



Kilkenny County Council
Comhairle Chontae Chill Chainnigh

In association with _____



Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch Flood Relief Scheme



Newsletter September 2020

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The purpose of the Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch Flood Relief 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.

Project Introduction

Kilkenny County Council as the Lead Authority, in partnership with Carlow County Council and The Office of Public Works (OPW) are now advancing with the 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 March 2020, to develop and implement a Flood Relief Scheme for Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch.



The Quay, Graiguenamanagh during January 2016 Flood

Environmental

As part of the Scheme an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will be completed. Environmental assessment is a process by which environmental information is collected and used to inform decision making. Environmental Assessment is required under European Directive 85/337 on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment. The main aims of the environmental assessment process are:

- To ensure full consideration of the likely environmental effects (whether beneficial or adverse) of possible schemes so that decisions can be made with a knowledge of their environmental consequences, including the decision whether or not to proceed with the further development of a scheme.
- To aid the identification of ways in which the environmental effects can be minimised through option selection and other measures.
- To allow the public and other stakeholders to comment on proposals taking account of their environmental implications.

Environmental assessment is a continuous process and will be used to inform all decisions regarding the development of the Scheme. The environmental assessment includes an investigation of several environmental factors including, ecology, water quality, cultural heritage and archaeology, noise and air quality, landscape and townscape and land use.

The ByrneLooby environmental team have already commenced this process and are currently collecting baseline data to inform the assessment process. These surveys have involved a 'walkover' of the site to enable the surveyors to get a detailed knowledge of the site, thus ensuring that all environmental impacts and environmentally sensitive areas are identified and appropriately assessed.



Heron taking flight by Graiguenamanagh Weir

The first deliverable as part of this overall assessment will be the Constraints Report, which will outline the various environmental constraints that need to be taken into account in the development of the scheme. This is due for completion in Q4 2020.

Surveys

Surveyors have been on site in Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch over the summer completing several different surveys for the Scheme. Topography surveys have been completed around the urban areas and river section surveys have been completed along the important watercourses in the area. These will feed into the hydraulic modelling that is used to define areas at risk of flooding and develop the flood defense measures for the Scheme.

Basement surveys were attempted but none were reported. If you have a basement, please contact us by any of the means on the last page.

Hydrology

The draft hydrology report has been completed for the Scheme and is under internal review. The report details the analysis completed to define the flows in the rivers during flooding events. This is a key part in defining how the watercourses in the area respond during flood events. The hydrology focuses on the large Barrow Catchment and the smaller Duiske Catchments. Understanding how these catchments act is a key step in defining flood risk and developing flood protection measures for the Scheme.

Public Engagement

In the last period the first public engagement event was completed. The event was hosted online due to COVID 19 restriction. The purpose of the event was to introduce the project team, outline the process for delivering the scheme and gather valuable local knowledge from stakeholders and the public. Information from the public is essential in achieving this project objectives.

There will be other formal consultation events held over the course of the project. However, the team can also be contacted directly at any time for any specific or queries information at GTFRS@byrneblooby.com



Photo of a past flood event received during Public Engagement. This information helps interpret past flood events and better calibrate the analysis for the Scheme

What's Next?

Over the next few months, the Project Team will be working on:

- ➔ Hydraulic Modelling
- ➔ Drainage surveys
- ➔ Ecology and environmental surveys
- ➔ Flood Defence Asset Surveys
- ➔ Flood defense options development
- ➔ Site Investigations

COVID-19

Kilkenny County Council, supported by OPW and Carlow County Council, have deemed the Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch FRS as an essential project. This means that ByrneLooby and the Steering Group for the project will continue with the essential feasibility assessments for the project and continue working on the scheme throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

In order to do so, the initial Public Engagement Day was held online. If feasible further events are hoped to be held locally in Graiguenamanagh.

The Project Team look forward to your participation and wish all residents of Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch good health.



Contact Us

If you would like to contact our Project Team about any matter relating to the Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch Flood Relief Scheme you can do so through the following:

Email

GTFRS@ByrneLooby.com

Phone

021 – 2407988

Post

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If you would like any further information on the Scheme, please visit our website:

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