

Water restored: Cork County Council Statement

Contributed by Tom O'Sullivan -- Cork County Council
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The following statement has just been issued by Cork County Council. Many thanks to Con Downing at the Southern Star for passing it on. [CJ, RCAG]

RE: Water Shortage in Clonakilty Area

Cork County Council wish to apologise to their customers for recent water problems in Clonakilty especially in the Reenascreena area. Water has now been restored to all areas with satisfactory pressure in all but the most elevated areas.

The problems arose from a number of factors

- Increased demand due to weather conditions
- Low water level at source
- System operation difficulties

The combination of these factors resulted in a drop in water available at the main supply reservoir which has had a knock on effect on the distribution network and outlying reservoirs.

Unfortunately, Reenascreena reservoir is at the end of the network, is elevated and has limited storage capacity. This means that Reenascreena is the first to be affected by any network problems and the last to be restored.

Problems with the booster pump capacity and back-up pumps have been rectified but these pumps can only pump if there is adequate water to the network and due to the increased overall demand over the past couple of weeks and the reduced capacity at the main reservoir, the pumps were not able to work to capacity.

Cork Co Co has been drawing water by tanker to the Reenascreena area since last Thursday.

As of yesterday (Tuesday) the main reservoir is at a level to sustain the system and the level at Reenascreena reservoir has built up but not yet to a level where it can fill the local network. It is a slow process because there is air in the system which has to be "bled" out.

There is no basis to claims that water has been diverted to feed urban or holiday areas. Supply was maintained in the town and holiday areas because they are at a lower elevation which will draw the water first.

Water conservation notices have been issued to inform people of the need to cut back on usage for gardening, car washing, etc, during the dry spell and to remedy any leaks in their system. The public are also asked to notify Cork Co Co of any leaks in the public distribution system so they can be repaired and prevent water loss.

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