

Newsletter

Ballina Flood Relief Scheme



Tionseadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040



Project Newsletter 2021

Issue 2, June



Comhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo
Mayo County Council



OPW Oifig na
nOibreacha Poiblí
Office of Public Works



Newsletter

Ballina Flood Relief Scheme



WHAT STAGE IS THE STUDY AT?

In the period since the last Project Newsletter was issued (March 2021) the project steering group (comprising of Mayo County Council, the OPW and RPS) are continuing to ensure that the development of the scheme is based on the most accurate and up to date information. RPS has been incorporating the data received from the third-party surveys into updated Hydrological and Hydraulic assessments.

The RPS Environmental Team are completing environmental surveys on an ongoing basis to provide baseline environmental data for the project. These surveys include habitat surveys, mammal surveys, bird surveys, bat surveys and Invasive Alien Species surveys.

IMPACT OF COVID-19



The Ballina FRS Steering Group (comprising of the OPW, Mayo County Council and RPS) have continued to meet via video conferencing facilities in order to comply with government guidance during the COVID19 pandemic. All third party survey contractors

are following the latest government health and safety guidance in relation to COVID19 whilst undertaking the surveys. Unfortunately, the various Covid-19 restrictions over the past 15 months have impacted negatively on the Schemes progress, such that the Programme is currently 6 months (approximately) behind that originally scheduled'

HYDROLOGY ANALYSIS AND REPORT

The hydrological analysis is substantially complete with all relevant hydrological calculations including the design flows /levels having been completed. This provides the necessary inputs to the hydraulic model in order to allow simulation of a range of flooding scenarios. The Hydrology Report was issued to OPW/MCC for review and RPS is finalising the Report addressing the review comments. The Final report will be made available on the scheme website (www.ballinafrs.ie) once finalised.

HYDRAULIC ANALYSIS

Construction of the hydraulic model has is well underway following receipt of the survey information. The model is currently being calibrated and validated using data from historical flood events to ensure that it provides an accurate representation of the flooding mechanisms in Ballina. The hydraulic model will then be used to simulate a range of scenarios that could happen in the future. A hydraulic workshop was held with members of the steering group on

Newsletter

Ballina Flood Relief Scheme

OPENING COLLABORATIVE WORKSHOP



The Opening Collaborative Workshop was held on Wednesday 9th June 2021. It was held virtually due to COVID-19 outbreak. Representatives from various relevant stakeholders attended the workshop. The purpose of the workshop was to identify and discuss any particular issues, constraints and opportunities that could inform the development of the Scheme, and any potential features that could be considered to create multiple benefits and/or meet objectives other than flood risk management. RPS provided an overview of the project including;

- Background to the scheme,
- Progress to date,
- Future Stages and Timeline

The proposed scheme as per the CFRAM study was also presented and a number of factors to consider in the development of a preferred scheme were presented including;

- Potential for Natural Water Retention Measures
- Objectives of Ballina Local Area Plan
- Public Realm/Landscape Enhancements at Cathedral Road and Emmet Street
- Ireland's Greenest Town Initiative
- Outcomes of the environmental constraints study including Environmental and Cultural Heritage.

Following the initial presentation, a number of breakout sessions were held where attendees were invited to provide comments on the proposed scheme. RPS is currently compiling all feedback / queries

the 4th June to update the steering group on progression of the hydraulic modelling tasks.

received from various stakeholders during the workshop.

NEXT STEPS

Data Collection: Data Collection is substantially complete. The project team are interested in receiving photos, videos, sketches or any other relevant information regarding previous flood events from those who have experienced it first-hand, particularly from 2015 onwards. This information will help us to refine our river model and the design of the flood relief scheme. If you have any information which could be of use, please contact us.

Surveys: Procurement of a contractor to undertake Ground Investigation works is largely complete. It is intended that the Ground Investigation contract works will commence in Q3 of 2021.

Hydraulic Analysis: After the hydraulic model has been calibrated and validated using data from historical flood events to ensure that it provides an accurate representation of the flooding mechanisms, it will be used to assess and compare various engineering options to reduce the flood risk in Ballina.

Environmental Assessment: Further ecological survey work will be conducted during the remainder of 2021 in relation to habitat types, breeding birds, bats, mammals and other species or features of ecological or environmental interest. Additional Invasive species surveys will also be carried out during the summer months.

Scheme Analysis and Development: Following completion of the Hydraulic report the project team will begin the scheme analysis and development process where potential options will be assessed in conjunction the Environmental team with the ultimate aim to identify a preferred scheme for Ballina.

Newsletter

Ballina Flood Relief Scheme

SCHEME STAGES:

Stage I: Option Assessment, Scheme Development and Design

- Data Gathering /Topographical Survey
- Hydrological Analysis & Hydraulic Modelling
- Option Assessments & Preferred Option Selection
- Environmental Assessment (EIAR)











Stage II: Planning / Development Consent



Stage III: Detailed Construction Design and Tender

Stage IV: Construction Supervision and Project Management

Stage V: Handover

OUTLINE PROGRAMME:

Stages	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Stage I: Option Assessment, Scheme Development and Design							
Stage II: Planning / Development Consent							
Stage III: Detailed Construction Design and Tender							
Stage IV: Construction Supervision and Project Management							
Stage V: Handover							

 Programmed activities  Progress to date

Note: Timelines are the current best estimate but are subject to revision and approval

Contact us:

Ballina Flood Relief Scheme Project Manager
RPS Consulting Engineers, Lyr 2, IDA Business and Technology Park,
Mervue, Galway, H91 H9CK.
Telephone: +353 91 400 200
Email: ballinafrs@rpsgroup.com