

## Contact Us

You can keep in touch with the project through our website where we will be posting updates on progress and details of ongoing works.

For further enquiries feel free to contact us via email or post at:



Portarlington Flood Relief Scheme Project Team,  
Nicholas O'Dwyer Limited , Unit 4E, Nutgrove Office  
Park, Nutgrove Ave, Churchtown Upper,  
Dublin, D14 V3F6



[PortarlingtonFRS@binnies.com](mailto:PortarlingtonFRS@binnies.com)

## Relevant Links



[floodinfo.ie/portarlingtonfrs](https://floodinfo.ie/portarlingtonfrs)



**OPW**

Oifig na  
nOibreacha Poiblí  
Office of Public Works



**Laois County Council**

Áras an Chontae, Portlaoise, Co. Laois



Tionscadal Éireann  
Project Ireland  
**2040**



Comhairle Chontae Uíbh Fhailí  
Offaly County Council



**NICHOLAS  
O'DWYER**



# PORTARLINGTON FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME

Newsletter No. 08

March 2024

## PROJECT NEWS

Stage I - Scheme Development and Design of Portarlington's Flood Relief Scheme (FRS) - is being advanced by Binnies and Nicholas O'Dwyer (B/NOD), together with Laois County Council (LCC), Offaly County Council (OCC) and the project's Steering Group which consists of members from the Office of Public Works (OPW). Progress is ongoing in terms of development of the scheme design, engineering surveys and environmental assessments.

## CURRENT PROGRESS

Since the last newsletter (November 2023), the following has progressed:

The Preferred Option for the Scheme has been identified. This was presented and discussed with Local Authorities (LCC and OCC), the Project Steering Group, elected members and the wider community of Portarlington during the third Public Consultation Day of Stage I of the project. The event was advertised through various online websites and social media; an advertisement of the public event was posted by Laois County Council, the OPW, Leinster Express and Midlands103. The Portarlington Library also advertised the event on Facebook and Twitter. This in-person event was held on 13<sup>th</sup> December in Portarlington Library. 32 no. of attendees joined the event. The attendees were informed about the Preferred Option and overall, responded positively. They also expressed a keen interest on the project, endorsing the reduction in flood risk and natural enhancements provided by the Preferred Option.

B/NOD have begun discussing the buildability aspect of the scheme and the operation and maintenance plans. A workshop was held on the 21<sup>st</sup> February which was attended by the Project Team, OPW, LCC and OCC.



Figure 1 - Display material used for the Public Consultation Day

Site Investigation Works were scoped and procured to inform the design and costing of the Scheme. Furthermore, the purpose of the investigations is to provide geotechnical information on the prevailing ground conditions underlying the site, to determine the engineering properties of the soils encountered in order to assist the design, and to investigate the presence and details of existing foundations. B/NOD together with LCC are in the process to assess the tenders received. The initiation of the SI works is anticipated in May 2024.

The Archaeological Impact Assessments (AIA) are ongoing. These assessments are focusing on potential impacts from the Scheme and the SI on archaeology and built heritage and are prepared in line with consultations with the National Monument Service.

Environmental assessments are under development and are progressing in parallel with the Scheme's preliminary design drawings. Bat Surveys on trees and buildings are also ongoing as part of the winter survey.

## NEXT STEPS

Binnies and Nicholas O'Dwyer continue to progress the development of the Scheme. The Project Team are currently finalising the design drawings in line with the feedback received from consultations with the public and the Buildability Workshop. Following an agreed design the Appropriate Assessment and the Environmental Assessment process will continue.

Preparations are also ongoing for a Utility Survey by drafting specifications and tender documents. With this survey, the Project Team aims to obtain mapped subsurface utilities to inform the design of the scheme.

The Project Team are also going to prepare and host a Collaborative Workshop with representatives from various departments of LCC, OCC and the OPW. The purpose of this Workshop is to present the Scheme, outline associated constraints and opportunities, and to gather any other information which may inform the development of the final Scheme.



Figure 2 - River Barrow Walk - rear of waterfront apartments

## PROJECTED KEY MILESTONE DATES

DATE	MILESTONE	INFORMATION
April 2024	Design Freeze	Development and design of the preferred Scheme Option.
October 2024	Appropriate Assessment & Environmental Impact Assessment	Complete the assessments and environmental reports incorporating results from surveys and desk studies
Q4 2024	Planning Submission	Submission of the Planning Application of the Scheme.

