for the kids or a leaky loo pack, then visit [www.savewater.savemoney.co.uk](http://www.savewater.savemoney.co.uk)

NI Water is also encouraging customers to sign up to its free text alert service which keeps them updated about anything that may impact on their water supply or any of our other services in the area. Sign up here [www.niwater.com/register-for-keeping-you-informed/](http://www.niwater.com/register-for-keeping-you-informed/)



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# Introducing the Traffic Information and Control Centre

Some drivers travelling into Belfast from the Bangor direction may have noticed the oddly shaped 'bee hive' structure from the Sydenham by pass just before Dee Street. This building is the storage barn for the winter salt supplies for greater Belfast.

Tucked quietly behind the salt barn, is the home of the Traffic Information and Control Centre (TICC). TICC is a state of the art operation comprising a staff of 24 people involved in the control of traffic on the urban and motorway networks and the provision of traffic information. The TICC team now operates on a 24/7 basis.

## Traffic Control

Operators use a computerised Urban Traffic Control (UTC) system which allows them to monitor and control the traffic signals at junctions and to make changes to timings if necessary. Around 180 CCTV cameras provide a visual aid

to help monitor the network. The cameras cover Belfast City Centre, the motorway network and many other key areas. A Motorway Control System allows them to set the overhead signs and signals on the M1, M2 and Westlink.

When incidents occur, staff in TICC work closely with other organisations to manage these as effectively as possible, to ensure that the network is safe and is operating to its best capability. Also planned events can have special traffic management plans implemented to ensure that journey times are optimised for patrons. Regular meetings are held with stakeholders including PSNI, Belfast City Council, SSE Arena, Titanic Belfast and Belfast Harbour Police to name a few.

## Social media

A key outcome of monitoring and managing the road network is the provision of up to date and accurate information to the public and local radio stations. This is done via the TrafficwatchNI website, via email alerts and instantly to over 59,000 twitter subscribers. All dynamic information on the website is verified visually by the operators or by communication with the PSNI.

## Network management

Other work areas within the TICC remit include the Network Management team, the Travel Information Team (including Real time Passenger Information for Metro Buses, bus priority and motorway signs, signals and telephones) the Signal Installation and Maintenance Team, and the Road Safety Team.

## In summary

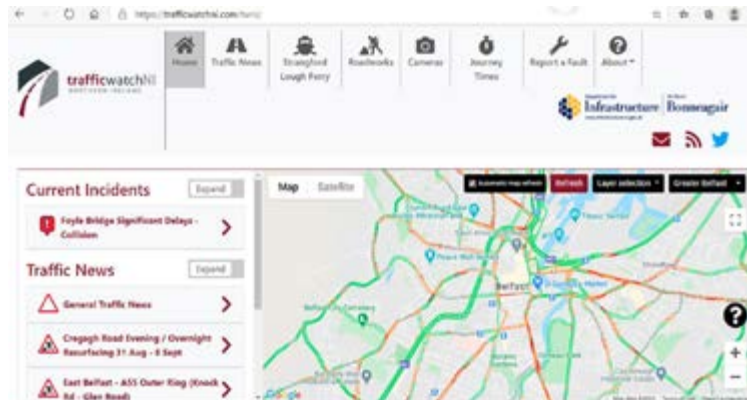
No two days are the same in the TICC. Incidents are unpredictable and can often be affected by the weather. Using the UTC system, the traffic cameras and their experience, staff aim to ensure that at least with regard to traffic management, the network copes to its very best ability.



Stephen Sherwin, TICC control room operator



Warning sign on Foyle bridge



A sample trafficwatchni social media post



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# Power Cut Ready

Over recent months, homes across Northern Ireland have felt the importance of being prepared and having the supplies they need.

As we head into the winter season NIE Networks are calling on domestic and business customers across Northern Ireland to make preparations ahead of winter.

NIE Networks is working continuously to ensure the resilience and performance of the electricity network, but still wants customers

to think ahead as supply can be affected by natural events, with severe winter weather potentially causing significant damage.

Trevor Harron, Network Operations Manager for NIE Networks, wants to ensure every customer is winter ready, particularly those who are more vulnerable or reliant on power.

“We work all year round to ensure the network continues to perform to the highest standard, as well as making sure we are as storm ready as possible. Preparation is still important though and we particularly want customers within the agricultural industry, rural communities and those who have



critical healthcare needs, to take the necessary steps to ensure that any duration of power cut is manageable.”

Customers can take a number of actions to prepare for an unexpected power cut including locating their trip switch, stocking up on battery powered lights and having the **NIE Networks Customer Helpline number 03457 643 643** easily to hand.

The NIE Networks website is another excellent resource for providing customers the facility to report a power cut online and access to

Powercheck which provides reliable and real time information about a power cut and the status of restoration.

Those customers who are dependent on life supporting medical equipment are encouraged to apply to the NIE Networks Medical Customer Care Register to receive regular information during a power cut.

For further information about what you can do to prepare for winter, to access Powercheck, or to report a power cut, please visit [www.nienetworks.co.uk](http://www.nienetworks.co.uk)



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# What is the Resilience Strategy for Northern Ireland?

In March 2020, The Civil Contingencies Resilience Strategy for Northern Ireland was endorsed and the name of the Sub Regional Civil Emergencies Group (SCEP) was changed to the Northern Ireland Emergency Preparedness Group.



This change along with structural changes has enabled the development of a one-team, coordinated approach to emergency planning, response and recovery across the Emergency Preparedness Group (EPG) co-ordination areas.

The aim of the strategy is; “to ensure robust, properly resourced civil contingencies arrangements are in place that deliver a sustainable and effective multi agency planning, response and recovery structures to support resilience in Northern Ireland.”

The Strategy provides the road map for the Local Government Civil Contingencies Team to work towards achieving this aim. In order to progress, four strategic priorities have been identified:

- Firstly, and most importantly we want to enhance public preparedness for any emergency situation. In order to achieve this, we must fulfil the other priorities;
    - Developing, maintaining and enhancing mutually beneficial strategic partnerships with statutory agencies, the community and voluntary sector and the public to enhance resilience across Northern Ireland;
    - Developing these arrangements, on a risk prioritised basis to prevent, mitigate, respond to and recover from emergencies;
    - Growing capacity, capability and competence across our own team and our partner organisations,
- including the community and voluntary sector to deliver the strategic aims.

The outworking of this Strategy benefits the entire public sector and so many partner organisations across the three EPG areas in Northern Ireland and indeed reaches across to structures both in Great Britain and the Republic of Ireland. [Click here to read more about the Resilience Strategy.](#)

The team has recently recruited 3 Resilience Officers - Tara Cunningham, Anne Gallagher and Sandra Morton. These 3 officers will work alongside the Resilience Managers and the Civil Contingencies Co-Ordinator to help all involved to fulfil the important aims of the strategy.

## Lockdown Help for Farms to become More Resilient

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council teamed up with the Woodland Trust to invite interested members of the farming community to sign up for a farm plan project.

This is the second year of a project which is working closely with farmers to partner them in trialling a new approach to delivering sustainable, improved and diversified farm businesses.

The project focuses on the use of ‘green infrastructure’ and management changes as an essential part of farming production. As part of the project, there will be

a chance for some farmers to get a farm plan specific to their individual needs and ideas going forward. The farmer can also be provided with assistance in exploring potential funding opportunities.

Farming is the mainstay of the rural community forming the bedrock of the rural economy in the area. However, there can be no doubt that farming, especially hill farming, is

coming under significant pressure, with increases in costs and decreasing profits.

With time and money at a premium, many farmers are now looking for more efficient ways to make farming pay. One such option involves exploring the benefits of green and



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living infrastructures such as hedges, trees, sward changes and even stock changes.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Chairperson, Councillor Laura Devlin said: "Outside shelter from hedges and trees are vitally important in protecting swards and stock and if properly planned can be a vital tool towards farm viability.

Trees prove an important contribution in reducing water from soil which is a major factor in the production of fluke, whilst species rich swards can increase growing season and reduce the amounts of artificial fertilizer required."

The Woodland Trust, as a charity that supports the planting of trees and hedges, know that they need to work closely with farmers and help support them in their primary business of food production.

Shelter and trees are only part of a bigger picture and for that reason the farm survey work will, when required, offer support and signposting towards information of pasture management, stock changes and diversification opportunities and more.

To find out more, check out the recorded information night on the Ring of Gullion Youtube Channel [www.youtube.com/](http://www.youtube.com/)

There is a limited number of farm plans available - to find out more contact Michael Topping, Outreach Adviser for the Woodland Trust.

**Mobile: 07990 567 014**

**Email: [MichaelTopping@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:MichaelTopping@woodlandtrust.org.uk)**



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# StopCOVID NI

## DOWNLOAD THE APP NOW



Learn more at [nidirect.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://nidirect.gov.uk/coronavirus)

**WE ALL MUST DO IT TO GET THROUGH IT**



STAY SAFE



SAVE LIVES

# Test Trace Protect Needs Everyone's Support



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Test ✓  
Trace ✓  
Protect ✓



As 'lockdown' restrictions are eased, we face the risk of a second wave of infection. We can all help minimise that risk by continuing to support public health measures to control the spread, such as testing and contact tracing.

Testing and contact tracing helps break the chain of transmission of the virus. By identifying people who have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus, and asking them to self-isolate, we can limit the onward spread (reproduction) of the virus. Keeping the reproduction (R) number low allows us to continue moving towards more normal family, working and social lives. Friends and family can see each other, and schools and businesses can reopen. It will also help to protect our health service from being overwhelmed.

Testing and contact tracing will only work if we all play our part. This means:

- **get tested if we have symptoms;**
- **help with contact tracing;**
- **self-isolate when we are advised to.**

Along with social distancing and hygiene precautions, testing and tracing is our best chance to protect our communities from coronavirus.

### TEST TRACE PROTECT A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

Test ✓ Trace ✓ Protect ✓

<div style="text-align: center; border-bottom: 1px solid black;"> <b>1</b>    <b>SPOT THE SYMPTOMS</b> </div> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">If you have a new persistent cough, fever or loss of or change in sense of taste and smell, you and everyone in your house should immediately self-isolate.</p>	<div style="text-align: center; border-bottom: 1px solid black;"> <b>2</b>    <b>REQUEST A TEST NOW</b> </div> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Visit <a href="http://nidirect.gov.uk/coronavirus">nidirect.gov.uk/coronavirus</a> to book a test online. Call 119 if you cannot book a test online.</p>	<div style="text-align: center; border-bottom: 1px solid black;"> <b>3</b>    <b>ISOLATE</b> </div> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Isolate for 7 days after symptoms appear, longer if fever continues (until at least 48 hours after your temperature returns to normal). Other people you live with should isolate for 14 days.</p>
<div style="text-align: center; border-bottom: 1px solid black;"> <b>4</b>    <b>GET TESTED</b> </div> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Testing is carried out at drive through testing centres and you must arrive by car (not on foot, via public transport, by taxi or by any other means). Home tests are also available.</p>	<div style="text-align: center; border-bottom: 1px solid black;"> <b>5</b>    <b>GET RESULTS</b> </div> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">You should receive results within 72 hours. If you test negative for coronavirus you and your household can stop isolating.</p>	<div style="text-align: center; border-bottom: 1px solid black;"> <b>6</b>    <b>PROVIDE DETAILS</b> </div> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">If you test positive for coronavirus Public Health Agency (PHA) contact tracers will call you from the number 028 9536 8888. They will ask you who you have had contact with recently.</p>
<div style="text-align: center; border-bottom: 1px solid black;"> <b>7</b>    <b>PHA INFORMS CONTACTS</b> </div> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">If you have coronavirus, the PHA will contact the people you have had close contact with. Your name will not be shared unless you give permission. All data will be held securely.</p>	<div style="text-align: center; border-bottom: 1px solid black;"> <b>8</b>    <b>CLOSE CONTACTS ASKED TO ISOLATE</b> </div> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Close contacts will be asked to isolate for 14 days from the last time they had contact with you.</p>	<div style="text-align: center; border-bottom: 1px solid black;"> <b>9</b>    <b>HOUSEHOLD OF CLOSE CONTACTS</b> </div> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">If the close contact has no symptoms, others in the household don't need to isolate. If the close contact develops symptoms, they should follow this guide starting at step 1.</p>

When you can leave home, stay safe and continue to follow public health advice.

- Wash your hands well and often and avoid touching your face.
- Keep your distance from others when outside the home.
- Cough or sneeze into your elbow or a tissue and dispose of the tissue in a bin.

**You can spread the virus even if you don't have symptoms.**

Throughout the pandemic, your support in following public health guidelines has been vital in reducing the spread of coronavirus. By doing so, you have saved lives.



# #BeReadyNI Campaign September 2020

## It's important to be ready for the emergencies which can happen in everyday life.

September was preparedness month and lots of agencies joined the #BeReadyNI and #30Days30WaysUK campaigns to share information and advice on how you can help yourself to be more prepared. Here's a taste of some of the key messages and links:

- There's lot of advice and information on being ready for emergencies at [nidirect.gov](https://nidirect.gov).

[uk/emergencies](#) including things like having a household emergency plan, an emergency kit and developing a community emergency plan for your area.

- How important it is to wash your hands and follow the public health advice to try to reduce the number of people getting coronavirus. This year it is also important that everyone who is eligible gets their winter flu vaccine. All the most up to date advice and information on coronavirus can be found on the NI Direct and Public Health Agency NI websites.
- You should keep up to date

with the weather at [metoffice.gov.uk](https://metoffice.gov.uk) and sign up to their email alert service to receive weather warnings for your area. As we head towards winter, it's important to prepare your home, your car and your family for the colder weather. Make sure you are signed up to the NIE Networks or NI Water critical care registers if you rely on electricity or water due to a medical condition.

- What to do in different emergencies such as a fire, power cut, flood or cold weather and who you can call for help. You can now see real time

information on power cuts on the NIE Networks website and water outages on the NI Water website.

- How important volunteers are to help us in emergencies including those who give blood or provide first aid.
- Being safe near water and what to do if you get into trouble including how to 'float to live'.
- That we need to plan for our children, pets and animals as they can be affected by emergencies too.
- If you need more information, take a look at the [NI Direct website](#).

## Get your flu vaccine

This year we are facing the double threat of COVID-19 and influenza. Early studies show that for some people with both COVID-19 and flu virus there is an increased risk of complications and death.

Each year the flu vaccine protects against the most common strains of flu likely to be circulating. Currently there is no vaccine against COVID-19 and it is more important than ever to be sure to get the flu vaccine this year.

If you are pregnant, suffer from a medical condition or are aged 65 or over, it's more important than ever for you to get the flu vaccine. For details of other groups who should get the vaccine see the '[Flu is more serious than you think](#)' leaflet.

Contact your GP surgery to find out the arrangements for flu vaccination in your practice.



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# Toome Road Flood Alleviation Scheme Progressing Well



A look back to construction work on site at Wakehurst Road - June 2020

Work commenced on this £2 million Flood Alleviation Scheme for the Toome Road area in September 2019 and is now nearing completion.

This project is being undertaken to resolve historical internal and external 'out of sewer' flooding issues in the Toome Road/Wakehurst Road area of Ballymena. When complete this will bring significant benefits, improving and increasing the capacity of the existing sewerage system in the area and substantially reducing the risk of future flooding.

The project involves the upgrade of the existing sewers, as well as the installation of new sewers on Wakehurst Park, and Wakehurst Road. Construction of a large storage tank is also now substantially complete on land adjacent to the council playing fields at Wakehurst Road.

Recent work has included the upgrade and realignment of sewers on Wakehurst Road, and sewer laying is now in progress on Wakehurst

Park. The final stages will involve the reinstatement of these roads, as well as landscaping of the site on Wakehurst Road.

NI Water will continue to work with the Department for Infrastructure and all our local stakeholders regarding the programming and traffic management arrangements for the final stages of these works and would like to thank the public for their ongoing patience and cooperation while we complete this scheme.

BSG Civil Engineering is the main contractor for this major programme of work with McAdam Design providing Project Management and technical support.



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# Derry City and Strabane District Council adopt Climate Change Adaptation Plan

**Derry City and Strabane District Council have become the first council area in Northern Ireland to adopt a Climate Change Adaptation Plan.**

The Adaptation Plan will ensure the Council is prepared for and resilient to the effects of climate change with aims to increase capacity to respond; to raise awareness of the impacts of climate change across the City & District; and to lead by example and work collaboratively to ensure resilience and deliver climate adaptation.

This includes continuing to work with local and regional partners to deliver resilience and preparedness to severe weather events and flooding.

The associated Adaptation Action Plan will be delivered by the relevant teams across Council and implementation will be monitored by the All-Party Climate Adaptation Working Group. This was established in June 2019 to discuss and debate

climate change issues globally, regionally and locally.

Council has also committed to wider climate action through a Climate Change Emergency Pledge.

The Climate Change Emergency Pledge outlines the Council's climate action commitments, including a shift to net zero greenhouse gas emissions across the city and district by 2045. The Pledge and accompanying action plan includes working across Council and with other relevant agencies and stakeholders to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change impacts now and in the future.

Alderman Maurice Devenney, Chair of the Environment and Regeneration Committee, said the adoption of the pledge and adaptation plan was a significant step forward.

“Climate change is a prevalent issue, and as a Council we have been proactive in tackling it.

“This Climate Change Adaptation Plan is informative, innovative and robust in setting out the actions we will take to

reduce the threat of climate change to Council, and beyond.

“Our Climate Change Emergency Pledge also highlights our commitments both in the short and long term, and it will build on the work that Council have already been

carrying out to address climate change.

“This is a significant step, and I'm glad that as a Council we are leading the way in tackling climate change.”



**A copy of the report and of the Climate Change Emergency Pledge and Climate Adaptation Plan can be viewed here:**  
[www.derrystrabane.com/climate](http://www.derrystrabane.com/climate)

**For more information contact DCSDC Climate Programme Manager Cathy Burns – [cathy.burns@derrystrabane.com](mailto:cathy.burns@derrystrabane.com)**



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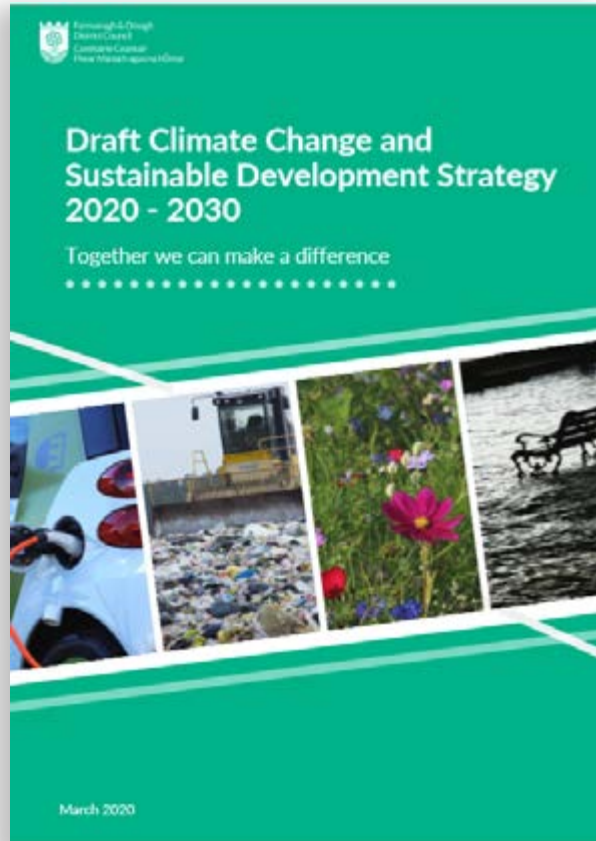
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# Consultation opens on draft Fermanagh and Omagh District Council Climate Change and Sustainable Development Strategy



Climate change has been recognised internationally as the most important environmental challenge that we currently face.

We know that our local climate is changing, it is becoming less stable with incidents of severe weather, including heavy rainfall and storms happening much more frequently.

The media has graphically shown the effects of major flooding in some communities, traffic chaos during heavy snows and empty reservoirs in summer droughts.

The Council's draft Climate Change and Sustainable Development Strategy sets out some practical steps which can be taken, over the coming years, to minimise climate change impacts on our day to day lives. The Strategy also suggests ways in which we can try to counter the severity of this climate emergency.

The Strategy and associated Action Plans will be delivered by various service areas within the Council. The Council's Cross-Party Climate Change Resilience Group developed the Strategy and will monitor progress at their quarterly meetings.

Commenting on the Strategy, Cllr Chris McCaffrey, Chair of the Fermanagh and Omagh District Council Cross Party Climate Change Resilience Group said:

“Climate change is a top priority for the Council and we recognise that we must take action now to not only adapt to the effects of climate change that have already been realised but also to take steps to mitigate against further future impacts. We really want to hear the public's views and would encourage individuals, groups and organisations to respond to our consultation.”

Copies of the consultation documents are available by:  
Downloading the documents from the Council website:  
[www.fermanaghomagh.com/your-council/consultations/draft-climate-change-and-sustainable-development-strategy-2020-2030/](http://www.fermanaghomagh.com/your-council/consultations/draft-climate-change-and-sustainable-development-strategy-2020-2030/)

Telephoning the Council:  
0300 303 1777

Textphone: 028 8225 6216

Email:  
[consultations@fermanaghomagh.com](mailto:consultations@fermanaghomagh.com)

Closing date for consultation responses is Fri 30 Oct 2020.

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# Community Groups contribute to NI Resilience Strategy

Representatives of Community Resilience Groups from Ahoghill, Broughshane, Toome Road Ballymena and Martinstown welcomed Joan McCaffrey, Regional Officer: Local Government Civil Contingencies to a consultation workshop in the Council offices.

Joan provided the group with information about the new Resilience Strategy which sets out priorities for 2020 - 2025 and the arrangements in place to ensure communities in Northern Ireland are as resilient as possible to respond to and recover from emergencies. She recognised the many years of experience members had in working through the implications of flooding and severe weather. She stressed the importance of incorporating this knowledge and learning in the process of developing strategic direction and plans.

The importance of statutory, voluntary and community groups working together with local people was reiterated as members shared their own experiences of flooding and severe weather and how their multi-agency arrangements worked in practice.

Members also described the impact on individuals and families such as the resulting stress, pressure on their own mental health, practicalities restoring homes and accessing insurance. Many of these impacts are still being felt today as members continue to try to protect their homes from severe weather events.



Representatives from Community Resilience groups join consultation workshop

Joan welcomed their views and reiterated the importance of listening to communities and adapting policies and procedures to meet emerging needs. Members thanked Joan and the Community Resilience partners, acknowledging the support they have received over the years and said they were looking forward to hearing more as the strategy is implemented.

Robert Getty from Ahoghill Community Resilience Group said, "Having contacts within statutory agencies and advance warning of weather events has helped us enormously. We still worry about the impact of heavy rain and snow and ice but we are now more prepared and know how to get help quickly. It is also good to be involved in this process and have a way to raise issues as they arise."

Further information about the community resilience groups in Mid and East Antrim Borough Council area can be found at [www.midandeantrim.gov.uk/resident/environmental-health/community-resilience](http://www.midandeantrim.gov.uk/resident/environmental-health/community-resilience) along with other useful information about how to ensure your community and your own household is resilient to flooding and severe weather.

CIVIL CONTINGENCIES  
**RESILIENCE  
STRATEGY**  
FOR NORTHERN IRELAND  
2020-2025



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# Emergency Numbers

No matter how prepared we are for inclement weather, there's always the chance of an emergency at home. Here's a list of phone numbers you might find useful should the unforeseen happen:

Emergency Services:  
**999 or 112**

Housing Executive:  
**03448 920 901**

Northern Ireland  
Electricity Networks:  
**03457 643643**

NI Gas Emergency Service:  
**0800 002 001**

NI Water Waterline:  
**03457 440088**

Flooding Incident Line:  
**0300 2000 100**

For advice and information on dealing with emergencies visit:  
[www.nidirect.gov.uk/  
be-ready-for-emergencies](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/be-ready-for-emergencies)

Problems with Roads & Streets:  
[www.nidirect.gov.uk/  
information-and-services/  
travel-transport-and-roads/  
problems-roads-and-streets](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/travel-transport-and-roads/problems-roads-and-streets)

# GETTING WEATHER READY



Regional Community  
Resilience Group

The Regional Community Resilience Group Newsletter aims to keep its members up to date on getting weather ready.

## Partner Organisations:



The Regional Community Resilience Group (RCRG) was formed in 2013 to help local communities prepare for and respond to weather related emergencies.

The group brings together Multi-Agency Partner Organisations from government, utilities and the voluntary sector to work for and with Communities at Risk of Severe Weather.

The RCRG aims to provide a forum to facilitate co-ordination, communication, partnership working and capacity building on community resilience issues. The group is currently working with over 30 communities across Northern Ireland ready to inform and resource

them and improve preparedness and community resilience measures.

Unfortunately, severe weather events will continue to occur but through good communication, accessible, reliable information and established practical measures, communities can and have applied self-help measures to reduce impacts and protect property.

This newsletter will be used to highlight important developments to enhance community resilience, provide an opportunity for communities to share experiences to the benefit of others and highlight key responder contacts to help readers to **Get Weather Ready!**



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