

BYRNE LOOBY



GRAIGUENAMANAGH
TINNAHINCH
FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME

Public Consultation 01 Summary Report



Kilkenny County Council
Comhairle Chontae Chill Chainnigh

In association with -----



OPW
Oifig na hOibríochtaí Poiblí
Office of Public Works



Tionscadal Éireann
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1 Introduction

1.1 Background

Kilkenny County Council as the Lead Authority, in partnership with Carlow County Council and The Office of Public Works (OPW) are now advancing with Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch Flood Relief Scheme. The OPW has recommended the development of a Flood Relief Scheme for Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch as a result of the work completed in the South Eastern Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Study.

This Flood Relief Scheme is part of the €1bn National Fund announced by the Government for Flood Relief Schemes throughout the Country in May 2018. Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch is on the Kilkenny-Carlow border and Kilkenny County Council are acting as the Lead Authority for the Scheme.

Kilkenny County Council commissioned ByrneLooby in February 2020, to develop and implement a Flood Relief Scheme for Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch. The objective of the scheme is to alleviate the risk of flooding to the Community of Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch by providing a scheme that is technically, socially, environmentally and economically acceptable.

As part of the development of the scheme it is intended to engage substantially and meaningfully with the public, landowner and stakeholders in order to understand all the issues affecting them. From this approach it is envisaged that the optimum solution to reduce the flood risk can be found.

1.2 This Report

This report summaries the first Public Consultation which was held on online due to government Covid-19 restrictions. The consultation period was Thursday June 18th June to Thursday July 9th, 2020. All event material was made available online at Consult.Kilkenny.ie. The scheme was also advertised on the scheme website.

The objective of the public consultation 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 to them.

2 Invitation to Participate in Consultation

Consultation letters were issued to a total of 50 identified potential interested parties to inform them that the scheme was underway and to ask them for their views about how they saw the scheme impacting on their interest areas and to notify them of the upcoming Public Consultation Day.

All public, stakeholders and other property owners and occupiers were invited by public notice to attend. In addition to the letters issued to potential participants, letters were issued to local councillors by both Carlow and Kilkenny County Council.

To further advertise the event notices were placed in the local papers and on social media.

3 Public Consultation

3.1 Consultation Process

A Public Consultation was held online at Consult.Kilkenny.ie. The consultation period was for three weeks between Thursday June 18th June to Thursday July 9th, 2020.

The purpose of the Public Consultation was to promote awareness of the scheme and to begin initial engagement with all interested parties. Additionally, the event was used to gather local information about experience of previous flooding in the study area along with their thoughts on the likely cause and the potential flood mitigation measures.

The online event included a recorded presentation, an information leaflet and an online questionnaire. Information was available to be downloaded and returned by post. A project email address was also provided should participants wish to contact the project team directly.

These materials are available via the project website at:

<https://www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/graiguenamanagh-tinnahinchfrs/home/>

The original hosting page was at:

<https://consult.kilkenny.ie/en/consultation/graiguenamangh-tinnahinch-flood-relief-scheme-public-consultation-no-1>

3.2 Questionnaire

A questionnaire was issued via online survey for any interested parties to complete. The initial questions 1-4 sought personal contact details. Questions 5-17 sought views on various topics.

4 Summary of the Submissions Received

4.1 Submissions

The submissions received are summarised as follows:

- 1 no. response via the Kilkenny consult.ie website
- 6 no. submissions using the online Questionnaire
- 4 no. submissions from Stakeholders that received letters
- 5 no. submissions from people via the project email address
- 8 no. submissions via post with observations, 7 no. of which returned a manually completed version of the questionnaire.

The most common issues that arose were:

- Concerns that hard defence walls may “destroy the character of the town and its heritage” and individual defences for properties prone to flooding may be a better option.
- Local people affected by flooding feel they have been ignored in the past and want to be kept informed and have their own input in the flood relief scheme.
- Locals stated there is insufficient storm drains in the area, leading to the River Duiske and the River Barrow just bursting their banks. The River Duiske that runs through the town has storm drains directly discharging from many houses along the Duiske.
- Residents of the area requested the possibility of some temporary measures being put in place during the intervening years till the flood relief scheme is complete.

4.2 Next Steps

Responses to each of the submissions have issued to thank participants for their submissions.

The technical and environmental concerns will be used to direct the data collection including the site investigations, environmental studies and other assessments as well as to inform on the potential options that are to be considered in the scheme.

In the short term, the project team will be following-up on items highlighted in the consultation in addition to those already ongoing as part of the scheme development.