



# **Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme**

## **Public Consultation Day 2 – 15<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

### **Feedback Report**

**October 2022**



<b>CLIENT</b>	Office of Public Works/ Galway County Council
<b>PROJECT NO.</b>	2524
<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme, Co. Galway
<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	Public Consultation Day 2 – 15th March 2022 Feedback Report

<b>REV.</b>	<b>STATUS</b>	<b>AUTHOR</b>	<b>REVIEWED BY</b>	<b>APPROVED BY</b>	<b>ISSUE DATE</b>
0	DRAFT for Client Review	HK	ND	PR	June 2022
0.1	DRAFT for Client Review	HK	-	-	August 2022
1.0	Final	HK	-	-	October 2022

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	Aims and Approaches of the Public Consultation Day.....	1
1.1.1	<i>Aims.....</i>	<i>1</i>
1.1.2	<i>Target audience.....</i>	<i>1</i>
<b>2</b>	<b>Advertising of the Public Consultation Day .....</b>	<b>1</b>
2.1	Traditional media.....	1
2.2	Social / Other Media.....	3
2.3	Mail Drop.....	6
2.4	Public Information Display & Virtual Consultation Room.....	6
<b>3</b>	<b>Public Consultation Arrangements .....</b>	<b>6</b>
3.1	Event Format.....	6
3.2	Public Consolation Period .....	7
3.3	Public Consolation Day (PCD).....	7
3.4	Public Consultation Materials.....	7
3.4.1	<i>Information Booklet &amp; Public Consultation Questionnaire.....</i>	<i>7</i>
3.4.2	<i>Public Consultation Exhibition Posters.....</i>	<i>7</i>
3.5	Public Consultation Event & On-line Virtual Consultation .....	8
3.5.1	<i>Staffing of Event .....</i>	<i>8</i>
3.5.2	<i>Numbers of Public Attendees .....</i>	<i>8</i>
3.5.3	<i>On-Line Consultation .....</i>	<i>8</i>
3.6	Other Consultation .....	8
<b>4</b>	<b>Public Consultation Response .....</b>	<b>10</b>
4.1	Verbal Comments at Event .....	10
4.2	Questionnaires Returned.....	10
4.3	Emails and Phone Call.....	10
<b>5</b>	<b>Analysis of Public Consultation Response .....</b>	<b>11</b>
5.1	Analysis of Questionnaires .....	11
5.2	Flooding Information.....	14
5.3	Other Comments.....	14
<b>6</b>	<b>Conclusions and Recommendations.....</b>	<b>15</b>

## APPENDICES

Appendix A – Blank Questionnaire.....	14
Appendix B – Photos of the Public Consultation Venue.....	16
Appendix C – Flyer & Invitation.....	20
Appendix D – Notes/Discussions from the PCD.....	24
Appendix E – Submission from Galway County Council.....	32

## TABLE OF FIGURES

Figure 2.1 Galway Advertiser 3rd February 2022 and Roscommon Herald 8th February 2022.....	2
Figure 2.2 Tuam Herald Advertisement published on 11th February 2022 and 16th February 2022....	3
Figure 2.3 Facebook Post from Galway County Council .....	4
Figure 2.4 Twitter Post from Galway County Council.....	5
Figure 2.5 Twitter Post from OPW .....	5
Figure 2.6 View of Interactive Virtual Consultation Room .....	6
Figure 3.1 Illustration of Some of the Posters Displayed at the Event.....	8
Figure 5.1 Attendees at the PCD Event?.....	11
Figure 5.2 Attendees who Returned Questionnaires? .....	12
Figure 5.3 Results from the Question: What part of the Study Area have you a particular interest in? ..	12
Figure 5.4 Town Centre & Bridge Steet Options.....	13
Figure 5.6 Area 7: Portnick Options.....	14
Figure 5.5 Area 6: The Pines Options .....	14

## LIST OF TABLES

Table 5.1 Results for Areas 1-4 for the Question: “of those presented and of interest to you, please indicate the option(s) you preferred?.....	13
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## 1 INTRODUCTION

The second public consultation period (PC) for the Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme (FRS) commenced on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2022. The Steering Group Committee agreed that due to Covid-19 restrictions the consultation period would run as an on-line event with physical information displays available to view at two public venues within the town, namely the Civic Offices and Public Library in Ballinasloe, Co. Galway. A virtual consultation room was also designed which was accessible via an online portal at [www.floodinfo.ie/ballinasloefrs](http://www.floodinfo.ie/ballinasloefrs). The public consultation process followed on from a previous in-person event held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020. A public consultation event was subsequently scheduled for Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2022 in the Plaza Suite of the Shearwater Hotel, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway from 01:00pm to 07:00pm at which members of the public were able to view the project information and discuss with members of the project team. The consultation period was extended to run until Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

### 1.1 Aims and Approaches of the Public Consultation Day

#### 1.1.1 Aims

- To provide members of the public with an update on developing and progressing potential options for the Ballinasloe flood relief scheme.
- To obtain information about flooding or other relevant environmental information about the potential options presented.
- To elicit feedback on emerging potential options in order assist with the assessment of options as part of this project.
- To communicate the project processes and timescales
- To encourage participation from stakeholders and the public generally in relation to their own observations on the potential emerging options or experiences of flood events.
- To invite stakeholders and the public to contribute their views by way of submissions, observations, discussions, verbal comments and via the questionnaire.
- Interested persons were able to scrutinise the displayed consultation materials, have relevant questions answered and fully engage with the project.

#### 1.1.2 Target audience

Members of the public and all interested parties, including political stakeholders, in particular the Ballinasloe Flood Action Group, affected landowners and local residents.

During the course of the Emerging Options PCD Event – project team members including senior study team members and/or members of the OPW / local authority team were available to discuss the emerging options in more detail.

## 2 ADVERTISING OF THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION DAY

### 2.1 Traditional media

Advance advertising of the Public Consultation Event was undertaken in various online news outlets and on social media in the weeks preceding. In addition, notices were placed in the local papers in the week and weekend preceding the event and radio announcements were made on Galway Bay FM.

Newspaper Advertisements	Editions
<b>CONNACHT TRIBUNE</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> & 17 <sup>th</sup> February and 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 10 <sup>th</sup> March 2022
<b>Athlone Advertiser</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> & 17 <sup>th</sup> February and 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 10 <sup>th</sup> March 2022
<b>Galway Advertiser</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> & 17 <sup>th</sup> February and 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 10 <sup>th</sup> March 2022
<b>Roscommon Herald</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup> & 15 <sup>th</sup> February 2022
<b>The <small>Tam</small> Herald</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> & 16 <sup>th</sup> February and 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 9 <sup>th</sup> March 2022
Radio Advertisements	Allotments
<b>Galway bay</b>	Morning & Evening Time Slots on 5 <sup>th</sup> , 6 <sup>th</sup> , 7 <sup>th</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> , 15 <sup>th</sup> , 17 <sup>th</sup> & 22 <sup>nd</sup> Feb 2022) & 24 <sup>th</sup> , Feb 1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> & 15 <sup>th</sup> March 2022



Figure 2.1 Galway Advertiser 3rd February 2022 and Roscommon Herald 8th February 2022

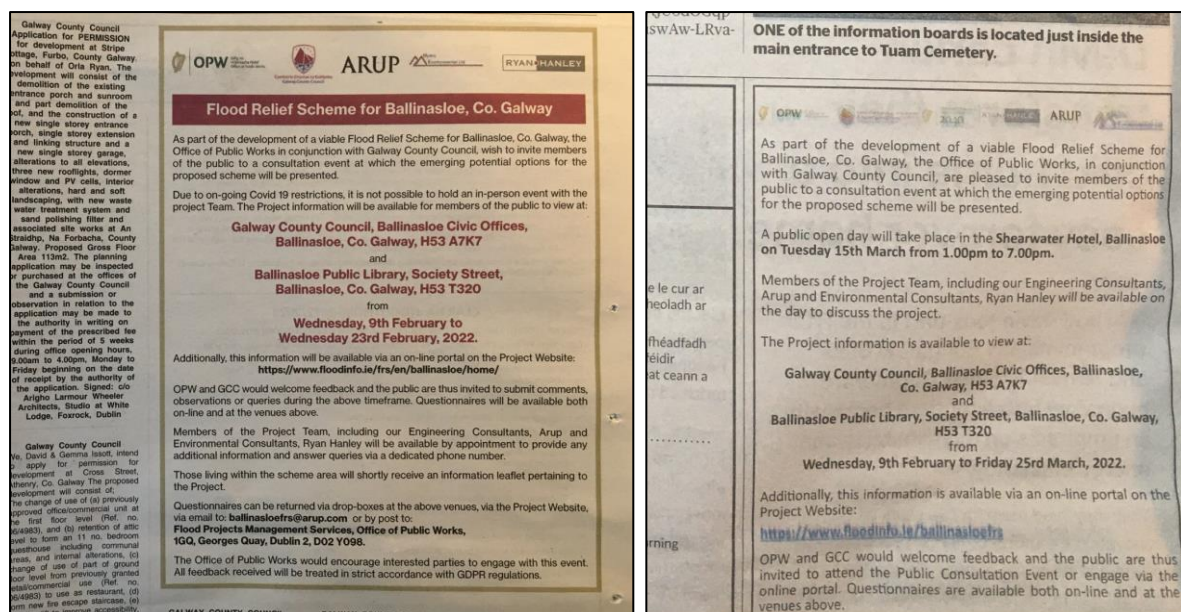


Figure 2.2 Tuam Herald Advertisement published on 11th February 2022 and 16th February 2022

## 2.2 Social / Other Media

Social media sites, such as Facebook and Twitter groups, provided a suitable format to promote messages and information about the Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme Public Consultation Day.

Galway County Council published a post on their Facebook and Twitter pages in advance of the public engagement period and event in the Shearwater Hotel, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.



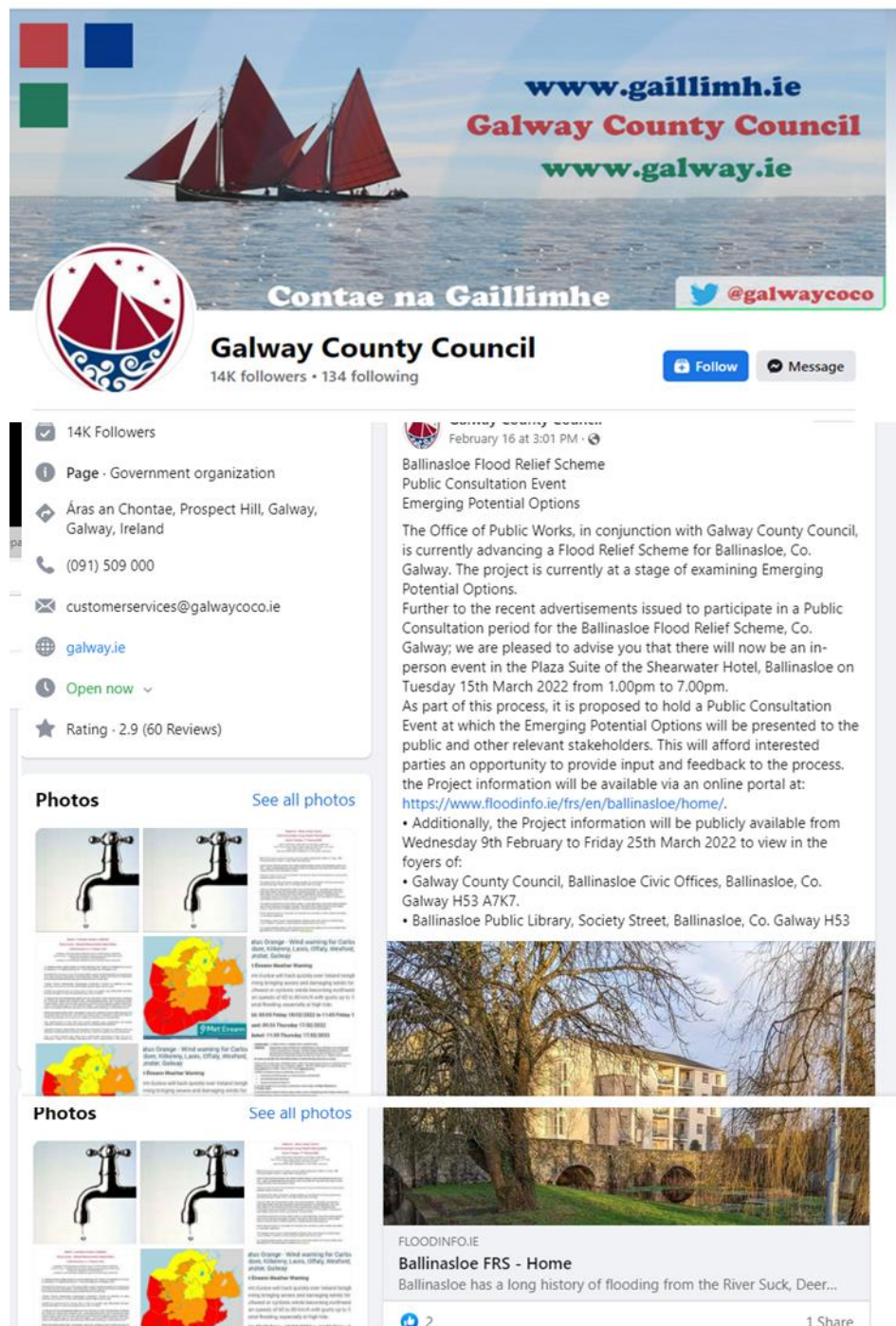


Figure 2.3 Facebook Post from Galway County Council

Twitter posts were published from Galway County Council & OPW twitter accounts informing the public of the event.





Figure 2.4 Twitter Post from Galway County Council

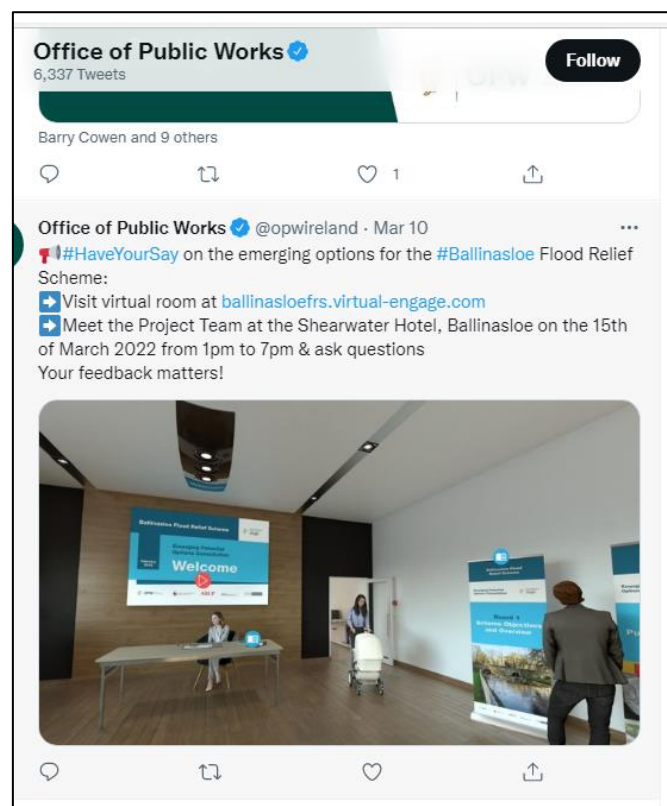


Figure 2.5 Twitter Post from OPW

## 2.3 Mail Drop

The event was also publicised locally through targeted distribution of information leaflets to landowners and blanket flyer-drop across scheme area. All Homes Leaflet Distribution Ltd were engaged to distribute flyers. Mail drop commenced on the 31/01/2022 to 3,437 properties. Additional leaflets were distributed to Ballinasloe Civic Office and Public Library. A copy of the information flyer and invitation as well as All Homes Leaflet distribution maps is available in Appendix C.

## 2.4 Public Information Display & Virtual Consultation Room

Physical information displays were set up and information made available to view at two public venues within the town, namely the Civic Offices and Public Library in Ballinasloe, Co. Galway (Photos Appendix B - Plate 001 & 002). A virtual consultation room was also designed and launched which was accessible via an online portal at [www.floodinfo.ie/ballinasloefrs](http://www.floodinfo.ie/ballinasloefrs). According to website traffic analysis there were a total of 307. No page views from a total of 120. No users.

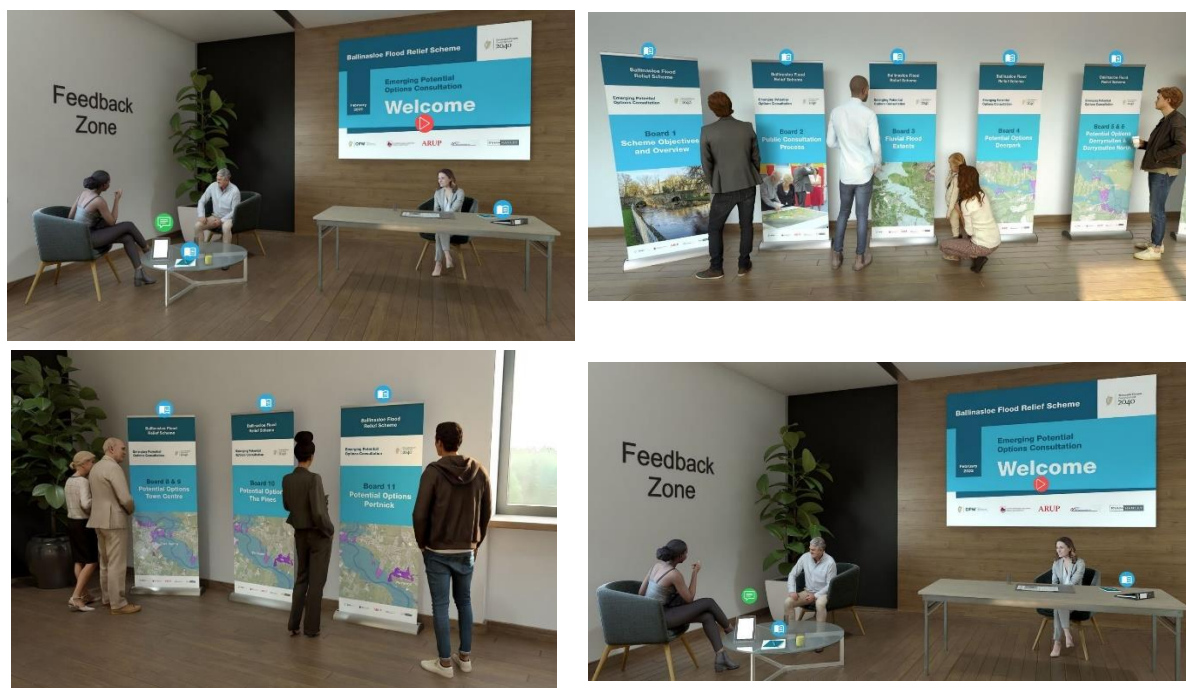


Figure 2.6 View of Interactive Virtual Consultation Room

## 3 PUBLIC CONSULTATION ARRANGEMENTS

### 3.1 Event Format

- Advance Advertising & Dissemination of Event Information to the Public.
- Ballinasloe FRS Virtual Consultation Room developed and published online
- Public Displays at Ballinasloe Civic Offices and Library
- Public Consultation Day at Shearwater Hotel, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway
- Drop-in style consultation event between 01:00pm and 07:00pm, with representatives from the Project Team of OPW, GCC, ARUP and Ryan Hanley present.
- Supplementary drawings, maps and other supporting materials on-hand.

### 3.2 Public Consultation Period

Physical information and poster displays were set up for the duration of the public consultation period from 09<sup>th</sup> February to 25<sup>th</sup> March 2022 and information was made available to view, at two public venues within the town, namely the Civic Offices and Public Library in Ballinasloe, Co. Galway. Questionnaires or feedback forms were available for members of the public to fill in or leave their views which were later collected by the project team.

### 3.3 Emerging Options Public Consultation Day (PCD)

On the Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2022, an exhibition of emerging options was opened to the public between 01:00pm to 07:00pm. The event was held in the Plaza Suite of the Shearwater Hotel in Ballinasloe, Co. Galway. The selection of the Plaza Suite (Appendix B – Plate 003) allowed adequate space, social distancing and adherence to Covid-19 guidelines for return to public events. Use of facemask at event was encouraged.

### 3.4 Public Consultation Materials

#### 3.4.1 Information Booklet & Public Consultation Questionnaire

An “Emerging Potential Options Public Consultation Information Booklet” was produced to provide further information about technical assessment process behind the emerging potential options presented for consultation. The Booklet was available at the Emerging Options PCD event and also available to download from the virtual consultation room.

A questionnaire with pre-printed questions was provided at the exhibition on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March 2022. Attendees were asked to complete the questionnaire and/or comments sheet and return by dropbox (located in Civic Offices and Public Library) or complete the questionnaire from the on-line virtual consultation room.

This provided an opportunity for members of the public to express their views on the emerging options and to discuss any concerns regarding these and flooding in their area. A copy of the blank questionnaire is attached in Appendix A.

#### 3.4.2 Public Consultation Exhibition Posters

The format of the Constraints Study Consultation exhibition was based on a number of scheme posters. The posters included:

- Scheme Objectives and Overview
- Public Consultation Process
- Fluvial Flood Extents
- Potential Options Area 1: Deerpark
- Potential Options Area 2: Derrymullen North
- Potential Options Area 3: Derrymullen
- Potential Options Area 4: Station Road and Sarsfield Road
- Potential Options Area 5: Town Centre (Sheet 1 of 2)
- Potential Options Area 5: Town Centre (Sheet 2 of 2)
- Potential Options Area 6: The Pines
- Potential Options Area 7: Portnick



- Environmental Constraints (Sheet 1 of 2)
- Environmental Constraints (Sheet 2 of 2)

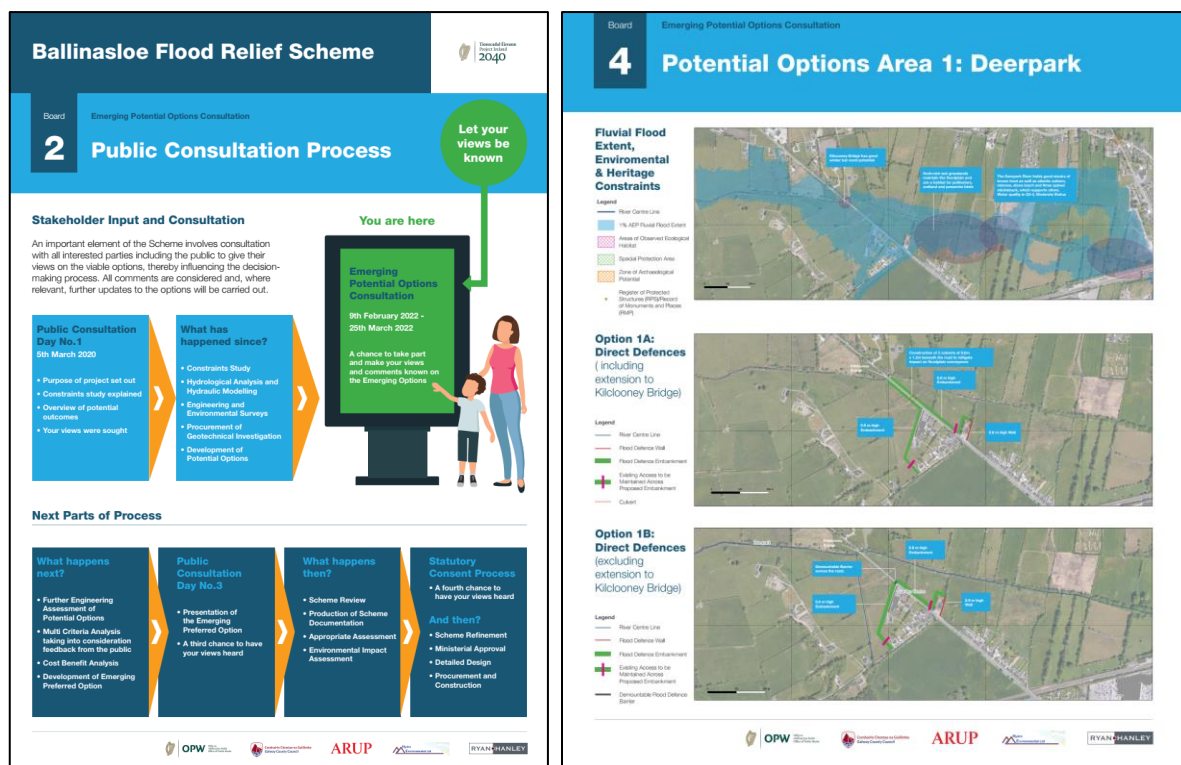


Figure 3.1 Illustration of Some of the Posters Displayed at the Event

### 3.5 Public Consultation Event & On-line Virtual Consultation

#### 3.5.1 Staffing of Event

At the venue, staff from the OPW, Galway County Council, ARUP (Design Team) and Ryan Hanley (Environmental Team) were in attendance to present the emerging potential options with associated heritage and environmental constraints as well as receive information from the general public and answer any questions. Additional photos of the event are available in Appendix B.

#### 3.5.2 Numbers of Public Attendees

Members of the public visiting the exhibition were invited to sign a visitor's book to enable a record of the number of attendees to be maintained. A total of thirty-one attendees signed the attendance book at the event in Shearwater Hotel, Ballinasloe.

#### 3.5.3 On-Line Consultation

The on-line virtual consultation period ran from 9<sup>th</sup> February until 25<sup>th</sup> March 2022 and all consultation material was made available on the Virtual Consultation Room.

### 3.6 Other Consultation

A submission was received during the consultation period which was broadly supportive of the principle of robust flood measures for the town of Ballinasloe, and it is considered that the proposed flood relief scheme should take cognisance of the towns historic fabric and character. Therefore, a sensitive approach needs to be taken in determining the most favourable flood defence options for the town.

Another submission received from which comments are presented below;

1. Minimise the no. of options that rely on pumping - to reduce the maintenance & labour burden
2. In favour of re-opening the eyes of the bridge at Bridge St. and removing reclaimed land on the east to improve water flow under the bridge and would prefer to see eyes re-opened in their original format rather than through using box culverts.
3. Minimise the visual impact of flood walls – can an embankment or combination option be considered at Sli na hAbhainn.
4. The River Suck is a key part of the town and in addition to protecting homes and property it is important to see viewpoints protected (e.g around the Marina area) and it's important that connection with the river is retained.

## 4 PUBLIC CONSULTATION RESPONSE

### 4.1 Verbal Comments at Event

Visitors to the event are considered to have understood the proposals as presented at the event. Comments received from attendees reflected specific areas of interest relating to property and lands, business and commercial interest, political, environmental and safety. Some members of the public attended the event to seek elaborations on scheme proposals, to further discuss their concerns and views or get more detailed responses to their questions from the project team.

Representatives from Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI), Galway-Athlone Cycleway and Local Authority Water Programme (LAWPRO) attended and were interested in further information and liaison relating to preferred emerging option. A number of interested Elected Representatives attended and communicated concerns, flooding issues etc., which were relayed to them by members of the public.

Some residents showed photographs of previous flooding events and one landowner showed a video of flooding on a property during the 2009 event.

Verbal comments received are available in Appendix D.

### 4.2 Questionnaires Returned

A total of 7. No questionnaires were received. Some additional comments sheets were also completed. A submission from a Local Business owner in the Derrymullen area complimented the options presented but expressed concerns on some options restricting access to his business during flooding events. Another questionnaire returned from a resident in the Portnick area also showed support for the measures proposed.

### 4.3 Emails and Phone Call

A total number of 5. No phone calls were received on the dedicated telephone line. The calls were logged on a project data sheet, with record of discussion and any follow up actions. Queries were related to particular land parcels, flood defences, locations for viewing Emerging Options PCD material, opinions on flood defences, embankment heights and avoiding environmental damage. The Project Team made arrangements to meet and discuss the proposed options with a Ballinasloe land parcel owner. This meeting was conducted at the end of March 2022.

An email submission from a member of the public made reference to allowing areas to flood, the email reference Holland as an example where areas should be created to allow for controlled flooding. The submission also suggested that an unused section of canal should be looked at as a potential solution. It was suggested that a culverted section in the Portnick area should be converted back to the original stream. The respondent was satisfied to see an emphasis on environmental and ecological aspects and that structural heritage would be preserved. It was also pointed out that some areas of land adjacent to the River Suck were infilled over the years. The location of an old HSE wastewater treatment plant was also pointed out.



## 5 ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION RESPONSE

### 5.1 Analysis of Questionnaires

The attendance sheet reported a total of 31. No attendees on the day of the Emerging Options PCD event. Although the questionnaires were available on the day of the Emerging Options PCD event no questionnaire was received by the project team on the day of the event. A number of attendees took the questionnaires home for further consideration.

A total of 7. No questionnaires were received, six through the drop boxes located in the Public Library and Civic Office and one was submitted on-line.

In total, only 10% of members of the public who attended the Emerging Options PCD event completed questionnaires, those who's addresses were identifiable on the questionnaire where resident within the town and/or work either within the study area and/or areas affected by the indicative flood extents. Full details of the responses to the questionnaires were provided to the Design Team. Outlined below is a summary of some information obtained from the questionnaires.

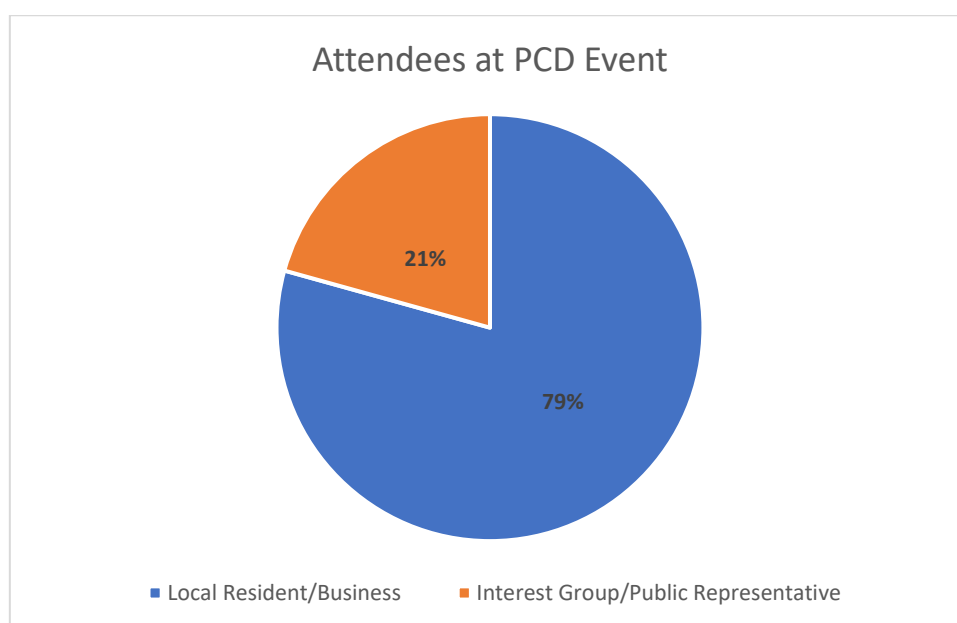


Figure 5.1 Attendees at the Emerging Options PCD Event?

As illustrated in **Figure 5.1** approx. 80% of attendees were local residents or had a business interest within the study area, while approx. 20% of those who attended were interest groups and/or local representatives. Only 43% of individuals who returned the questionnaire indicated that they attended the first public participation day in March 2020.

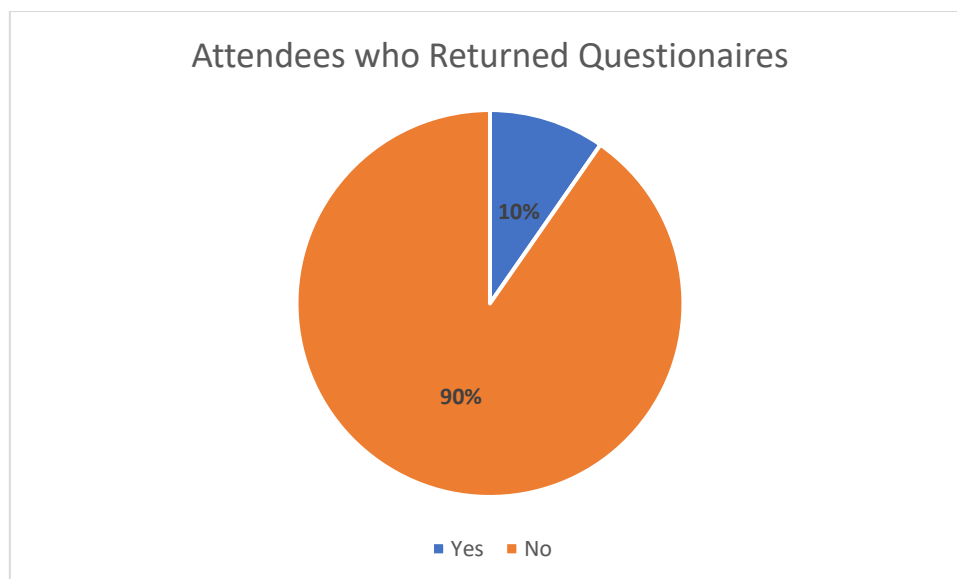


Figure 5.2 Attendees who Returned Questionnaires?

Only 10% of those who attended on the day of the Emerging Options PCD event completed & returned a questionnaire as shown above in Figure 5.3, however as outlined in Section 4.1 various interactions and discussions between attendees and the project team were recorded.

What Part of the Study Area have you a particular interest in?	
Area 1: Deerpark	10%
Area 2-3: Derrymullan	21%
Area 4: Station Road	16%
Area 5: Town Centre & Bridge St	21%
Area 6: The Pines	10%
Area 7: Portnick	21%

Figure 5.3 Results from the Question: What part of the Study Area have you a particular interest in?

The questionnaire also asked what areas within the study area they have a particular interest in. The majority of respondents (>60%) were interested in three area's; Derrymullan, Portnick, Town Centre & Bridge St. Question 5 of the options questionnaire asks, "of those presented and of interest to you, please indicate the option(s) you preferred". With reference to Area1 (Deerpark) and illustrated below a higher percentage of respondents favoured Direct Defences only (Option 1B). For Area 2 (Derrymullen – North), Area 3 (Derrymullen – from Willow Lane to Train Station) and Area 4 (Station Rd) the options presented were favoured highly. An attendant at the Emerging Options PCD event who also submitted a

questionnaire with a business interest in the Derrymullen North area queried accessibility to business during flood events with particular reference to demountable barrier and frequency of use. One respondent noted that many bogs in the upstream hinterland had been cut away from many years of intensive usage and suggested that re-wetting of peatlands would assist with flood issues in the Ballinasloe area.

	Percentage (%)	
	Yes	No
<b>Area 1: Deerpark</b>		
<b>Option 1A: Direct Defences (including extension to Kilclooney Bridge)</b>	66.6	33.4
<b>Option 1B: Direct Defences Only (excluding extension to Kilclooney Bridge)</b>	100	-
<b>Area 2: Derrymullen (North)</b>		
<b>Option 2A: Direct Defences Only, Demountable Barrier</b>	100	-
<b>Area 3: Derrymullen (from Willow Lane to Train Station)</b>		
<b>Option 3A: Improvement to Existing Defences</b>	100	-
<b>Area 4: Station Road</b>		
<b>Option 4A: Direct Defences</b>	100	-

Table 5.1 Results for Areas 1-4 for the Question: "of those presented and of interest to you, please indicate the option(s) you preferred?"

With regard to the information returned relating to the Town Centre & Bridge St, the majority were leaning towards Options 5A & 5B where the west channel would be open, with conveyance improvements at East Bridge and road crossing of west channel.

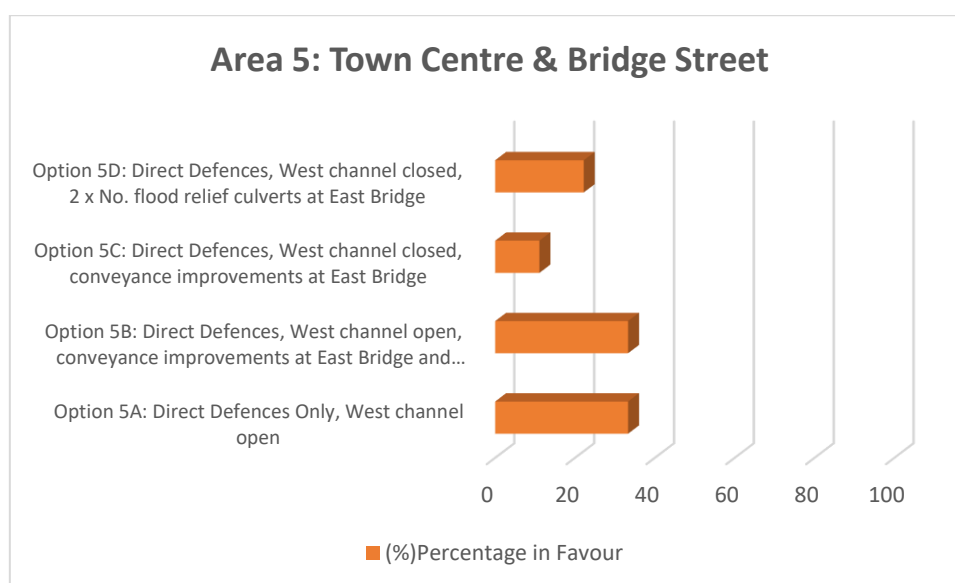


Figure 5.4 Town Centre & Bridge Street Options



Questionnaire responses favoured Direct Defences (Alignment 1) at the Pines and Option 7A: Conveyance improvements on existing culvert.

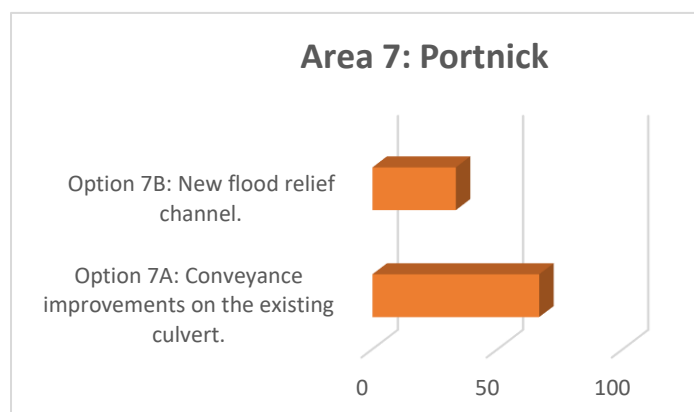


Figure 5.6 Area 7: Portnick Options

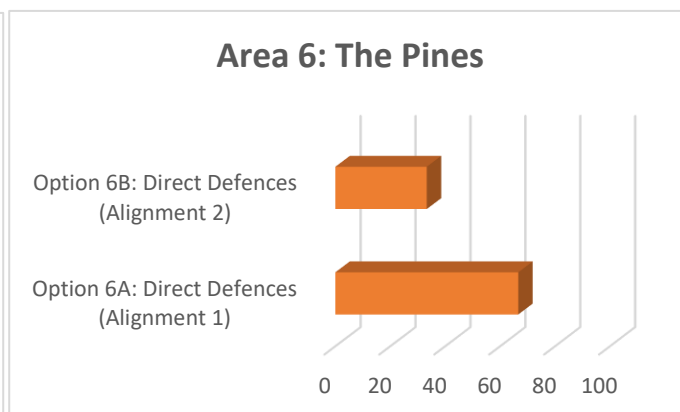


Figure 5.5 Area 6: The Pines Options

## 5.2 Flooding Information

As with the PCD event in March 2020, some additional flooding information was gathered and recorded from residents, business owners and public representatives from both first-hand experiences and anecdotal information.

## 5.3 Other Comments

A number of respondents at the Emerging Options PCD and submissions received, suggested incorporation of any embankments into walking/active travel routes would be beneficial to the area. One resident who has been actively engaged with flooding aspects in the town over the years submitted a detailed proposal titled “*The Future and Further Development of Ballinasloe – Sept 2008*” which details a development plan incorporating flooding relief measure for the economic and commercial benefit of the area.

Some respondents also raised concerns on obtaining home and commercial insurance. This issue was also raised at the PCD event in March 2020. There was praise by some residents from the Station Road area where the flood defence wall and pump system, which were installed in 2011 after the 2009 flood event, has been working well.

Other queries raised by the attendee’s included timescale on the project and how long the project would take to come to fruition. Some concerns were raised on maintenance of scheme and access by juveniles to any culverts and/or scheme drains were also raised. A query were raised regarding security of funding for the project and tight cost-benefit ratio.

Some residents from the Portnick area who attended the Emerging Options PCD event and interacted with the project team expressed interest in Option B – new flood relief channel.

## 6 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

At the time of the event, it was noted that Irish society was still opening up after the Covid-19 pandemic and that the numbers of the general public (approx. 31) attending the Emerging Options PCD may have been therefore affected. There were no health and safety issues to report at the events. The Plaza suite at the Shearwater Hotel, was a suitable venue to enable social distancing and roomy to allow for social distancing. Hand sanitization stations were available and use of face masks were also encouraged.

Advance advertising of the public consultation period and event which included print & social media and radio adverts as well as leaflet drops ensured excellent publicity of the events.

Again, similar to feedback from the initial PCD event, overall, there has been a positive response to the scheme to-date and that local resident and business people are eager for the flood relief scheme to commence. The communications & submissions and discussion with the attendees during the PCD event again highlighted the urgency of the project.

Notes and Information gathered from conversations and discussions are contained in Appendix – D and reflect a mixture of positives and negative attitudes toward the emerging options. The project team have taken on-board the discussions and various points raised with regard to the emerging options. It is also important to emphasise that this event is an Emerging Options PCD and the public will have further opportunities to provide their input into the scheme development.

## Appendix A – Blank Questionnaire



## Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme

### PUBLIC CONSULTATION PERIOD No.2: EMERGING OPTIONS QUESTIONNAIRE

Please complete this questionnaire and return to the drop box provided or by post to Arup, One Albert Quay, Cork, T12 X8N6, or via email [ballinasloe@arup.com](mailto:ballinasloe@arup.com) by Monday 07<sup>th</sup> March 2022. An online version is also available at <https://www.floodinfo.ie/ballinasloe>

1. Did you attend the first Public Participation Day held on 05<sup>th</sup> March 2020? Yes ☐ No ☐
2. How did you hear about this Public Consultation? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Are you: (a) A householder directly affected by flooding ☐ (b) a landowner affected by proposed works ☐ (c) Member of a local flood group ☐ (d) Other ☐ (Please Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

4. What part of the study area have you a particular interest in (indicate below with X)?

Area 1: Deerpark	<input type="checkbox"/>
Area 2 – 3: Derrymullen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Area 4: Station Road	<input type="checkbox"/>
Area 5: Town Centre & Bridge Street	<input type="checkbox"/>
Area 6: The Pines	<input type="checkbox"/>
Area 7: Portnick	<input type="checkbox"/>



5. Of those presented and of interest to you, please indicate the option(s) you preferred?

<b>Area 1: Deerpark</b>				
Option 1A: Direct Defences Only, Demountable Barrier	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Option 1B: Direct Defences Only, Flood relief culvert	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Area 2: Derrymullen</b>				
Option 2A: Direct Defences Only, Demountable Barrier	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Area 3: Derrymullen (from Willow Lane to Train Station)</b>				
Option 3A: Improvement and drainage works	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Area 4: Station Road</b>				
Option 4A: Direct Defences Only, Drainage works	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Area 5: Town Centre &amp; Bridge Street</b>				
Option 5A: Direct Defences Only, West channel open	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Option 5B: Direct Defences, West channel open, conveyance improvements at East Bridge and road crossing of west channel	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Option 5C: Direct Defences, West channel closed, conveyance improvements at East Bridge	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Option 5D: Direct Defences, West channel closed, 2 x No. flood relief culverts at East Bridge	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Area 6: The Pines</b>				
Option 6A: Direct Defences (Alignment 1)	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Option 6B: Direct Defences (Alignment 2)	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Area 7: Portnick</b>				
Option 7A: Conveyance improvements on the existing culvert.	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Option 7B: New flood relief channel.	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Ballinasloe FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME



ARUP



6. What do you consider to be the most important aspects of the town to protect from flooding?

7. Are there things you feel the construction of a Flood Scheme could negatively affect?

8. What is your experience of flooding in the town?

9. Do you think there are other ways the Scheme could benefit the town?

10. Please let us know if you have any other comments (additional Comments Sheets also available):

Name (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Address (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Email (optional): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

I agree to the Office of Public Works (OPW) using my contact details to inform me regarding this scheme.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

### Privacy & Data Protection:

Personal information collected by the Office of Public Works is done so in order for us to engage with you in relation to the Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme. Any details provided will only be used for the purposes of contacting you in relation to the scheme, which may include some or all of the following:

- Notifying you of future consultation opportunities
- Arranging access to your lands for the purposes of data collection by project staff and approved third party surveyors
- Clarifying information you have already provided to the project team and obtaining further inputs

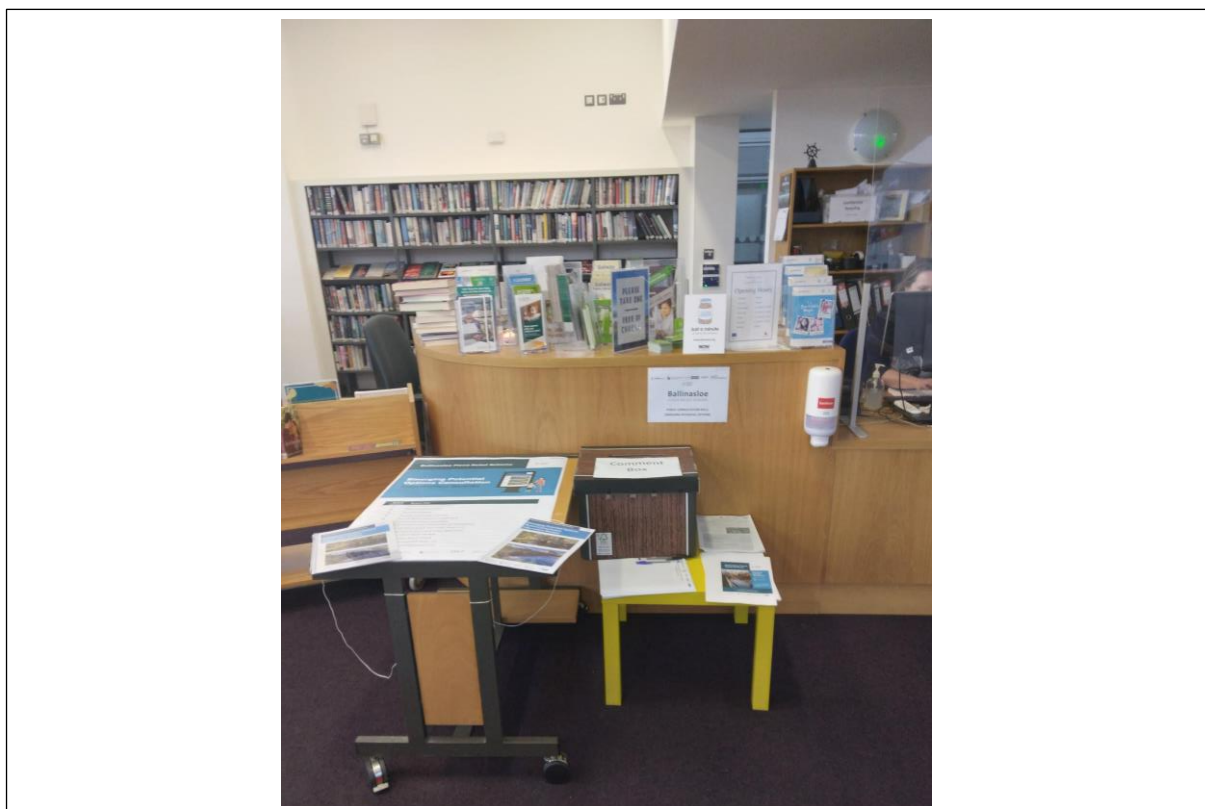
The protection of your personal data is a key priority for the OPW and your data will be processed in line with our Privacy policy which is available at <https://www.gov.ie/en/organisation-information/ddf6e0-protecting-personal-data-in-the-office-of-public-works/#> or hardcopy from our offices at Flood Projects Management Services, Office of Public Works, 1 GQ, Georges Quay, Dublin 2, D02 Y098. Should you have any questions about our privacy policy or the information we hold about you please contact us by email to [ballinasloe@arup.com](mailto:ballinasloe@arup.com) or write to us at the above address.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION

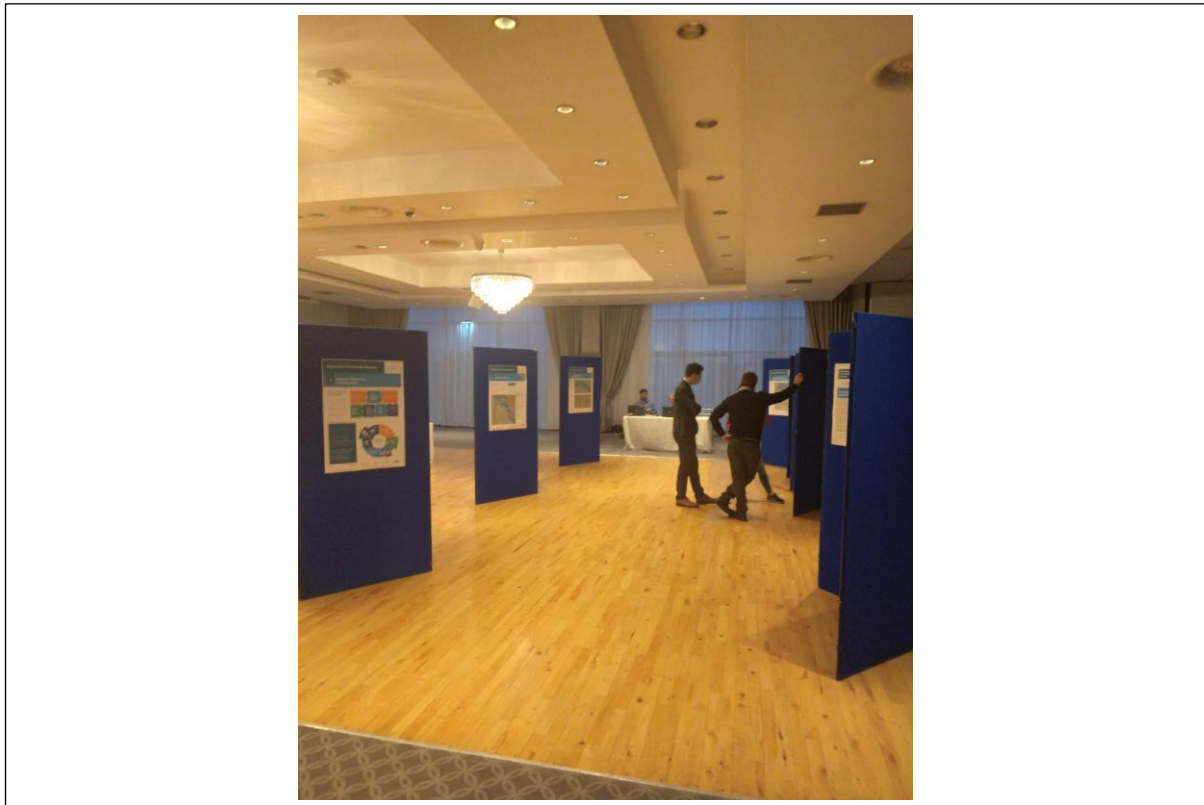
## Appendix B – Photos of the Public Consultation Venue



**Plate 001:** Public Display of Emerging Options at Civic Offices, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway



**Plate 002:** Public Display of Emerging Options at Public Library, Ballinasloe on 10/02/2022



**Plate 003:** Display boards showing Emerging Options during Public Consultation Day (PCD)



**Plate 004:** Discussion between Project Team and Members of the Public during PCD Event





**Plate 005: Discussion between Project Team and Members of the Public during PCD Event**



**Plate 006: Discussion between Project Team and Members of the Public during PCD Event**

## Appendix C –Flyer & Invitation

# Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme



Tionscadal Éireann  
Project Ireland  
**2040**



## Emerging Potential Options Consultation

**From:**

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February  
2022

**To:**

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February  
2022

**Where:**

The Project information will be publicly available to view **online** and in the foyer of **Ballinasloe Civic Offices** and **Ballinasloe Public Library** from 9<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

For more information and access to the online consultation portal, please visit  
**[www.floodinfo.ie/ballinasloefrs](http://www.floodinfo.ie/ballinasloefrs)**



# Ballinasloe

## FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME

To whom it may concern,

The Office of Public Works, in conjunction with Galway County Council, is advancing a flood relief scheme for Ballinasloe, Co. Galway. The project is currently at a stage of examining emerging potential options.

As part of this process, it is proposed to hold a Public Consultation Period at which the emerging potential options will be presented to the public and other relevant stakeholders. This will afford interested parties an opportunity to discuss the project with our Project Team; including our Engineering consultants (Arup) & Environmental consultants (Ryan Hanley) and provide input and feedback to the process.

The Project information will be publicly accessible from Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2022 via an online portal at:

<https://www.floodinfo.ie/ballinasloefrs>

Additionally, the Project information will be publicly available to view in the foyers of:

**Galway County Council, Ballinasloe Civic Offices, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway H53 A7K7**

and

**Ballinasloe Public Library, Society Street, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway H53 T320**

from

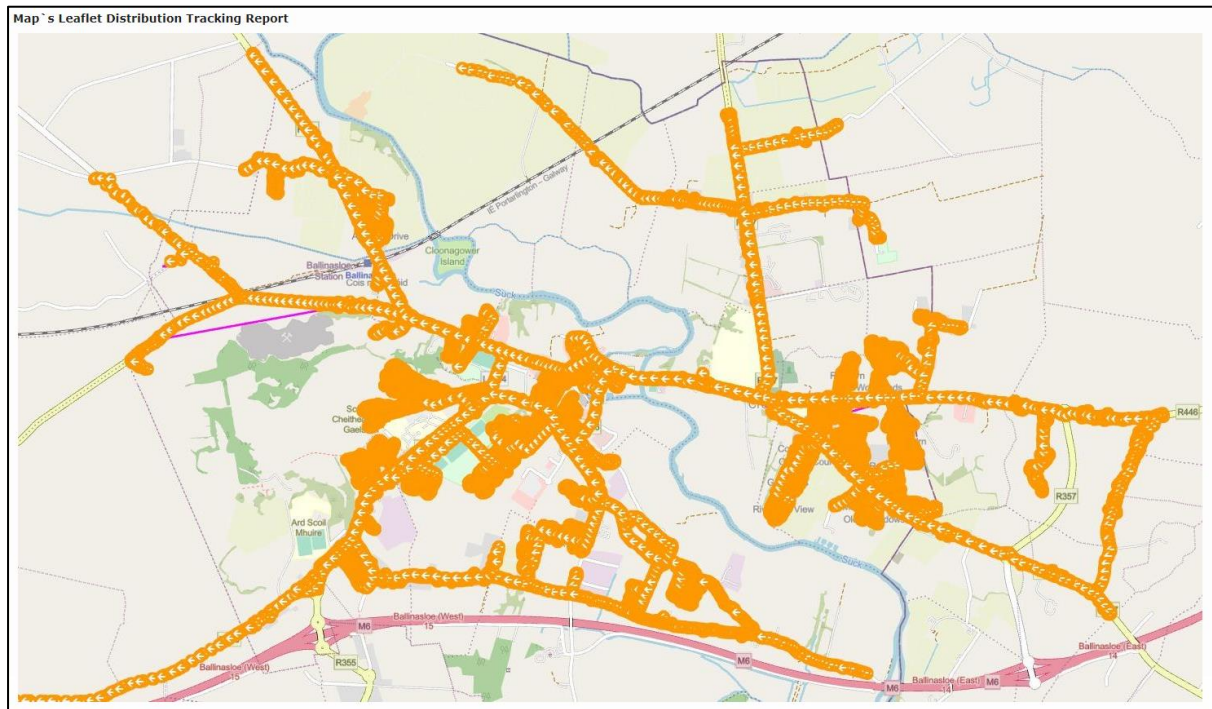
**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February to Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2022.**

The goal of this Public Consultation period is to engage with the public and stakeholders from key public bodies and to identify and discuss particular factors including opportunities that may inform the further development of the scheme. Additionally, any potential elements that could be considered to create multiple benefits and/or meet objectives other than flood risk management may be identified and discussed.

We would appreciate your attention on the above and should you wish to make comment or discuss the emerging potential options with our Project Team, we will be available by appointment during the consultation period via a dedicated phone line.

Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme Project Team





**View of leaflet distribution tracking map in the Ballinasloe Area**



**Detailed view of leaflet distribution tracking map in the Garbally Dr, Ballinasloe**



## Appendix D – Notes/Discussions from the PCD

**Queries & Issues raised at Emerging Options PCD 15/3/2022**

The following are notes of verbal discussions between the project team members and attendees at the Emerging Options PCD.

**Elected Representative**

- Discussion points generally covered by Elected Representatives separate submission
- Elected Representatives suggested that improvements could be made to the east bridge to improve the view of the river

**Local Elected Representative**

- Potential footbridge/boardwalk on east bridge and west bridge has been added to the draft local area plan
- Property adjacent to Kilclooney Bridge was very close to flooding in 2009. Local Elected Representative requested that this be reviewed
- Local Elected Representative suggested that the quality of the high ground at the end of Sarsfield Crescent be reviewed, as it may only be loose spoil

**Local Business Owner in Derrymullen Area**

Queries primarily related to the accessibility of the Victor Stone Ltd property during flood events. Queries for the design team to consider include:

- The proposed demountable is at a low point on the road and may need to be erected frequently. Consideration to be given to constructing modest road raising to minimise the need for closure.
- Business owner requested more permanent measures to reduce the hazard of driving along the flooded R358 road
- Business owner requested consideration of the alternative traffic routes when the R358 is closed

**Landowner adjacent to Kilclooney Bridge**

- Landowner showed video of flooding on property during 2009 event. Water appeared to be within 300mm – 500mm of the floor level. ARUP requested a copy of this video
- Landowner requested a bank/wall to mitigate flooding to his drive and to preserve access to the property during flooding
- Landowner stated that the drive exiting the site to the north is currently used by both properties during times of flood.
- However, Landowner stated that the eastern house on his property has no legal right of way along the drive to the north. Landowner has concern about a potential future sale being impacted by this issue.

- Landowner suggested that the new gauge at kilclooney bridge does not measure high enough, and “tops out” before the peak of flooding

### Landowner in Moycarn Area

- Landowner had previously contacted the Project Team and see separate record exists
- Landowner requested detail on heights/widths and setting out of embankment
- Landowner expressed concern about the embankment promoting illegal dumping and antisocial behaviour from the Pines. VH notes that this currently happens regularly.
- Landowner suggested that defending the old HSE WWTP is unnecessary as it is not in use. AL to follow up with HSE. (<https://goo.gl/maps/CkYSaVxm8mVotVoh9>)
- Landowner gave view that the longer defence line will cause issues with water ponding on dry side
- Landowner identified an existing WWTP near Portnick on the Roscommon side of the county boundary (located here <https://goo.gl/maps/pUoyiJTsjPsRDRelA>)
- Landowner noted potential for alternative diversion channel route for the Ballyhugh stream along rear of Cois na hAbhann estate. Arup to inspect.
- Landowner gave general view that the predicted flood extent is too conservative. AL noted that the defences are based on a predicted event which is larger in magnitude than the 2009 event, along with 500mm freeboard.
- Landowner expressed concern about access through his land for works and the site investigation. Landowner has planted the fields beside the road, and these would be damaged by traversing vehicles. Possible access route through Moycarn lodge but may require cutting through ditch
- Landowner generally feels that he is being disproportionately impacted to benefit the Pines development

### Resident at the Pines

- Resident expressed concern about visual impact of the proposed embankment
- Noted that children access the riverbank across the line of the proposed defence. AL stated that the scheme could not provide a facility for continued public access onto private land, where no formal access exists at present.
- Question about pumping station dimensions etc. Arup clarified that the pumping chambers would be underground, but with an above ground control kiosk.

**Project Manager representing Local Authority Water Programme (LAWPRO)**

- LAWPRO may have some useful baseline water quality information that can be shared. Project Manager left details on the sign in sheet.

**Representative of Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI)**

- Identified that they are intending to advance a scheme for a walking trail and fishing access points along the bank of the Suck.
- IFI are keen to attend the next collaborative workshop

**Galway-Athlone Cycleway Liaison Officer**

- General discussion about the line of the proposed greenway and interface with BFRS.
- Identified interface in the vicinity of the Shearwater Hotel and agreed that further discussion is required.
- Liaison officer stated that the intention is that the greenway project will purchase any private land required for the works.

**Landowner at East Bridge**

- Daughter attended event on behalf of her mother who owns a significant quantity of land potentially interfered with. See figure below.
- Daughter stated that her mother totally opposes the option of an eastern diversion channel through their land and would take steps to resist if necessary.
- Daughter stated that there is a second existing buried arch in the East Bridge, possibly at the former tennis courts
- Daughter expressed concern about unauthorised access from people and livestock from the lands north of the East Bridge once arches of the East Bridge are opened. Security detail to be considered.
- Daughter requested that the proposed embankment around the old mill property (H53 KH94) to be changed to a wall
- Daughter requested further detail of the proposed lowering of land at east bridge. ARUP indicated that this land would not be flooded during summer low flows, but would be flooded during regular winter flooding



**Figure 1** – Land in ownership at East Bridge (solid – registered with PRAI, dashed – unregistered but identified by Daughter on 15/3/22)

#### Property Owner

- Property owner expressed concern about impact on trees in field to northeast of Ivy Lodge, which is in their ownership
- ARUP explained the general layout of the flood defence options. Property Owner would like to see further detail of the scheme proposals.
- ARUP explained to Property owner that the Ivy Lodge residence is generally above the flood defence level, and that the scheme options therefore do not propose to construct a defence for the residence. ARUP explained however that the outbuildings at Ivy Lodge will remain at flood risk and Property owner acknowledged.

#### Property Owners at Station Road

- Residents at the property on Station Road requested that the proposed defences for the Station Road area be advanced early.

#### Landowners south of Marina

- Queries about value of their land and objectives of scheme. ARUP clarified that the scheme will only protect existing built property.
- Landowners noted that the land may be divided among 12. no individuals.



- Landowners stated that there was formerly a footbridge present connecting to a family residence on river street. This may have been removed when the Suck navigation was constructed.



### ***Portnick Drive Residents***

- Portnick Drive residents noted that children play in the open areas, and the diversion channel option should consider safety. It was also requested that there be a plan for cleaning the inside of the existing Ballyhugh stream channel / culvert. Portnick Drive residents noted that there is a planned residential development near the inlet to the existing Portnick Drive culvert.