



**Narrow Water Bridge  
Community Network  
PRESS RELEASE**

The Chairman of the Narrow Water Bridge Community Network, speaking at a special meeting of the local action group that has campaigned for a bridge at Narrow Water for many years, has expressed, on behalf of his members, deep disappointment at the result of the EU referendum.

“Leaving the EU will have serious economic consequences for Northern Ireland and the border region in particular will be negatively affected,” said Mr Jim Boylan. “Northern Ireland has benefitted enormously from UK membership of the EU and it is totally ironic that, despite a convincing vote to remain in the EU, the region will now be denied this essential economic support. In any new economic regimen that is likely to develop from Brexit it is highly questionable that Westminster will close any EU funding gap in important infrastructural projects such as the bridge.”

“This is a very depressing turn of events for the people of the Carlingford Lough Area” said Mr Boylan. “This retrograde and distinctly unwelcome step will put at risk critical cross-border infrastructural projects such as the Narrow Water Bridge. However we picked ourselves up in the wake of the catastrophic letting down at the eleventh hour in 2013 when the project, despite the approval of both governments and the promise of substantial financial support from the EU failed to go ahead. The NWBCN would like to assure the communities around the lough that campaign to build the bridge at Narrow Water will continue.”

Ahead of the North South Ministerial meeting which takes place in Dublin on Monday, Mr Boylan, is calling upon the First and Deputy First Minister, the Taoiseach and the leaders of all political parties North and South to work together with Westminster and Brussels to ensure that the special status of Northern Ireland, set out in the Good Friday Agreement, is maintained.

“We need a bridge not a border to provide the vital interconnector between Cooley, Gullion and Mourne, areas of outstanding natural beauty which are the heart of the tourist development strategies of both Newry Mourne & Down and Louth County Council,” said Mr Boylan.

4 Mary Street, Warrenpoint, Co Down Northern Ireland BT34 3NT  
Tel: +44 (0)7821247857 email: [narrowwaterbridgecommunity@gmail.com](mailto:narrowwaterbridgecommunity@gmail.com)