

# Newsletter

## Ballina Flood Relief Scheme



Tionscatal Éireann  
Project Ireland  
2040



### Project Newsletter 2023

Issue 3, October



Comhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo  
Mayo County Council



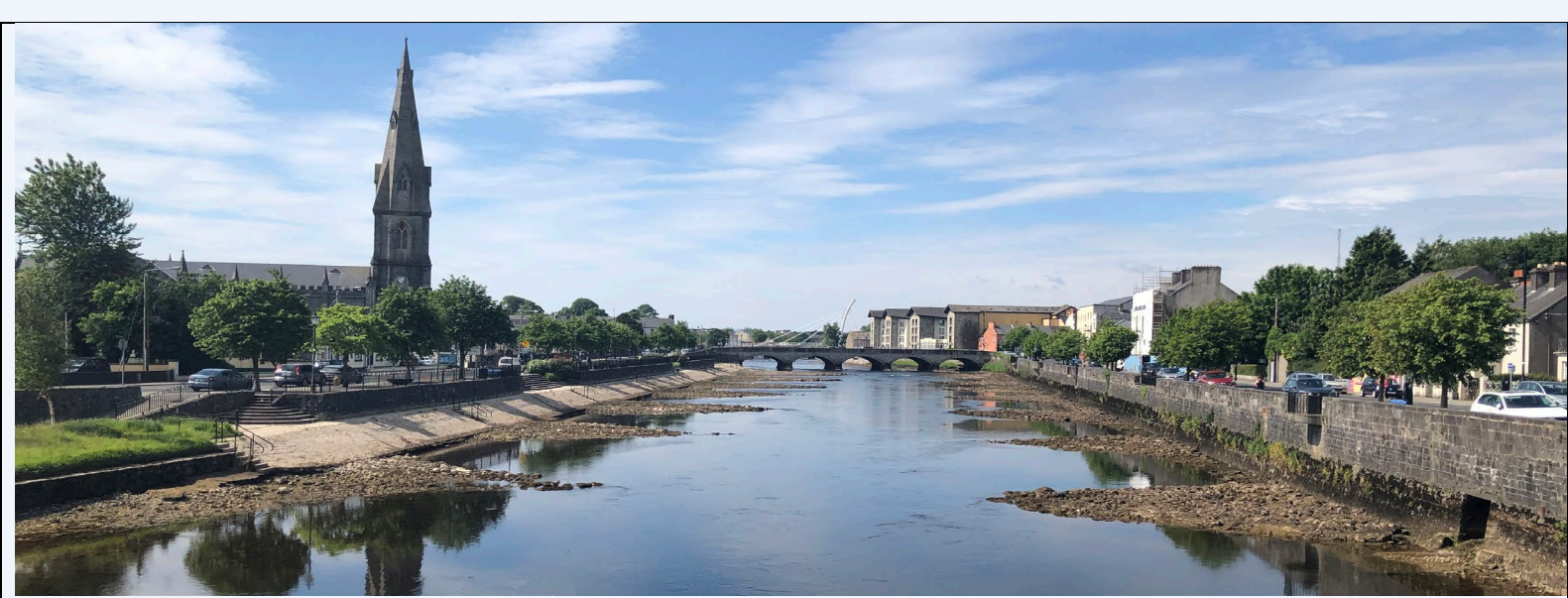
**OPW**

Oifig na  
nOibreacha Poiblí  
Office of Public Works



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## Ballina Flood Relief Scheme



### WHAT STAGE IS THE STUDY AT?

In the period since the last Project Newsletter was issued (June 2023) the project steering group (comprising of Mayo County Council, the OPW and RPS) have continued to develop the scheme based on the most accurate and up to date information.

#### DEVELOPMENT of PREFERRED OPTION:

Changes have been made to the emerging preferred option presented as part of Public Consultation Event held on the 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023 as follows;

##### Removal of the proposed works in Ballina Quay.

The Ballina Municipal district have appointed a firm of Architects to prepare a feasibility study and prepare proposals for an application for Urban Regeneration Development Funding (URDF).

There are currently no firm timelines for any development proposals at the Quay and progress on this project is dependent upon funding allocation being made under the URDF.

In consideration of the above it has been agreed that the emerging flood defence proposals for the Quay area are premature at this stage as they may only serve to complicate or compromise any proposed

future development for this area. These works will no longer form part of the Ballina Flood Relief Scheme. Any future works proposed in this area will need to ensure that it includes appropriate flood protection measures as necessary.

##### Proposed works on the Knockanelo.

As the Knockanelo catchment is ungauged, there is less certainty in regard to freeboard assessment. This in turn may lead to overdesigned flood solutions which present significant challenges in terms of their buildability.

It has therefore been decided by the project steering group to decouple the Knockanelo from the main scheme and progress it separately. A flow monitoring regime has been put in place for the Knockanelo which will allow us to more accurately determine the Knockanelo flowrate. This could potentially reduce the extent and size of any required upgraded or new culverts for the Knockanelo. A programme for the implementation of the works on the Knockanelo will be developed in due course.



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### ENVIRONMENTAL:

An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) is currently being prepared for the preferred scheme. The EIA process will ensure that any likely significant effect on the environment that the project may have is being assessed, so that people are aware of what those effects are likely to be.

The EIAR will set out proposals to deal with any negative effects.

It is expected that the EIAR for the Ballina scheme will be completed shortly with an application for consent to An Bord Pleanála to be submitted in 2024.

Any interested individual may get a copy of any EIAR used in a planning application from the local authority or An Bord Pleanála. Individuals may comment on an EIAR in the same way as any other aspect of a planning application.

### Maritime Area Consent

The Maritime Area Consent (MAC) is a new and streamlined planning process set out under the Maritime Area Planning Act (2021) and replaces the old foreshore licensing system.

Developers who have been assessed for, and are subsequently awarded, a Maritime Area Consent (MAC) can then proceed to apply for development permission (planning permission) from An Bord Pleanála, where the project proposals will undergo environmental assessment.

Upon receipt of a MAC applications, projects are assessed in key areas, including financial and technical competency, in order to ensure that only viable projects can apply for development permission from An Bord Pleanála.

A MAC application is currently being prepared for the Ballina Flood Relief Scheme. A pre-application meeting was held on 26<sup>th</sup> October.

### Consultations with Statutory and Non-Statutory Bodies

Consultations with Statutory and Non-Statutory Bodies were held throughout this period including meetings with National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS) and Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) to ensure any issues they may have are addressed insofar as possible.

### Preferred Scheme Development:

The preferred scheme is being further developed to a level that is sufficiently detailed to allow the completion of the EIAR and planning application.

This includes finalisation of the line and level of the flood defences in all areas and further development of the public realm enhancement areas on Cathedral road.

Development of the designs in these areas has included the inclusion of a Conservation Architect as part of the project team to review and advise on design elements of the scheme.

### Landowner Consultation:

As the footprint of the proposed scheme and areas that are impacted are known Mayo County Council and the project team will ensure all affected landowners are consulted and made aware of the temporary and permanent impacts of the scheme.

Consultations with individual landowners will take place in advance of the planning submission to An Bord Pleanála.

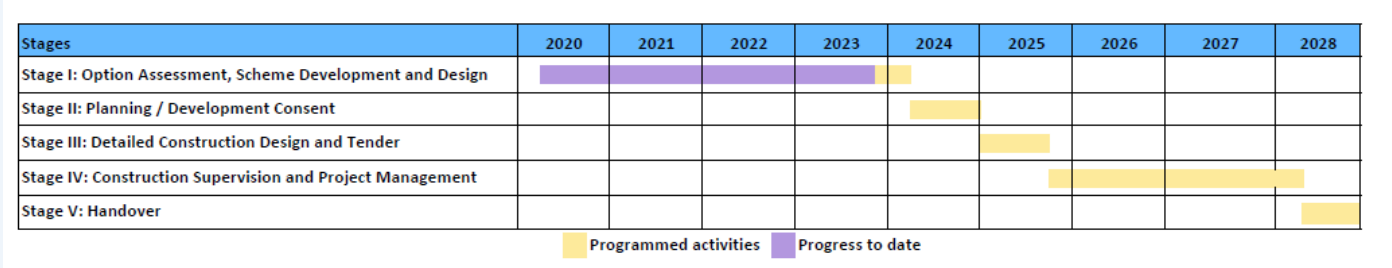
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### SCHEME STAGES:

- Stage I: Option Assessment, Scheme Development and Design
- Data Gathering /Topographical Survey (Complete)
  - Hydrological Analysis & Hydraulic Modelling (Complete)
  - Option Assessments & Preferred Option Selection (Substantially Complete)
  - Environmental Assessment (EIAR) (Underway)
- Stage II: Planning / Development Consent
- Stage III: Detailed Construction Design and Tender
- Stage IV: Construction Supervision and Project Management
- Stage V: Handover

### OUTLINE PROGRAMME:



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

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