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## Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch Flood Relief Scheme

### Public Consultation No. 2 - Summary Report

#### Kilkenny County Council

**Report No. W3451-PCD-03**

26 September 2022

Revision 02



Kilkenny County Council  
Comhairle Chontae Chill Chainnigh



OPW Óifig na n-Obaircha Poblait  
Office of Public Works



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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Background

Kilkenny County Council (KCC) as the Lead Authority, in partnership with Carlow County Council (CCC) and the Office of Public Works (OPW) are advancing the Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch Flood Relief Scheme (GTFRS).

ByrneLooby were commissioned in February 2020 by KCC, to develop and implement a FRS that alleviates the risk of flooding to the community of Graiguenamanagh and Tinnahinch by providing a scheme that is technically, socially, environmentally and economically acceptable.

Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch is situated on the Kilkenny-Carlow border and lies on the confluence of River Barrow and River Duiske. Significant flood events have occurred, the largest of which was in winter 2015 when the River Duiske burst its banks, creating devastating levels of water in the town of Graiguenamanagh and Tinnahinch.

In the development of the scheme there has been, and will continue to be, substantial and meaningful engagement with the public, landowners, and stakeholders. The first consultation with the public and stakeholders took place between Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2020, where the objective was to make stakeholders and the public aware of the project, to provide early engagement and to get feedback on the flooding, environmental and other issues of concern. The consultation was held online due to government COVID-19 restrictions on face-to-face interaction and included a recorded presentation, an information leaflet, and an online questionnaire.

All relative materials from this consultation period were published on the scheme website, and a summary of discussions and results provided in the Public Consultation 01 Summary Report (W3451-W-PCD02, 7<sup>th</sup> October 2020).

## 1.2 This Report

This report summaries the events of the second public consultation event carried out between Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

The purpose of the second consultation event was to present to the community with five options developed to alleviate flooding in Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch. This was done through an in-person event hosted at The Hub, Graiguenamanagh, where a series of information posters were made available for public viewing with opportunity for discussion with the project team and provision of feedback. This is discussed in more detail in following sections of this report.

## 2 Event Promotion and Invitation to Participate

The following details the steps undertaken to advertise the event and invite the public to actively participate in the consultation process.

**Table 2-1: Event Advertisement and Opportunity to Participate**

Promotion means	Details
Flyers	The week ahead of the event, flyers were distributed by hand within the community, particularly targeting locations within the flood risk zone of Graiguenamanagh and Tinnahinch, with details of the upcoming public consultation event. Circa 500 flyers were distributed within the scheme area.
Newspaper	A notice of the PCD was included in the following newspapers informing the public of its location and timing, where to find information on the scheme and how to provide feedback: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carlow Nationalist (22<sup>nd</sup> July 2022)</li> <li>• Kilkenny People (29<sup>th</sup> July 2022)</li> </ul>
Email	Elected members in both Counties were contacted via email on 2 <sup>nd</sup> August 2022 to provide invitation to view the public display material at the PCD event between 12 and 2pm (ahead of the public).
Social Media	On 3 <sup>rd</sup> August 2022, KCC and CCC published the event details on their Twitter and Facebook page. Heritage Ireland shared KCC event notice on Twitter. The event was also published on ByrneLooby's Twitter on the day of the event.
Websites	Event information and invitation for public participation was posted on the following websites on the day of the PCD event: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch Flood Relief Scheme website (<a href="https://www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/grauguenamanagh-tinnahinchfrs/news/">https://www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/grauguenamanagh-tinnahinchfrs/news/</a>).</li> <li>• Kilkenny County Council website (<a href="https://kilkennycoco.ie/eng/news/public_notices/grauguenamanagh-tinnahinch-flood-relief-scheme-public-consultation-no-2-potential-options.html">https://kilkennycoco.ie/eng/news/public_notices/grauguenamanagh-tinnahinch-flood-relief-scheme-public-consultation-no-2-potential-options.html</a>).</li> <li>• Kilkenny's online consultation portal (<a href="https://consult.kilkenny.ie/en/consultation/grauguenamanaghtinnahinch-flood-relief-scheme-public-consultation-no-2-potential-options">https://consult.kilkenny.ie/en/consultation/grauguenamanaghtinnahinch-flood-relief-scheme-public-consultation-no-2-potential-options</a>).</li> </ul>

### 3 Public Consultation Event No. 2

The objective of the second public consultation was to inform the public that their experiences and views have been considered from the first public consultation event, to present the five options that have been developed for Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch FRS and to invite further feedback and views on the options and assessment process.

#### 3.1 Event Details

The second public consultation event took place at The Hub, Graiguenamanagh on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2022 between 2pm and 7pm. Councillors were invited along prior to the event from 12pm to 2pm.

Information posters were displayed around the room (see [Figure 3-1](#)) detailing the background, objectives and nature of the GTFRS, the project-level assessments/reviews already undertaken (hydraulics, hydrology, environmental, heritage & landscape), and five options for providing flood mitigation in the towns. Representatives from the project team (ByrneLooby, KCC and OPW) were available in the room to provide explanation of the posters, answer any queries and listen to the views of those attending (see [Figure 3-2](#)).

Questionnaires were made available in hard copy and through an online survey format, to either be filled in on the day or at the individual's convenience. Stamped and addressed envelopes were provided to those who received a hard copy questionnaire. The questionnaire sought to gain an understanding of the individual's experience with flooding, their main concerns with the Scheme, and their preference of flood defence options presented to them. Individuals were given a three-week period to return all questionnaires to the project team (i.e., to 30<sup>th</sup> August 2022). A summary of this feedback is provided in Section 4 of this report.



**Figure 3-1: Display Posters in The Hub, Graiguenamanagh**



**Figure 3-2: The ByrneLooby, KCC and OPW Teams discussing the scheme with members of the public.**

### **3.2 Target Audience**

All interested parties were targeted for invitation, with a focus on residents, landowners, and business owners. This included properties owners who both have and have not been flooded in the past, and non-residents who may have concern for the area.

### 3.3 Project Team Representation

Three members of ByrneLooby staff; Seán Harrington (Project Manager), David Moran (Senior Project Engineer) and Jackelyn Wren (Senior Environmental Specialist) were present at the event. Client representatives for the project were also present throughout the day, including most notably Tim Butler (KCC), Joseph Scully (KCC) and Sandra Weafer (OPW). Administration staff from KCC were also present.

### 3.4 Attendance

All public attendees were prompted to fill in their name, address and contact information in an attendance sheet (see Appendix A) if they so wished. A total of 36 attendees were recorded as having attended the event.

### 3.5 Supporting Material

The following material was available on the day:

- Information Leaflet, presenting the format of the stakeholder consultation process. This was handed to each attendee on arrival.
- Public display posters distributed around the room **Figure 3-1** detailing the background, objectives, and nature of the GTFRS, the project-level assessments/reviews already undertaken (hydraulics, hydrology, environmental, heritage & landscape), and the five options for flood defence currently under review. The boards included the following:
  - Board 1: Background, Timeline and Public Consultation Process.
  - Board 2: Flood Extend Mapping.
  - Board 3: Affected Properties and Types.
  - Board 4: Archaeology & Cultural Heritage.
  - Board 5: Environment – Biodiversity.
  - Board 6: Landscape Views, Design, and Intent.
  - Board 7: Preliminary Options.
  - Board 8: Option 1 – Raised Defences.
  - Board 9: Option 2 – Raised Defences & River Duiske Diversion.
  - Board 10: Option 3 – Raised Defences & River Duiske Storage.
  - Board 11: Option 4 – Raised Defences & River Duiske Storage & Diversion.
  - Board 12: Option 5- Raised Defences with River Duiske Culvert.
- An Options Booklet, providing an A4 version of the public display posters mentioned above. This was handed to each attendee on arrival.
- Relative flood maps and drawings with potential options illustrated. These were available for viewing on the day.



- Questionnaires to fill in and return within the three-week period. Stamped and addressed envelopes were provided for those wishing to post the questionnaire at a later stage. A laptop was set up on site to enable individuals to fill in the questionnaire online if they chose to do so.

All of the above material, with the exception of the full flood mapping suite was also made available online via the Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch Flood Relief Scheme website (<https://www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/grauguenamanagh-tinnahinchfrs/home/>), the Kilkenny Online Consultation Portal and the Kilkenny County Council website for those who could not attend.

## 4 Public Feedback

### 4.1 General Overview of Tone and Perception

The sentiment from the project team following the event was that those attending were largely positive towards the materials presented, with the impression that the majority of attendees were pleased and relieved that the scheme was being thoroughly assessed and progressed. 27 responses were received via physical and online versions of the questionnaire, 6 responses via the Consult Portal and two responses via E-mail to David Moran at ByrneLooby.

### 4.2 Questionnaire

As mentioned, a questionnaire was made available to the public, either in hard copy format to those who attended the public engagement event, or in an online format (floodinfo.ie website). A period of three weeks was given to gather all responses, between 9<sup>th</sup> August 2022 and 30<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

Questions 1-6 sought to gather information on the individual's relationship to the area, if they were aware of the scheme and/or attended the public consultation in 2020 and specific details of any previous flooding to their property/properties.

Questions 7-12 gave opportunity for the individual to state their main interest in the scheme, any ideas and/or concerns, and to comment on the options for flood defence in Graiguenamanagh - Tinnahinch. Details were also sought should the responder wish to partake in further consultation.

#### 4.2.1 Questionnaire Responses

ByrneLooby received a total of 27 questionnaire responses, 18 paper and 9 online. BL staff digitised the paper version to allow for review and analysis. A hard copy of the paper submission is included in Appendix B.

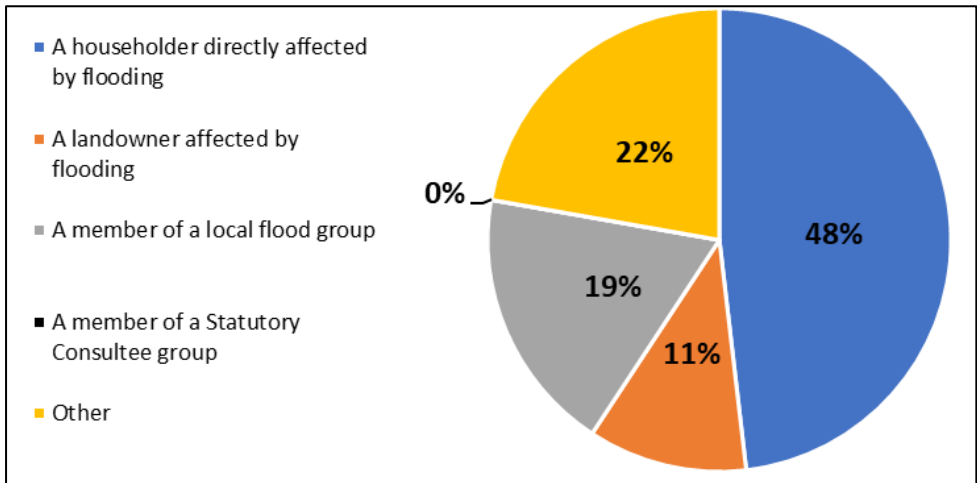
All respondents consented to allow KCC and their agencies to contact them in the future regarding information in relation to GTFRS, using the information they provided.

Not all questions were mandatory and not all responders provided feedback on all questions.

The following sections go into more detail of the responses received for each question.

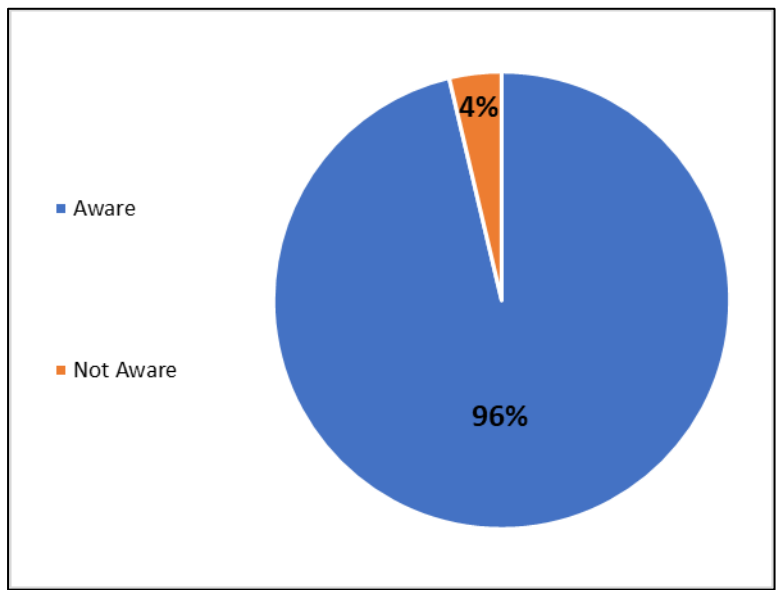
**Question 1** – Tick as appropriate. Are you:

Question Options	Number of Responses
A householder directly affected by flooding	13
A landowner affected by flooding	3
A member of local flood group	5
A member of a Statutory Consultee Group	0
Other	6



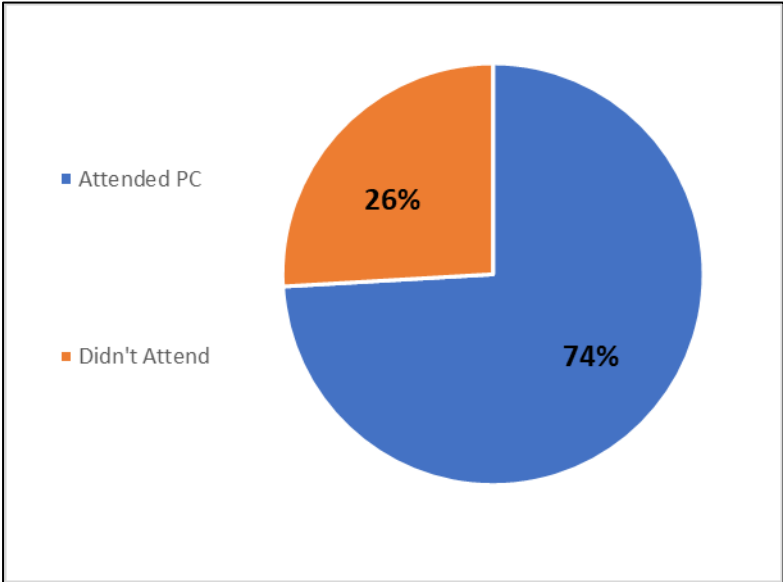
**Question 2**– Were you aware of the Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch Flood relief scheme (FRS)

Question Options	Number of Responses	
	Yes	No
Aware of FRS	26	1



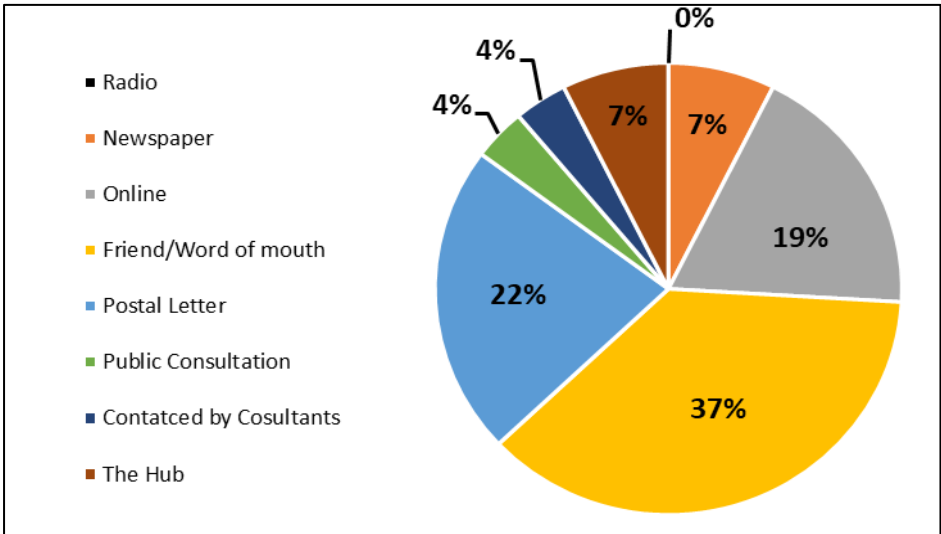
**Question 3 -** Did you attend the opening public consultation held in June 2020?

Question Options	Number of Responses	
Attended previous public consultation	20	7



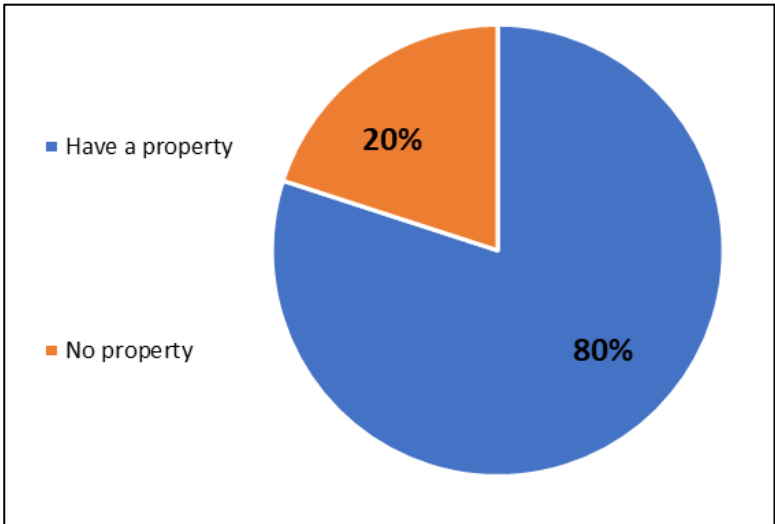
**Question 4 -** How did you hear about this public consultation (radio, newspaper, online, friend)?

Question Options	Number of Responses
Radio	0
Newspaper	2
Online	5
Friend/Word of Mouth	10
Postal Letter	6
Public Consultation	1
Contacted by Consultants	1
The Hub	2



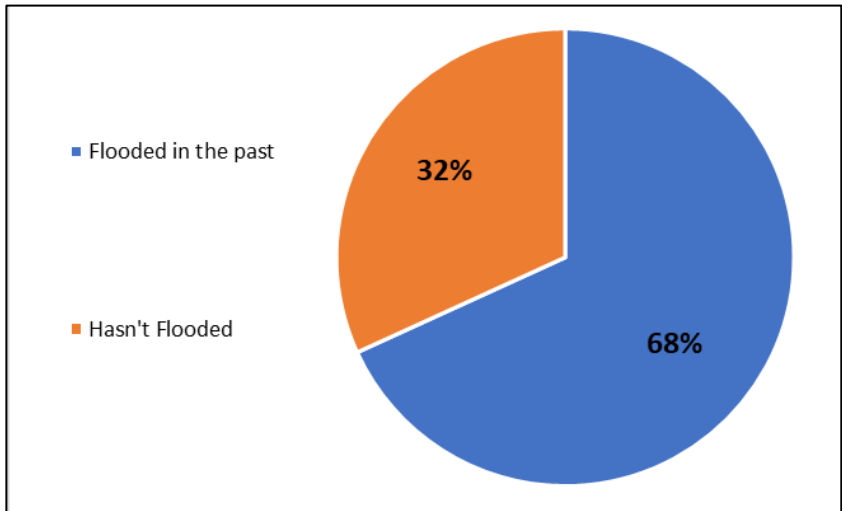
**Question 5 (i)**- Do you own, rent, or occupy a property in studied area/

Question Options	Number of Responses	
	Yes	No
Own /rent/occupy a property	20	5



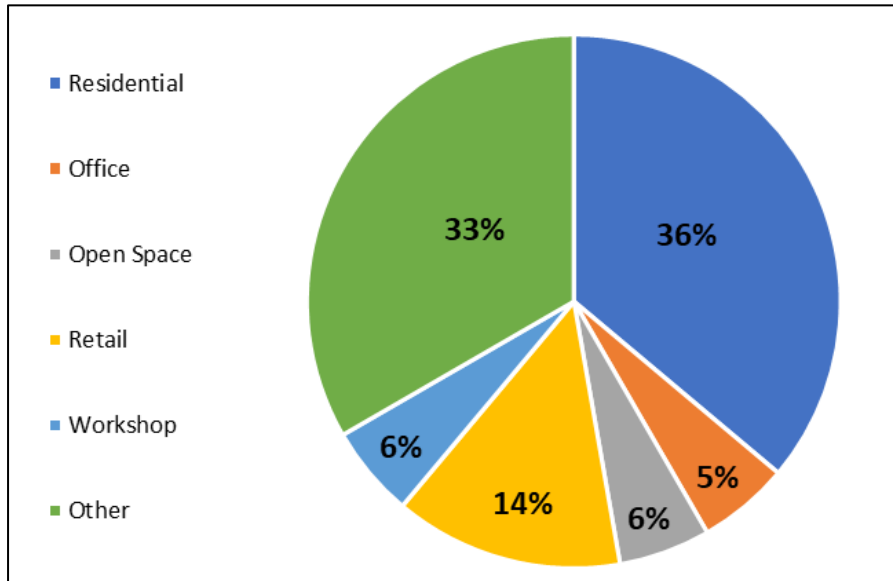
**Question 5 (ii)**- has it flooded in the past?

Question Options	Number of Responses	
	Yes	No
Flooded in the past	15	7



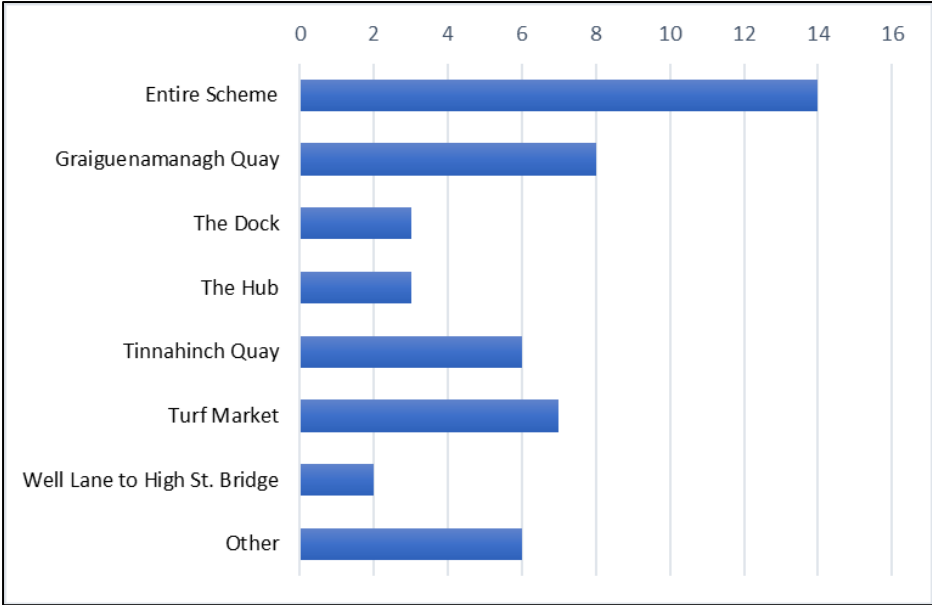
**Question 6-** Type of property flooded (one or more)

Question Options	Number of Responses
Residential	13
Office	2
Open Space	2
Retail	5
Workshop	2
Other	12



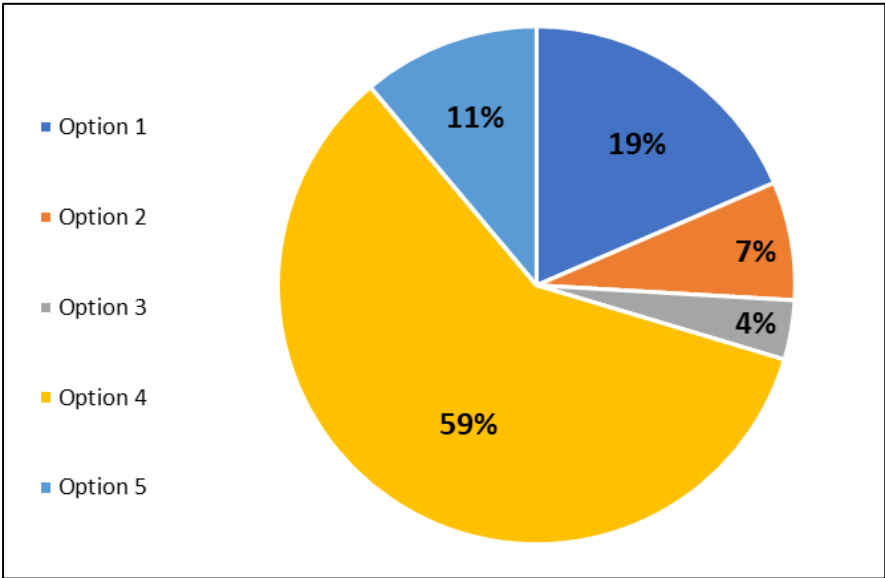
**Question 7-** What part of scheme are do you have particular interest in?

Question Options	Number of Responses
Entire Scheme	14
Graiguenamanagh Quay	8
The Dock	3
The Hub	3
Tinnahinch Quay	6
Turf Market	7
Well Lane to High St. Bridge	2
Other	6



**Question 8- Preferred Option of flood defence for the GTFRS.**

Question Options	Number of Responses
Option 1 – Raised Defences	5
Option 2 – Raised Defences & River Duiske Diversion	2
Option 3 – Raised Defences & River Duiske Storage	1
Option 4 – Raised Defences & River Duiske Diversion & Storage	16
Option 5 -Raised Defences & River Duiske Culvert	3



Question numbers 9 – 12 provided opportunity for respondents to write personalised responses. These are discussed in Section 4.2.3.

Full graphs and charts populating questionnaire responses can be seen in Appendix C.

#### 4.2.2 Discussion on Questions 1-8

As shown from the graphs and tables above, 48% of the respondents were residents directly affected by flooding in Graiguenamanagh and Tinnahinch. Twenty-six out of twenty-seven responses were aware of the on-going flood relief scheme, 77% of which attended the previous public consultation event in 2020.

Option 4 (Raised Defenced & River Duiske Storage and Diversion) was generally stated as the preferred option for the GTFRS (59% of respondents). Some applicants used a ranking system when stating their preferences (hard copy submissions) and highlighted that a ‘none of the above’ responses should have been made available for those who did not agree in any of the five options. This was also raised in unsolicited submissions on the Kilkenny Consult Portal (see Appendix D and Section 4.3).

As outlined in the responses to Question 7, respondents had most interest in the scheme as a whole. Specific areas, such as the Graiguenamanagh and Tinnahinch quays and the Turf Market also ranked respectively high in concern.

All original questionnaire responses are available in Appendix C.

#### 4.2.3 Discussion on Questions 9-12

Question numbers 9 – 12 provided opportunity for respondents to write personalised responses. These are summarised below.

**Question 9** – What do you consider to be the most important aspects to be protected from flooding?

The most common responses included:

- Resident housing and business properties being flooded.
- The visual amenity that exists in the town.

**Question 10** – What are your concerns in relation to the construction of the proposed flood scheme (if any)?

The most common responses included:

- Duration for the scheme to be effective.
- Height of defence walls impeding views and aesthetics.

**Question 11** – What, in your opinion, could be incorporated into the proposed scheme to alleviate your concerns?

The most common responses included:

- Regular dredging and clearing of obstacles of River Duiske to reduce the volume of water.



- One-way valves and pumping stations to protect housing and businesses on main street.

**Question 12** – Please provide below any other comments you wish to make with respect to flooding or any of the information presented today.

The most common responses included:

- Preparation in the town is poor when flooding is forecasted.
- No flood maintenance has not reassured residents of protection when floods occur.

#### **4.3 Summary of Responses from Kilkenny Consult Portal**

Further responses from the public were gathered using the Kilkenny Consult portal (see Appendix D). Generally, the submissions noted:

- Removal of obstacles would ease risk of flooding.
- The development of more housing has resulted in runoff water from hard surfaces (tiles, driveways etc.) accessing the River Duiske faster than it would by naturally percolating through the ground- Delaying water should be considered.
- Respondent recommends having a ‘none of the above’ answer to question 8, for those who do not agree with raised defences.
- Opinion that a four-and-a-half-foot wall, or a wall of any height on The Quay in Graiguenamanagh, whether stone, concrete, glass, or steel would be an abomination and needs to be ruled out.
- Opinion that the defence plans provide segmented and compartmentalised thinking.
- Non-return valves will be needs for properties draining to the River Duiske, which backwater during flood events.
- One respondent had difficulties submitting information to [gtfrs@byrne-looby.com](mailto:gtfrs@byrne-looby.com).

#### **4.4 Summary of Responses to Project Email Address**

Further responses from the public were gathered from the project email address, which included commentary along the following lines:

- Further detail information was requested by one affected landowner in relation to the scheme and valuable information was also provided (See appendix E)
- A further submission outlined the potential causes of flooding and recommended wire removal and upstream storage.

#### 4.5 Follow up Actions

From the responses via the questionnaires, email and Kilkenny’s online portal, a selection of questions was raised by respondents, to which ByrneLooby have provided responses and commentary, as summarised below.

Responses Received		
ID Number	Submission	BL Response
15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Defence will not do the job prescribed.</li> <li>Questions why dredging is not a part of the plan.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All five options have been tested and will technically address the flood risk arising.</li> <li>Dredging was ruled out on environmental grounds, due to the impact on the SAC habitats during the screening stage.</li> </ul>
1 & 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Defence walls will destroy access to River Barrow.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A specialist Landscape Architect is appointed to assess the impact of the options and will input to the selection for the final scheme.</li> </ul>
11& 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concerned about the length of time for work to be undertaken and completed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A project timeline is published on the website and the team are working to provide protection to the community as quickly as possible.</li> </ul>
22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disagree with raised defences. Why is there no option without defence walls?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The measure that would avoid raised defences on the Barrow were ruled out at screening stage. The options presented include an option where no raised defences are included on the River Duiske.</li> </ul>
14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will there be access to information for any concerns for people worrying about their properties?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual can contact the project team at any of the contact points listed on the website and any time.</li> </ul>
1,7,16, 20 & 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Removing obstacles, clearing the river, the weir and restoring the old dock would alleviate flooding.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessment informed that such work would not reduce the need, extent, or height of the other measures in the options and so they have not been included. Ongoing maintenance of the channels will be included in the final options to avoid blockage and debris.</li> </ul>

10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Army should install defences when needed, like Clonmel. No permanent walls.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This option is outside the scope for the project. It is understood that the army are called in in emergency situations, whereas this project will provide for planned protection, rather than reactive protection.</li> </ul>
Email	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lower the weir by 1m to reduce flood risk.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The bridge also acts as a limiting flow structure which reduces the efficiency of this option. Additionally, it entails works within the SAC, where a viable alternative is present.</li> </ul>
Email	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Detailed list of queries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project team to liaise with affected landowner as scheme progresses.</li> </ul>

## 5 Next Steps

The social, technical, and environmental concerns raised by the public will be considered in the following phases of the project-level optioneering and assessment.

The project team will endeavour to develop a scheme that is technically, environmentally, socially, and economically feasible and provides suitable solution to those members of the public currently affected by flooding events.

An Options Report is now being progressed that will result in an emerging preferred option being identified. It is intended to complete this work and then present the findings to the public via another public consultation day in 2023.



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