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## RITCHIE: NARROW WATER SHOULD BE CELEBRATED FOR TOURISM AND JOB CREATION NOT GLORIFICATION OF VIOLENCE

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**SDLP Social Development Minister Margaret Ritchie has slammed the proposed Sinn Fein ‘field trip’ to Narrow Water in County Down, the scene of one of the worst atrocities of the entire troubles.**

**The visit is party of a forthcoming Sinn Fein youth conference in the area but the South Down Assembly Member said people should think about Narrow Water in terms of tourism and job creation.**

Minister Ritchie said: “I think it speaks volumes that Sinn Fein is encouraging our young people to wallow in the horrors and violence of the past rather than face the more challenging task of building a better future.

“There is nothing whatsoever to celebrate about the multiple murders that took place at Narrow Water all those years ago. It is outrageous that a party that proclaims its concern for victims of the troubles should behave in such an insensitive and shameful way.

“It is time to look forward for all of us. When people in County Down and beyond think about Narrow Water I want them to be thinking about the beautiful setting , the potential for tourism and the scope for job creation. I would hope that for our young people Narrow Water will come to mean the new cross-border bridge rather than a shameful episode from the past.

The new Narrow Water bridge that I am working for will bring County Down even closer to Louth and open a new gateway to the Mourne. Most of all it will be about bringing our people together. Surely bringing our people together instead of celebrating the violence of the past, is what any responsible political party should be doing

“I am utterly opposed to Sinn-Fein’s divisive glorification of their violent past. Yet again they are scraping the barrel in South Down.”

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