

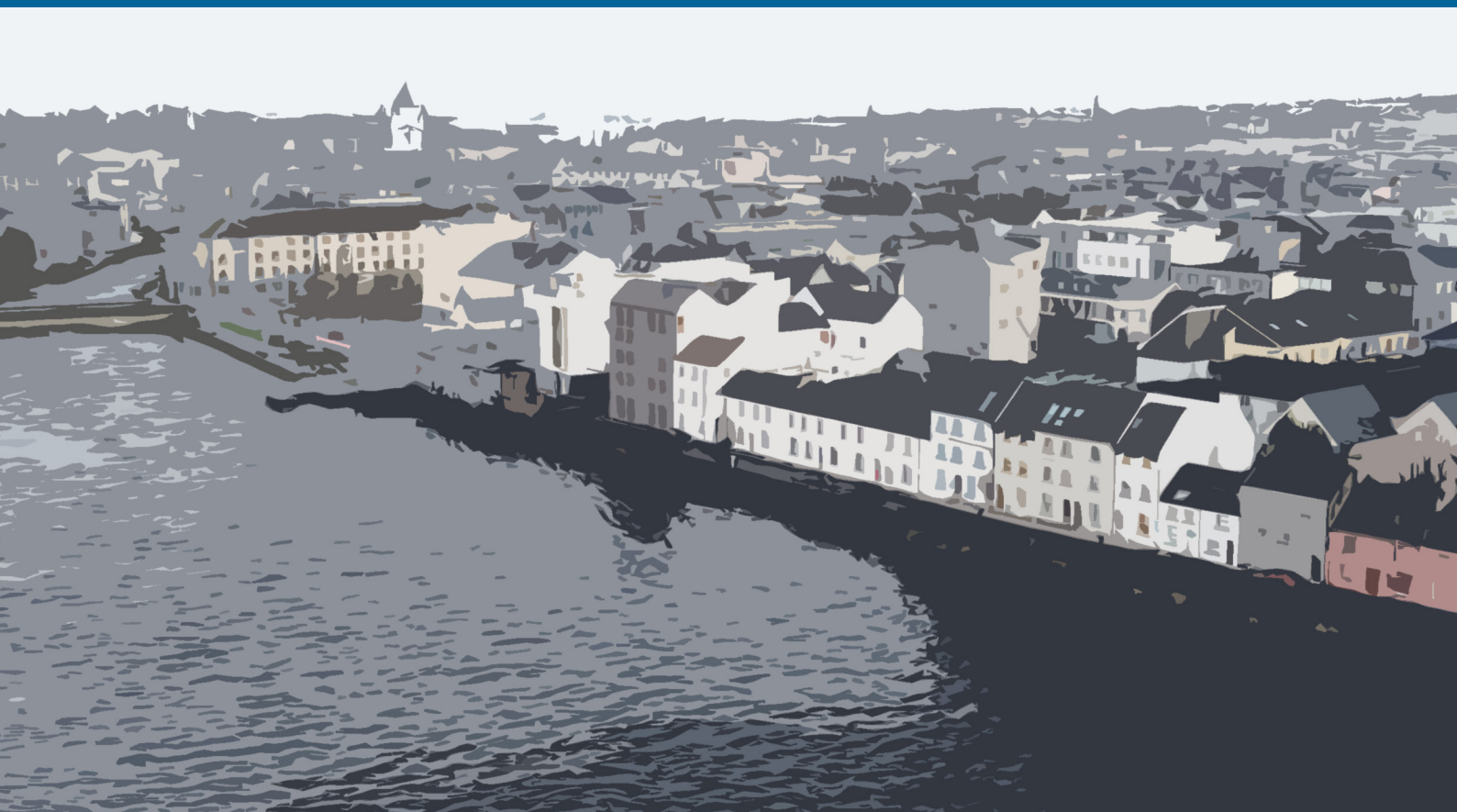


## Coirib go Cósta

Scéim Faoisimh Tuilte Chathair na Gaillimhe  
Galway City Flood Relief Scheme

# Public Engagement Day No. 1 1st June 2021 **Report**

Date: November 2021 | JN: 279365-00



Tionscadal Éireann  
Project Ireland  
2040



OPW  
Oifig na nOibríochas Poiblí  
Office of Public Works



Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe  
Galway City Council

ARUP

Galway City Council

**Coirib go Cósta**

**Galway City Flood Relief Scheme**

Public Engagement Day No. 1  
1st June Report

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This report takes into account the particular instructions and requirements of our client.

It is not intended for and should not be relied upon by any third party and no responsibility is undertaken to any third party.

Job number 279365-00

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# 1 Introduction

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The OPW has carried out the Western Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study for the Corrib River Basin. Galway City was included as an Area for Further Assessment (AFA) and concluded that a flood relief scheme would be viable and effective for the community.

Galway City Council, acting as Agents for the OPW, has commissioned Arup to develop a Flood Relief Scheme for Galway City. The scheme is called “Coirib go Cósta – the Galway City Flood Relief Scheme”.

The scheme objective is to assess and develop a flood relief scheme that is technically, socially, environmentally, aesthetically and economically acceptable, to alleviate the risk of flooding in Galway City.

The first Public Engagement Day (PED) was held online on the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2021; the period for submissions following the event extended to 7<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

## 1.1 Aims and Approaches of the Public Engagement Day

### 1.1.1 Aims

The aims of the first Public Engagement Day are:

- To introduce the scheme title and branding.
- To inform the general public of the Constraints and Opportunities Study and preliminary aspects of Coirib go Cósta.
- To obtain information about flooding or other relevant environmental information about the Study and Scheme Area.
- To communicate the project processes and timescales including future opportunities for public engagement.
- To encourage participation from stakeholders and the public generally in relation to their own observations or experiences of past flood events.
- To invite stakeholders and the public to contribute their views by way of submissions, photographs, videos, both via questionnaire and verbally through a consultation call.

### 1.1.2 Target Audience

Stakeholders and interest groups associated with Coirib go Cósta comprise of a range of organisations and individuals. Each of these stakeholders’ needs can differ with unique perspectives of how the scheme may positively or negatively impact their interests. Identified stakeholders and interest groups are categorised as follows:

- The scheme Steering Group
- Decision makers – Elected Representatives (Councillors and TDs), County and City Chief executives, etc.
- Policy makers – planners, government organisations and other statutory bodies
- Individual stakeholders - landowners, property owners, developers etc.
- Other interested parties - members of general public, voluntary/non-governmental organisations, and local organisations
- The media

### 1.1.3 Event format

Due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions relating to public gatherings, a virtual information room was prepared to access information and plans for the scheme.

The virtual room set-up had the same format of a real room with the following:

- Information desk with newsletter and introduction video
- Posters set-up along the room
- Interactive web-mapper
- Drawings and maps
- Feedback zone with questionnaire submission and booking consultation
- Live chat option with representatives from the project team of Arup and Galway City Council.

## 2 Public Engagement Arrangements

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### 2.1 Elected Members Presentation

An overview presentation of Coirib go Cósta was due to be formally presented to Galway City Council Elected Members at the monthly council meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> of May. However, due to time restrictions regarding public meetings in place due to Covid-19, the agenda item was deferred. The presentation was instead made by Arup at the elected members meeting held on the 28<sup>th</sup> of June.

The following is a summary of the issues raised by the Elected Members and the response provided during the meeting. A detailed summary of the meeting is contained in Appendix A.

Points raised by the Elected Members:

- Councillor Neil McNelis queried the project duration and whether works at Salthill could be completed in advance. He requested confirmation on who is the client, how climate change will be considered and whether the harbour and inner dock development is included in the scheme. The councillor suggested a leaflet drop of to residents impacted by flooding.

Arup responded to that the programme has extended from that presented previously largely due to the in-depth understanding the team now has of the complexities of the project. GCC require the project team to identify early-wins where possible, this may include Salthill however it is premature at this stage to comment further on sequencing or phasing of works.

GCC are the client however OPW are the funding agency.

It is a requirement of the project brief that climate change sensitivity assessment is carried out to determine the appropriate standard of protection. Further, a key project deliverable (under Stage 1) is a climate change adaptation plan.

The Port of Galway are recognised as a key stakeholder and, as such, engagement between the Port of Galway and the project team is on-going.

The opportunity to drop of leaflets to residents impacted by flooding will be explored.

- Councillor Martina O'Connor queried whether the protection of buildings the sole focus of the flood relief scheme.

Arup responded that the CFRAM Study, as with all flood relief schemes, quantifies the cost-benefit ratio of the project and thus the project's viability based on the cost of damages to existing buildings and infrastructure. However, while the costs of these damages informs the viability of the scheme, the focus of the Coirib go Cósta project, in terms of delivery, is also driven by other aspects such as public realm integration, heritage and ecology.

As such GCC require this scheme be acceptable for a number of criteria beyond technical and economic feasibility such as social, environmental and aesthetic.

- Councillor Donal Lyons queried whether the scheme will integrate with the City Development Plan.

Arup responded that the City Development Plan is currently ahead of the FRS study; however the team are engaging regularly with the city planners and will keep them abreast of findings of the study and liaise with them on the emerging options as appropriate.

Mayor Colette Connolly further queried the cost, funding and timeline. She pointed out that the number of attendees at the consultation was low and advised the project team to contact residential committees.

GCC responded that funding is primarily by OPW through Project Ireland 2040. URDF funding may be accessed to fill gaps between the FRS needs and other enhancement arising from the scheme.

Arup provided the number of attendees and compared with the number attending opening days for other schemes and by comparison, the numbers are in fact reasonably high.

- Councillor Declan Mc Donnell queried whether the carpark at Seapoint will/might be lost.

Arup responded that the CFRAMS did not identify the carpark as being removed. However, it is too early in the project to say what measures may be implemented.

- Councillor Eddie Hoare welcomed the scheme and would like to see the scheme be bold in its aspirations.

## **2.2 Galway City Council Climate Change, Environment, Recreation and Amenity Strategic Policy Committee Presentation**

A presentation to the Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) was held on the 26<sup>th</sup> May 2021. The purpose of this was to present the project to the SPC prior to the virtual PED. Following the presentation, the Arup project manager was available to answer questions from the SPC representatives. The following is a summary of the issues raised by the SPC and the responses provided during the meeting. A detailed summary of the meeting is contained in Appendix A.

Points raised by the SPC:

- Councillor Colette Connolly queried the project length as completion date is scheduled for 2028. Councillor Connolly also queried the project cost and funding source.

Arup responded to that the programme has extended from that presented previously largely due to the in-depth understanding the team now has of the complexities of the project. Further, the programme is tied to environmental windows for survey works.

Regarding costs, detailed cost estimates are not available at present however the Western CFRAM study estimated the costs for works in Galway City and Salthill to be circa €9.5M. It will be funded through Ireland 2040.

- Councillor John Connolly queried if a foreshore licence will be required.

Arup responded that it may be required and if it is the application will be submitted during Stage 2 of the project. It will become apparent during the development of the scheme options if a foreshore licence will be required.

- Councillor Niall Murphy welcomed the element of Irish speaking at the presentation and the allowance for same at the PED and in the online material. Councillor Murphy noted that the scheme will have a significant visual and functional impact. Further he noted that the public may expect results immediately and care should be taken to temper expectations. Councillor Murphy also noted that a Table of Contents at the front of the Virtual Engagement Room may make it easier to navigate.

Arup responded that they are aware that aesthetics are extremely important in the final scheme design and they will be working with GCC planning department throughout in this regard. The point on tempering expectations is well noted and the team will be cognisant of this going forward. Arup will advise the developers of the Virtual Engagement Room on the menu suggestion and agree it would be particularly helpful for those with poor internet access.

- Councillor Donal Lyons noted that the length of the project is concerning; is there a risk of conflict with the City Development Plan due to conflicting timelines?

Arup advised that they are working closely with the Galway City Council Planning Department to limit this particular risk.

- Councillor Martina O'Connor queried if there would be impacts outside of the city, whether climate change is being considered in the scheme development, and whether natural flood plain management is being considered by the project team. Councillor O'Connor further noted that online engagement risks missing a cohort of the public.

Arup advised that there would not be impacts outside of the scheme area and it is a requirement of the project to demonstrate this. Climate change is being considered and a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy is a project deliverable in Stage 1. A Natural Water Retention Measures Study will be completed as part of the Options Development process and as such the feasibility of natural floodplain management will be examined thoroughly. Arup agree there is a risk of a cohort of the public being missed due to the online event however this is unavoidable due to the ongoing Covid-19 limitation. To mitigate this,

information leaflets will be provided at the City Council and County Council public counters.

## 2.3 Public Engagement Arrangements

### 2.3.1 Public Engagement Day

The first PED was held on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2021 online through a Virtual Engagement Room (<https://www.virtualengage.arup.com/coiribgocosta/>), accessed via the scheme website through a direct link ([www.coiribgocosta.ie](http://www.coiribgocosta.ie)). The purpose of the PED was to present the scheme, the objectives of the scheme, the Constraints and Opportunities Study, the project timeline, and future opportunities for public engagement.

The PED was held between 9am to 6pm for members of the general public with a live chat option with the members of the project team from Arup and Galway City Council. The Virtual Engagement Room was live for a period of 5 weeks where all relevant information was available and submissions could be made via the questionnaire submission or verbally by a consultation call booked through the virtual room with the project team.

### 2.3.2 Advertising of the Public Engagement Day

#### 2.3.2.1 Traditional Media

Advertising of the Public Engagement Day was undertaken in various online news outlets and on social media two weeks preceding the event (see Figure 1). In addition, notices were placed in the local newspaper and regular radio announcements on Galway Bay FM for the two weeks preceding the event and throughout the five weeks submission period.

Figure 1: Galway Advertiser Advert

**COIRIB GO CÓSTA**  
**CATHAIR NA GAILLIMHE**  
**SCÉIM FAOISIMH TUILTE**

**Lá Comhpháirteachais Phoiblí uimh. 1**  
Tugtar cuireadh don phobal páirt a ghlacadh i  
Lá Comhpháirteachais Phoiblí ag:  
[www.coiribgocosta.ie](http://www.coiribgocosta.ie)  
ar 1 Meitheamh 2021  
ó 9am go 6pm  
Beidh baill den Fhoireann Deartha (Arup)  
Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe agus OPW  
ar fáil ar líne.  
[www.coiribgocosta.ie](http://www.coiribgocosta.ie)  
i gcomhpháirt le:

**COIRIB GO CÓSTA**  
**GALWAY CITY**  
**FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME**

**Public Engagement Day no. 1**  
Members of the public are invited to attend a Public Engagement Day at:  
[www.coiribgocosta.ie](http://www.coiribgocosta.ie)  
on the 1st June 2021  
from 9am to 6pm  
Members of the Design Team (Arup)  
Galway City Council and OPW  
will be available online.  
[www.coiribgocosta.ie](http://www.coiribgocosta.ie)  
In association with:

### 2.3.2.2 Social/Other Media

Galway City Council's social media platforms were used to promote information about the Coirib go Cósta Public Engagement Day (see examples in

Figure 2, Figure 3 and Figure 4).

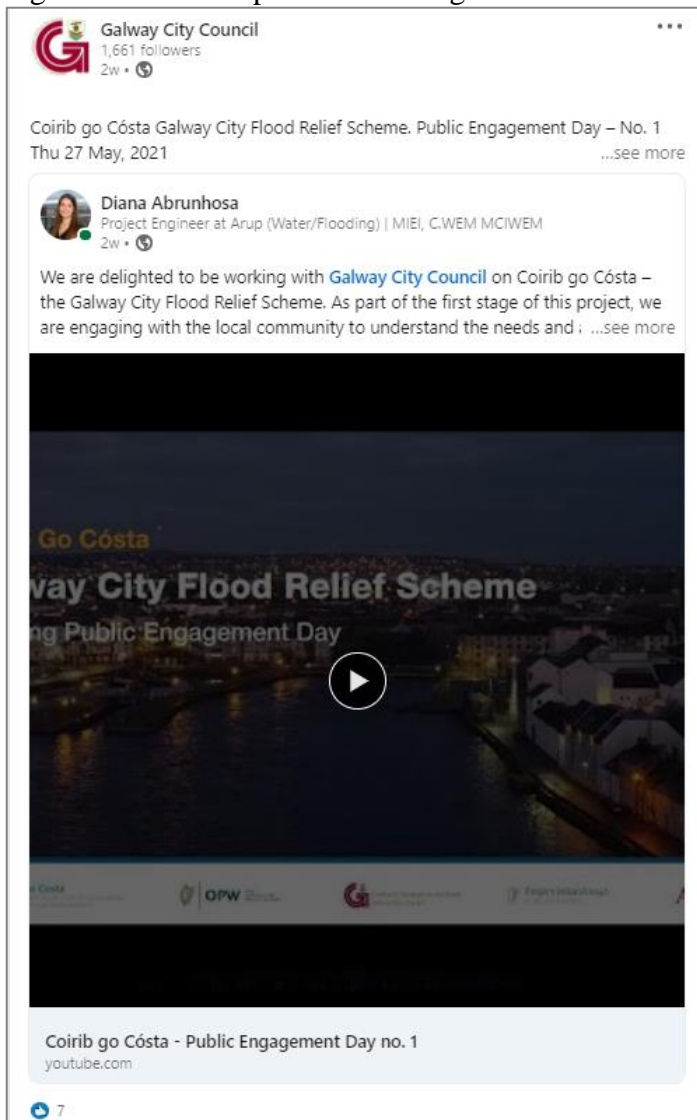
Figure 2: Facebook post for Coirib go Cósta



Figure 3: Twitter post for Coirib go Cósta



Figure 4: LinkedIn post for Coirib go Cósta



### 2.3.3 Literature Available for the Public Engagement Day

A project newsletter, information posters and a questionnaire were available at the virtual PED between the 1<sup>st</sup> of June and the 7<sup>th</sup> of July. Copies are provided in Appendix B. The return date for receipt of completed questionnaires was the 7<sup>th</sup> of July 2021. Information, in addition to the questionnaires, was also accepted by e-mail.

## 2.4 Public Engagement Materials

### 2.4.1 Scheme Website

A dedicated scheme website ([www.coiribgocosta.ie](http://www.coiribgocosta.ie)) has been put in place to provide a central location for information regarding the scheme.

The website includes all relevant information about the project including the newsletter, posters and questionnaire. A link to the Virtual Engagement Room was made available through the website homepage for the duration of the public engagement period.

The website will remain live for the duration of the scheme and it is hoped it will become a destination for members of the public to access project information, download project documentation and submit information to the project team.

## 2.4.2 Virtual Engagement Room

A Virtual Public Engagement Room was available via the project website during the public engagement period from 1<sup>st</sup> of June to the 7<sup>th</sup> of July.

Figure 5: Virtual Engagement Room link through project website



The Virtual Engagement Room, similar to a real-life meeting room, had all relevant information including the following:

- Introduction video
- Newsletter
- Information Posters
- Interactive web-mapper
- Drawings/maps
- Questionnaire
- Booking consultation system
- Live chat

The website, including all content, was and is available in both Irish and English.

### 2.4.3 Introduction Video

A 12-minute introduction video for Coirib go Cósta was produced for the PED No. 1 by the project manager.

The introduction video aimed to present the project and inform the general public of all information available on the Virtual Engagement Room as well as giving a brief overview of the content and next steps of the project. It also informed the public how to make their submissions and share valuable information with the project team.

### 2.4.4 Interactive Web-mapper

The interactive web-mapper is linked in the project website and was linked to the Virtual Engagement Room for the duration of the public engagement period. This mapping application allows the general public to turn on and off layers and understand where the scheme environmental constraints are located. It also allows users to focus on specific areas within the scheme area by utilising the zoom functionality on the application.

### 2.4.5 Newsletter

The first newsletter for Coirib go Cósta was produced in May 2021 ahead of the PED to inform the public about the launch of the project. The newsletter detailed the background to the scheme, the Study and Scheme areas under consideration, a brief explanation of the process involved and key dates for each stage of the project. It also highlighted the first PED including information on how people could engage with the process and submit feedback.

The project newsletter no. 1 was freely available to members of the public and interested parties, before, during and after the PED via the project website. Hardcopies of the Newsletter were also available through Galway City public buildings. A copy of the scheme newsletter no. 1 is attached in Appendix B for reference.

An Irish version of the newsletter is also available.

### 2.4.6 Questionnaire

A questionnaire was available in the virtual PED room and on the project website for direct on-line submission or download and submission by email/post. This provided an opportunity for members of the public to express their views on the Scheme and to provide valuable information regarding flooding in their area in addition to any other comments they may have relating to any Environmental constraints. A copy of the blank questionnaire is attached in Appendix B.

An Irish version of the questionnaire was also available.

### 2.4.7 Information Posters

Posters exhibited during the PED included the following information:

- Welcome and Introduction
- Overview of the scheme & project area
- Opportunities and Constraints
- How to get involved
- What happens next?

Copies of the posters are included in Appendix B.

Irish versions of the posters were also available.

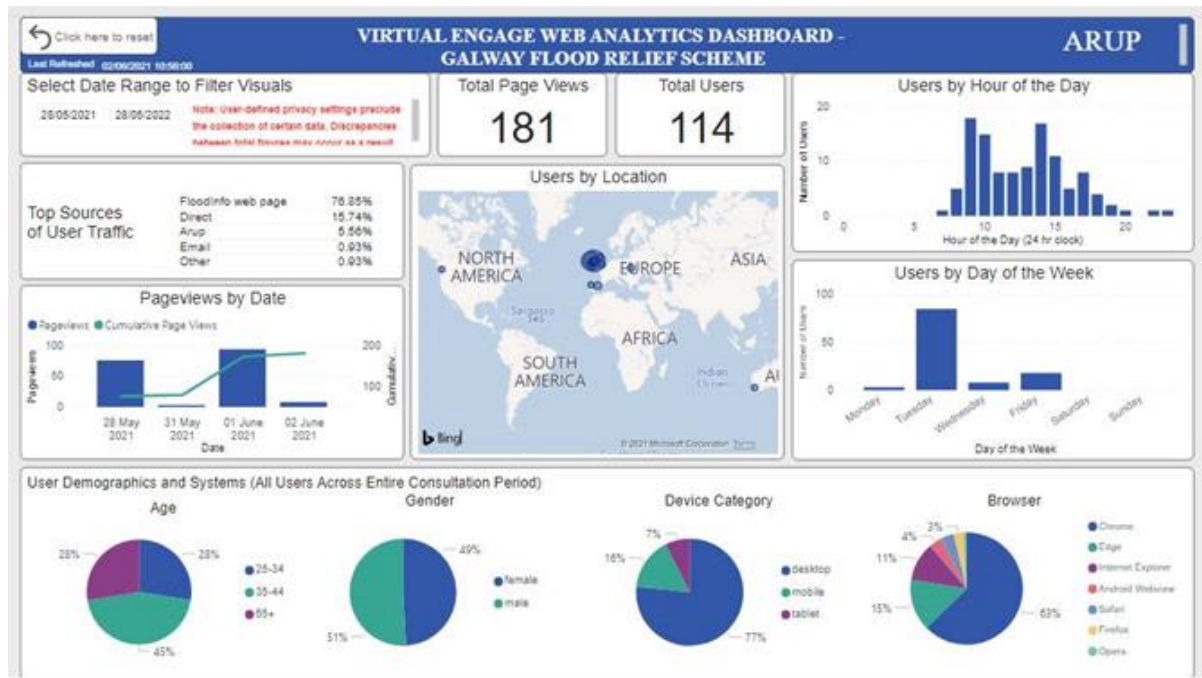
## 2.5 Post Public Engagement Day Analysis

### 2.5.1 Analytics of Public Engagement Day

Analytical data from the virtual engagement room was collected for the 5 week submission period. This allowed the project team to gain an understanding on how members of the public interacted with the virtual engagement room. This process was carried out in compliance with GDPR legislation.

By the end of June 1<sup>st</sup>, the Public Engagement day, a total of 114 visits to the website were recorded mainly between 9am to 6pm.

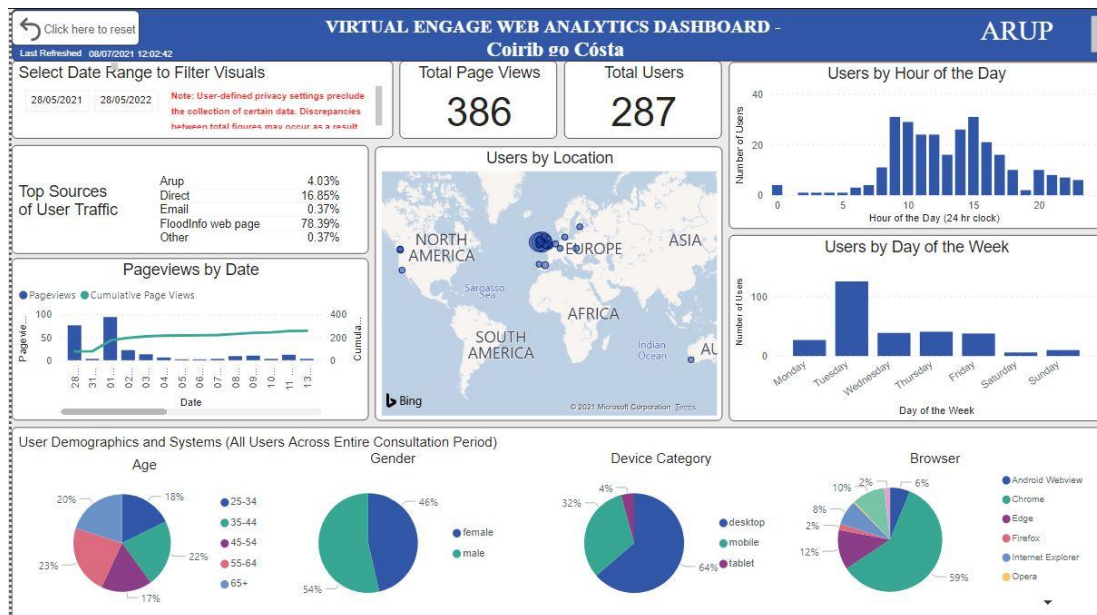
Figure 6: Virtual Engagement Room Dashboard – 1<sup>st</sup> June 2021



By the end of the 5-week engagement period, a total of 287 users visited the Virtual Engagement Room. The majority of the visitors were from Ireland however, there was a good spread between Europe, North America and Australia,

mainly due to the advertising through social media. There were also consistent virtual room visits from Monday to Friday for the 5-week period.

Figure 7: Virtual Engagement Room dashboard – after 5-week engagement period



## 2.6 Public Engagement Response

### 2.6.1 Live Chat

A live chat option was available on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June between 9am and 6pm where members of the project team from Arup and Galway City Council were available to respond to queries live. An Irish speaking member of the project team was available throughout the day also.

There was limited engagement through this method, however it was important nonetheless that members of the public had a live interactive platform on the day to provide a similar process to that of an in-person event.

### 2.6.2 Consultation Booking System

A consultation booking system was available in English and Irish. The public could request a call back from a member of the project team at a time and date that was convenient.

### 2.6.3 Returned Questionnaires

#### 2.6.3.1 By Email

By 7<sup>th</sup> July 2021, which was the closing date for receipt of submissions, a total of 11 questionnaires were returned.

Three e-mails were also received with queries regarding Coirib go Cósta.

### 2.6.3.2 From Project Website

By 7<sup>th</sup> July 2021, a total of six questionnaires were submitted from the virtual room questionnaire page.

## 2.6.4 Other submissions

### 2.6.4.1 Key Stakeholders

Consultation letters were issued to key stakeholders, previously identified in the Scheme Communication Strategy primarily as “High Interest, High Influence” however, a number of stakeholders identified as “High Interest, Low Influence” were also contacted as they may have information relevant to the development of the scheme from the outset. These letters included a link to the Virtual Engagement Room, the newsletter and the feedback questionnaire.

The contacted stakeholders are listed below:

- An Taisce
- Bat Conservation Ireland
- Birdwatch Ireland
- Coastal Marine Resources Centre (CMRC)
- Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government
- Environmental Protection Agency Regional Inspectorate
- Fáilte Ireland
- Galway Archaeological & Historical Society
- Galway Chamber of Commerce
- Galway City Council
- Galway City Museum
- Galway City Partnership (GSCP)
- Galway Environmental Network
- Galway Tourism
- Heritage Council
- Inland Fisheries Ireland
- Irish Water
- Irish Wildlife Trust
- Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWaters)
- Local Environmental Network(s) (IEN)

- Lough Corrib Navigation Trustees
- Marine Institute
- National Monuments Service
- National Parks & Wildlife Service
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH)
- Transport Infrastructure Ireland
- Western Development Commission
- Waterways Ireland

An example of the letter issued is contained in Appendix C.

#### 2.6.4.2 By e-mail

In addition to the returned questionnaires, other submissions were received by email from relevant stakeholders. These comprised the following:

- An e-mail from Engineers Ireland (EI) West Region Committee

The email from EI gave some feedback on the Coirib go Cósta and provided some detailed comments that will be considered by the design team. EI mentioned the opportunity to centre the flood relief scheme around sustainability and the UN Sustainable Development Goals and that it should be linked with the proposal to the Galway City Council Climate Adaptation Strategy, ensuring the proposed scheme is climate driven. It was noted that nature-based solutions should be considered, and that climate breakdown was barely mentioned, human induced climate change and its impact on the environment and society should be addressed.

- Port of Galway/ Galway Harbour Authority

Tobin Consultant Engineers act as Consulting Engineers for the Port of Galway/Galway Harbour Company and as a key stakeholder, they wish to align the GHC with the delivery of Coirib go Cósta.

With a new proposal for the extension of the Galway Harbour Port and the Galway Inner Harbour Development, Galway Harbour wishes to collaborate with Galway City Council on the flood solutions which will protect Galway City and Harbour lands, continuing its excellent relationship with GCC.

- Irish Water

Irish Water, as a key stakeholder, has requested continued engagement through the feasibility, design and construction stages ensuring public water services and sources are protected and access is maintained. Some general points made were, namely on how to obtain information on IW possession, on any physical impact on IW assets on the different project phases, impacts on receiving waters and any potential impact on the contributing catchment of water sources either in terms of water abstraction for the development or the potential of the development to influence/present a risk to the quality of the water abstracted by IW for public

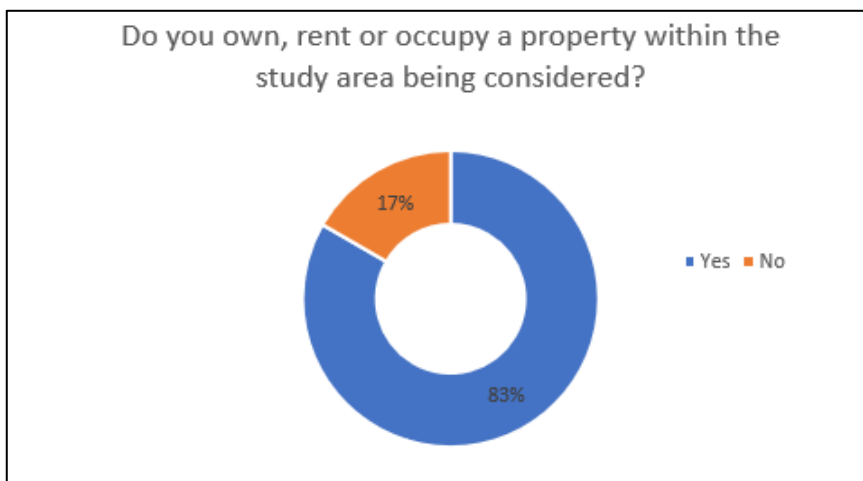
supply. Blue and Green infrastructures provision was recommended and the different IW projects in the area that may be relevant for the Coirib go Cósta scheme were also listed.

## 2.7 Analysis of Public Engagement Response

### 2.7.1 Residential Information

The team received 18 completed questionnaires, most of whom live within the study area. Responses suggest that 78% (14) own, rent or occupy a property within the study area and therefore have a direct interest in flooding at Galway City or have previously been affected by the historical flood events.

Figure 8: Results from question no. 2



### 2.7.2 Flooding Information

Many respondents had personal experiences of flooding, 61% (11) as shown in Figure 9.

Figure 9: Results from question 4

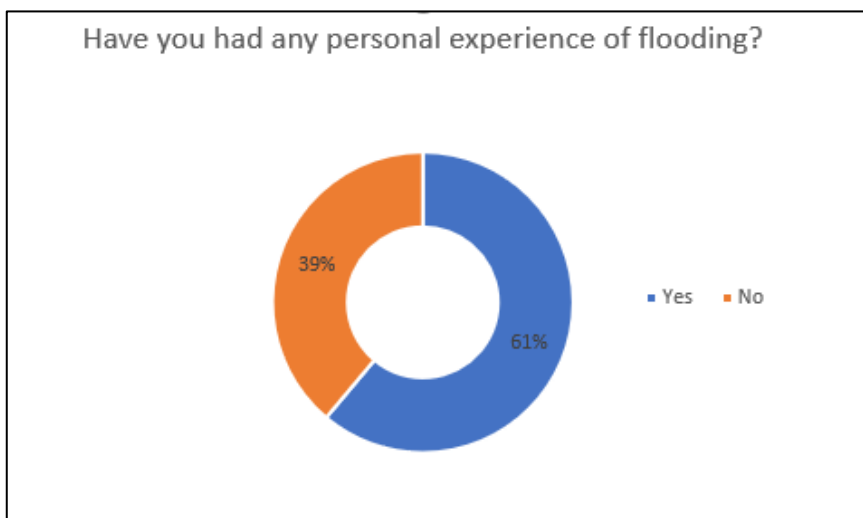
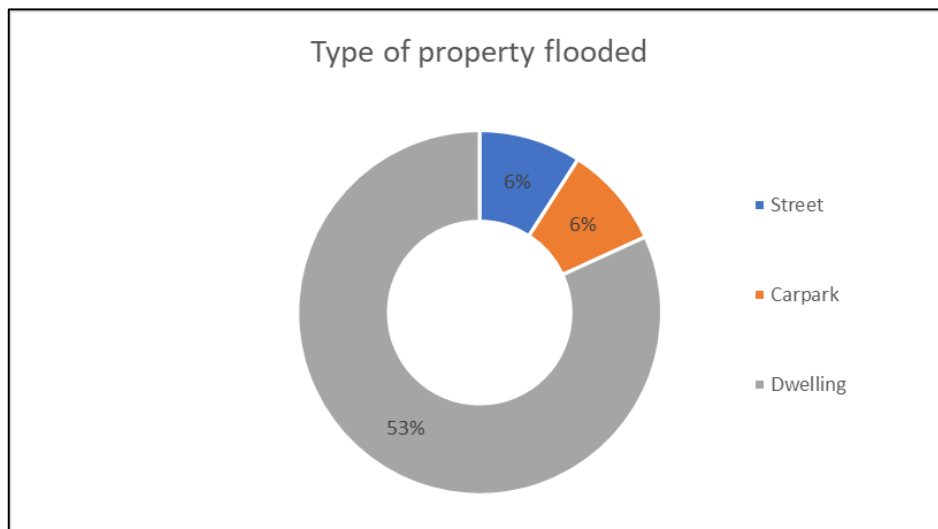


Figure 10 shows that the main type of property which had previously been flooded were “Dwellings” with over 50% (9) of the counts. Carpark and street were also mentioned has being flooded before.

Figure 10: Results from question 5



Question 6 sought specific information from respondents on flooding; “Can you describe the impacts this flooding has had on you and/or your property?”. Table 1 is a summary of the comments received in response to this query.

Table 1: Summary of comments on flooding impact to respondents

Impacts of flooding on respondents and/or their property
Damage to walls and property, requiring major/minor works.
Disruption of roads and congestion (Salthill, Spiddal)
Lost flood insurance after claiming for damage following first flood
Anxiety and stress following issue of flood warnings.
<i>‘My life changed completely’</i>

The questionnaire also asked if the respondents had put any measures in place to prevent or reduce the impact of flooding on their properties. The majority of respondents answered yes (67% - 12) and 33% (6) answered no. All but one of respondents that have put measures in place have had previous experience of flooding.

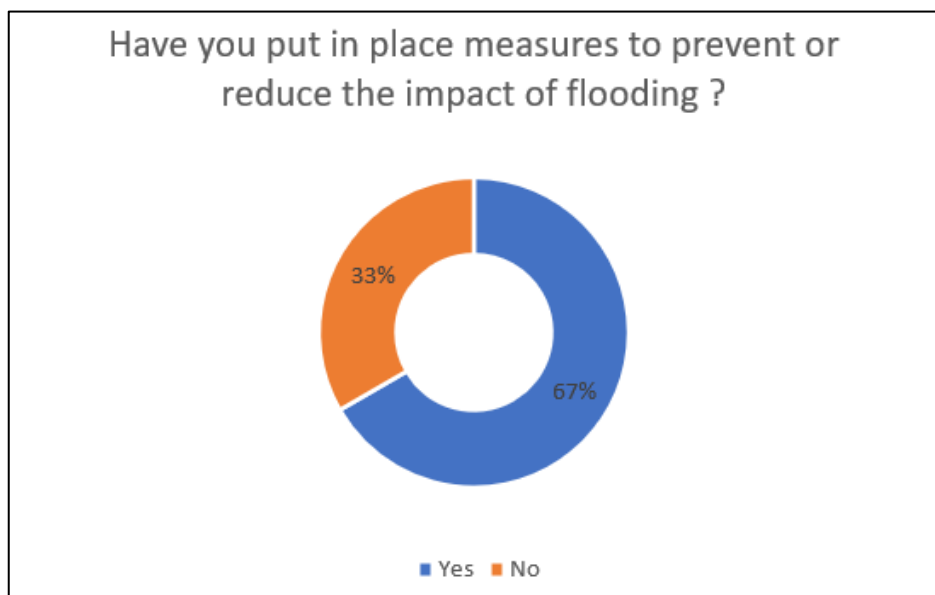
The main measures put in place included:

- Sandbags
- Floor level raise

- Flood barriers/gate
- Sluice Gate
- Flood resilience measures on ground floor (removed carpets, replaced with moveable rugs or installed tiles)

Other measures mentioned have been planting of trees (native Alder) to soak up water and prevent flooding from turlough and use of water pump.

Figure 11: Results from question no. 7



### 2.7.3 Environmental Constraints

In Question 9 of the questionnaire, the respondents were given six environmental topics and asked to rank their opinion on the importance of each constraint, from very important to unimportant. The responses are summarised in Table 2.

The majority of the respondents considered “Water Quality” as being of most importance with 56% (9) of the respondents indicating both “Water Quality” and “Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna” as “very important”. “Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna” was considered the second most important constraint with 44% (7) of respondents indicating it “very important”.

“Angling, Tourism & Recreation” come in third with 31% (5) of respondents reporting this constraint as “very important”.

“Landscape and Visual Amenity” and “Architectural & Cultural Heritage” come in joint fourth with 25% (4) of respondents indicating them “very important” while “Land use and Agriculture” was indicated as of the least importance with only 13% (2) of respondents indicating it to be “very important”.

Table 2: Answers to Question 9

Environmental Topics	Very Important	Important	Moderately Important	Of little Importance	Unimportant	Blank
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	44%	19%	31%	0%	6%	0%
Land Use and Agriculture	13%	44%	19%	6%	13%	7%
Water Quality	56%	38%	0%	6%	0%	0%
Architectural and Cultural Heritage	25%	50%	13%	6%	0%	0%
Landscape and Visual Amenity	25%	63%	13%	0%	0%	0%
Angling, Tourism & Recreation	31%	13%	44%	6%	6%	0%

### 2.7.4 Other comments

The respondents were able to add additional comments on the environmental constraints or ways in which they thought the flooding issues can be addressed in a text box. The comments received are summarised below:

- **Scheme area should be expanded upstream.** Two respondents highlighted the need for inclusion of measures in upstream areas to reduce runoff in river channels, and consideration of Lough Corrib and watercourses that feed to it as the ultimate source of water to the Corrib. This included working with upstream counties (Mayo and Galway) and people involved in agriculture.
- **Nature based solutions shall be considered,** such as floodplain restoration upstream of the River Corrib and Lough Corrib, and restoration of Curraghline peatland and wetlands.
- **Drainage improvements** where coastal water backs up stormwater network (Claude Toft carpark, Claddagh, Upper Salthill road).
- **Mix of grey and green infrastructure** required to mitigate the coastal flooding and wave over-topping.
- **Amenity value and visual impact.** If rock armour is proposed (along coastal areas), should be accompanied by raising of adjacent walkway and consideration of visual and amenity impact to people in wheelchairs and children. Views should be retained and ways to allow that such as thick glass

panels shall be considered. Amenity/recreation spaces such as South Park shall be retained as spaces that allow flooding. Other uses such as cycling shall be considered.

- **Future approved schemes** within and around the scheme area (such as the Galway port extension) should be considered.
- Flood works shall be undertaken in areas with historic flood issues (Claddagh, Grattan Road, Toft car park, Frenchville, Fairhill road).
- **Longevity of project:** Scheme shall be able to withstand extreme weather conditions and climate change for the next 50-100 years.
- **Provision of financial support (grants)** to those affected.
- **Consultation with those affected** is critical. Accessibility of public to OPW.

### 3 Conclusions and Recommendations

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It was noted that numbers of submissions and engagement with the team were low and may have been due to the fact the public engagement day was held solely online due to Covid-19 restrictions in relation to public gatherings. However, page visits and number of visitors are aligned with the numbers of public engagement days for similar projects.

The online virtual room had a very positive feedback showing it to be an easier way to provide all the information and share it across different platforms. It is however recommended that future public engagement days have a face-to-face presentation, allowing a better understanding of people's concerns and gathering valuable information.

## Appendix A

### Presentation and meetings summary

## A1 Elected members presentation

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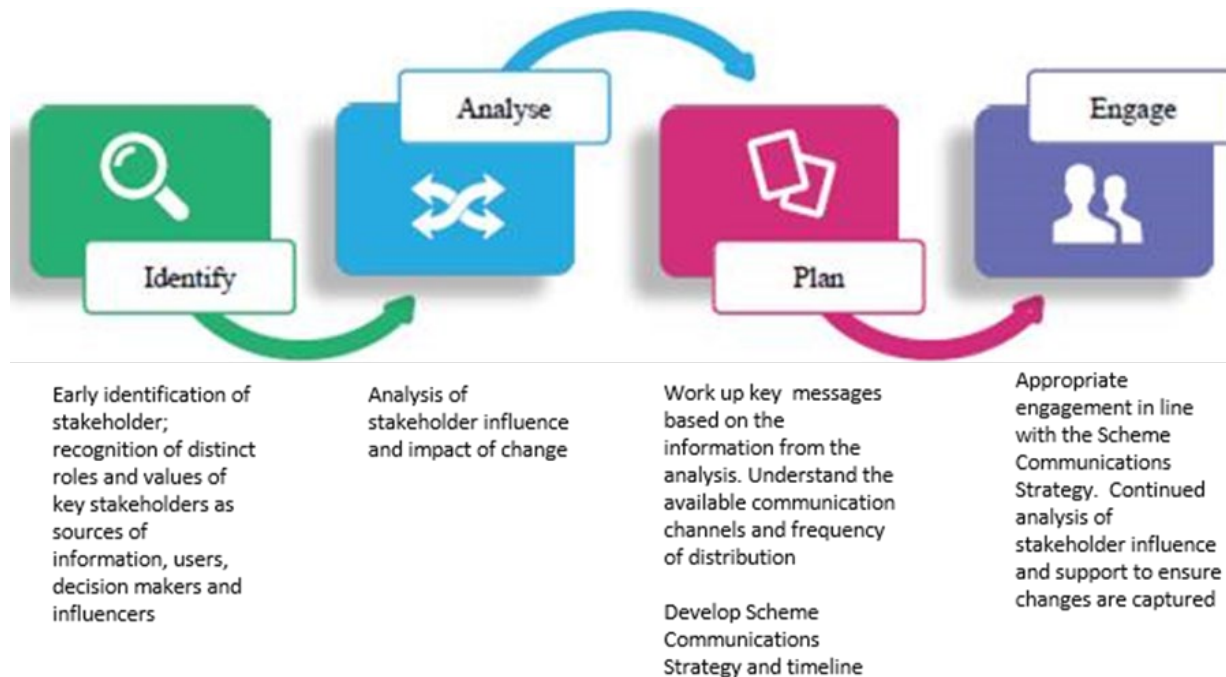


# Coirib go Cósta

Scéim Faoisimh Tuilte Chathair na Gaillimhe  
Galway City Flood Relief Scheme

**Elected Members Presentation 28<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

# Scheme Communications Strategy (SCS)



**Coirib go Cósta**

Scéim Faoisimh Tuilte Chathair na Gaillimhe  
Galway City Flood Relief Scheme

**ARUP**

# Introduction to the Scheme

- Historically, Galway city centre and the Salthill area have been severely affected by flooding
- Following the Western Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAMS), Galway City was included as an Area for Further Assessment (AFA)
- GCC and the OPW have commissioned Arup to deliver Coirib go Cósta – Galway City Flood Relief Scheme
- Coirib go Cósta is funded through Project Ireland 2040



Connacht Tribune, November 1977

# Study and Scheme Areas



A. Galway Bay North B. Corrib | C. Galway Bay South East

## Scheme Area:

Area within which **physical works are proposed** to be constructed, accessed and maintained as part of any feasible scheme.

## Study Area:

Contains lengths of river channel/watercourse that have an **hydraulic influence** on the area intended to benefit from, and be protected by, any feasible scheme. Areas that require **environmental assessments** and full hydrological catchment areas that have an influence in the scheme area watercourses.



**Coirib go C6sta**

Sc6im Faoisimh Tuilte Chathair na Gaillimhe  
Galway City Flood Relief Scheme

**ARUP**

# Project Objectives

- ❖ Assess and develop a Flood Relief Scheme, that is **technically, environmentally, aesthetically, socially and economically acceptable**, to alleviate the risk of flooding in Galway City.
- ❖ Ensure the design of any measures, in particular structural measures, will recognise the **distinctive character and heritage** of the city.



**Coirib go Cósta**

Scéim Faoisimh Tuilté Chathair na Gaillimhe  
Galway City Flood Relief Scheme

# Stakeholder Communication Engagement

- Website
- Newsletters
- Social Media
- Collaborative Workshops
- Presentations to Council Meetings

# Public Engagement Days

- PED 1: Introduce the Scheme, branding and gather information
- PED 2: Advise and seek feedback on emerging options
- PED 3: Advise and seek feedback on emerging Preferred option



**Coirib go Cósta**

Scéim Faoisimh Tuilte Chathair na Gaillimhe  
Galway City Flood Relief Scheme

# Public Engagement Day No. 1 – June 1<sup>st</sup> 2021

- Virtual Open Day
- Opportunity to book a consultation
- Will accept Feedback until 7<sup>th</sup> July
- All Feedback will be considered
- “Live” people available to engage with virtually on the day

# Public Engagement Day No. 1



## Coirib go Cósta

Scéim Faoisimh Tuithe Chathair na Gaillimhe  
Galway City Flood Relief Scheme



The Public Exhibition for Coirib go Cósta is live until the 7th of July.

Due to the current Covid-19 pandemic, the Exhibition is being held online.

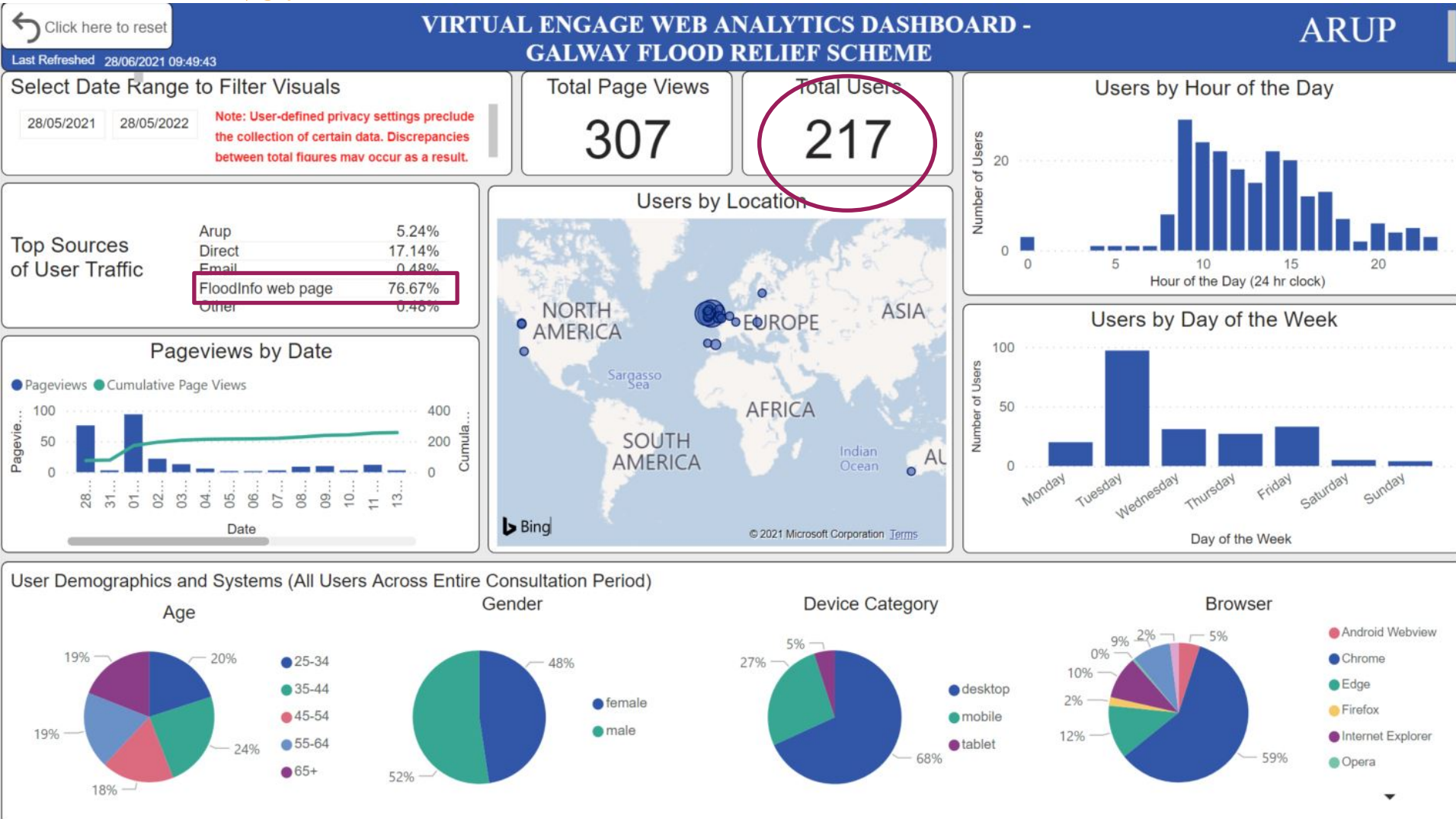
ENTER  
EXHIBITION



1<sup>st</sup> Public Engagement Day: 1<sup>st</sup> June 2021 (Virtual)

ARUP

# PED No. 1



# Next Steps – Development of Emerging Options

## Environmental Impact Assessment

The stages in the Environmental Impact Assessment study are outlined below:

<b>Stage I</b>	Constraints Study
	Invasive Species
	Preliminary Screening
	Environmental Assessment of Viable Options
	Selection of Preferred Option
<b>Stage II</b>	Planning Documentation including Environmental Impact Assessment Report

## Engineering Study

The stages in the Engineering study are outlined below:

<b>Stage I</b>	Scheme Development
	Data Gathering, Surveying and SI
	Hydrology Study & Hydraulic Modelling
	Flood Risk Management Options
	Selection of Preferred Option
<b>Stage II</b>	Public Exhibition
<b>Stage III</b>	Detailed Design
<b>Stage IV</b>	Construction

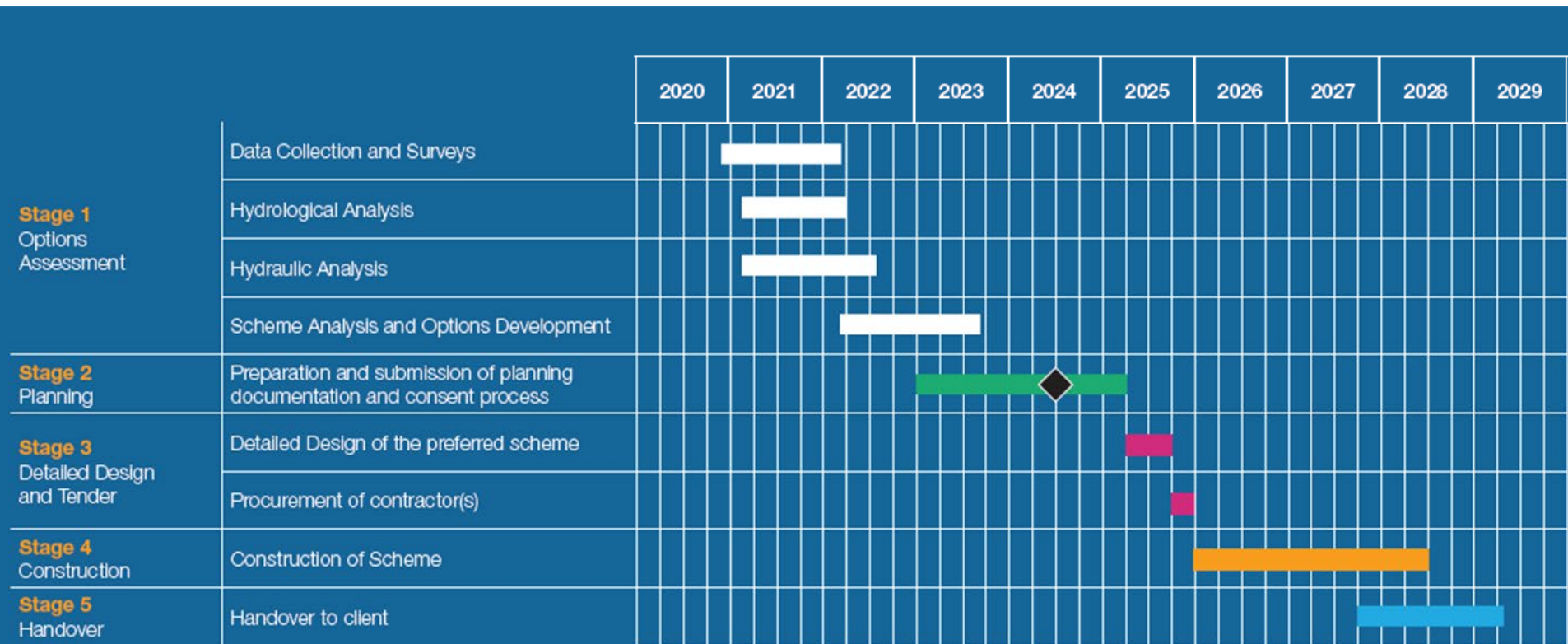


**Coirib go Cósta**

Scéim Faoisimh Tuilte Chathair na Gaillimhe  
Galway City Flood Relief Scheme

**ARUP**

# Outline Project Timeline



Timeline shown is the current best estimate and may be subject to revision.



**Coirib go Cósta**

Scéim Faoisimh Tuilte Chathair na Gaillimhe  
Galway City Flood Relief Scheme

**ARUP**

## A2 Elected members briefing

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t +353 21 422 3200

Project title	Coirib go Cósta - Galway City Flood Relief Scheme	Job number
		279365-00
cc	Diana Abrunhosa Bairbre O'Breasail	File reference
		4-06-01-01
Prepared by	Emer Kennedy	Date
		28 June 2021
Subject	Public Engagement Day 001   Elected Members Briefing	

## 1 Introduction

An overview of Coirib go Cósta was to be presented to the Elected Members on the 24<sup>th</sup> of May however, the project was not discussed at that meeting due to time constraints. A subsequent meeting was held on the 28<sup>th</sup> of June where the Arup project manager presented the project to the Galway Elected Members. Arup attended both meetings virtually.

Following is a summary of the issues raised by the Elected Members and the response provided during the meeting.

## 2 Summary of comments and responses raised at the presentation

### 2.1 Councillor Neil McNeilus

#### 2.1.1 Query/ Comment: Project duration as completion date is scheduled for 2028; is there a possibility for Salthill to be completed in advance.

*Response:* The programme has extended from that presented previously largely due to the in-depth understanding the team now has of the complexities of the project. Further, the programme is tied to environmental windows for survey works. It was noted that the construction will likely be completed in phases and the overall completion date for the project of 2028 reflects final completion and handover off all elements, however it is anticipated results will be seen on the ground from much earlier.

GCC require the project team to identify early-wins where possible, this may include Salthill however it is premature at this stage to comment further on sequencing or phasing of works.

# File Note

279365-00

28 June 2021

## **2.1.2 Query/ Comment: Confirmation on who the client for this project is (OPW or Galway City Council).**

*Response:* GCC are the client however OPW are the funding agency.

## **2.1.3 Query/ Comment: How will climate change be considered?**

*Response:* It is a requirement of the project brief that climate change sensitivity assessment is carried out to determine the appropriate standard of protection. Further, a key project deliverable (under Stage 1) is a climate change adaptation plan.

## **2.1.4 Query/ Comment: Whether the harbour and inner dock development be included in the scheme.**

*Response:* The Port of Galway are recognised as a key stakeholder and, as such, engagement between the Port of Galway and the project team is on-going.

## **2.1.5 Query/ Comment: Recommend a leaflet drop to residents impacted by flooding.**

*Response (GCC):* This will be explored.

## **2.2 Councillor Eddy Hoare**

### **2.2.1 Query/ Comment: Projected project costs and budget allocation**

*Response:* The CFRAM Study estimated the preferred option will cost circa €9.5M. The project is funded through Project Ireland 2040 and as such funding is secure.

### **2.2.2 Query/ Comment: Integration with the museum development**

*Response:* Galway Museum is recognised as a key stakeholder and, as such, will be consulted with and considered through the project development.

## **2.3 Councillor Martina O'Connor**

### **2.3.1 Query/ Comment: Is protection of buildings the sole focus of the flood relief scheme?**

*Response:* The CFRAM Study, as with all flood relief schemes, quantifies the cost-benefit ratio of the project and thus the project's viability based on the cost of damages to existing buildings and infrastructure. However, while the costs of these damages informs the viability of the scheme, the focus of the Coirib go Cósta project, in terms of delivery, is also driven by other aspects such as public realm integration, heritage and ecology. As such GCC require this scheme be acceptable for a number of criteria beyond technical and economic feasibility such as social, environmental and aesthetic.

## File Note

279365-00

28 June 2021

### 2.4 Councillor Donal Lyons

#### 2.4.1 Query/ Comment: Will the scheme integrate with the City Development Plan?

*Response:* The City Development Plan is currently ahead of the FRS study; however the team are engaging regularly with the city planners and will keep them abreast of findings of the study and liaise with them on the emerging options as appropriate.

### 2.5 Mayor Colette Connolly

#### 2.5.1 Query/ Comment: Further query on cost, funding and timeline.

*Response (by GCC):* Funding is primarily by OPW through Project Ireland 2040. URDF funding may be accessed to fill gaps between the FRS needs and other enhancement arising from the scheme.

#### 2.5.2 Query/ Comment: It appears that the number of attendees at the consultation is low. Advise the project team to contact residential committees.

*Response:* The number of attendees was compared with the number attending opening days for other schemes and by comparison, the numbers are in fact reasonably high.

### 2.6 Councillor Jarlath McDonagh

#### 2.6.1 Query/ Comment: Will the carpark at Seapoint be lost?

*Response:* The CFRAMS did not identify the carpark as being removed. However, it is too early in the project to say what measures may be implemented.

### 2.7 Councillor Eddie Hoare

#### 2.7.1 Query/ Comment: Welcomes the scheme, would like to see the scheme be bold in its aspirations.

*Response:* N/A

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#### DOCUMENT CHECKING (not mandatory for File Note)

	Prepared by	Checked by	Approved by
Name	Emer Kennedy	Bairbre O'Breasail	Ken Leahy
Signature			

# File Note

279365-00

28 June 2021

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## A3 Strategic Policy Committee briefing

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t +353 21 422 3200

Project title	Coirib go Cósta - Galway City Flood Relief Scheme	Job number
		279365-00
cc	Diana Abrunhosa Bairbre O'Breasail	File reference
		4-06-01-01
Prepared by	Emer Kennedy	Date
		28 June 2021
Subject	Public Engagement Day 001   Strategic Policy Committee Briefing	

## 1 Introduction

A presentation to the Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) was held on the 26<sup>th</sup> May 2021. The purpose of this was to present the project to the SPC prior to the virtual PED. Following the presentation, the Arup project manager was available to answer questions from the SPC representatives.

Following is a summary of the issues raised by the SPC members and the response provided during the meeting.

## 2 Summary of comments and responses raised at the presentation

### 2.1 Project length

Councillor Colette Connolly queried the project length as completion date is scheduled for 2028. Councillor Connolly also queried the project cost and funding source. Councillor Donal Lyons also noted that the length of the project is concerning; is there a risk of conflict with the City Development Plan due to conflicting timelines?

*Response:* Arup responded to that the programme has extended from that presented previously largely due to the in-depth understanding the team now has of the complexities of the project. Further, the programme is tied to environmental windows for survey works.

Regarding costs, detailed cost estimates are not available at present however the Western CFRAM study estimated the costs for works in Galway City and Salthill to be circa €9.5M. It will be funded through Ireland 2040.

Arup advised that they are working closely with the Galway City Council Planning Department to limit this particular risk.

# File Note

279365-00

28 June 2021

## 2.2 Foreshore licencing

Councillor John Connolly queried if a foreshore licence will be required.

*Response:* Arup responded that it may be required and if it is the application will be submitted during Stage 2 of the project. It will become apparent during the development of the scheme options if a foreshore licence will be required.

## 2.3 Visual and functional impact, public engagement

Councillor Niall Murphy welcomed the element of Irish speaking at the presentation and the allowance for same at the PED and in the online material. Councillor Murphy noted that the scheme will have a significant visual and functional impact. Further he noted that the public may expect results immediately and care should be taken to temper expectations. Councillor Murphy also noted that a Table of Contents at the front of the Virtual Engagement Room may make it easier to navigate.

*Response:* Arup responded that they are aware that aesthetics are extremely important in the final scheme design and they will be working with GCC planning department throughout in this regard. The point on tempering expectations is well noted and the team will be cognisant of this going forward. Arup will advise the developers of the Virtual Engagement Room on the menu suggestion and agree it would be particularly helpful for those with poor internet access.

## 2.4 Broader impacts, climate change, natural floodplain management

Councillor Martina O'Connor queried if there would be impacts outside of the city, whether climate change is being considered in the scheme development, and whether natural flood plain management is being considered by the project team. Councillor O'Connor further noted that online engagement risks missing a cohort of the public.

*Response:* Arup advised that there would not be impacts outside of the scheme area and it is a requirement of the project to demonstrate this. Climate change is being considered and a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy is a project deliverable in Stage 1. A Natural Water Retention Measures Study will be completed as part of the Options Development process and as such the feasibility of natural floodplain management will be examined thoroughly. Arup agree there is a risk of a cohort of the public being missed due to the online event however this is unavoidable due to the ongoing Covid-19 limitation. To mitigate this, information leaflets will be provided at the City Council and County Council public counters.

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### DOCUMENT CHECKING (not mandatory for File Note)

	Prepared by	Checked by	Approved by
Name	Emer Kennedy	Bairbre O'Breasail	Ken Leahy
Signature			

## B1 Newsletter

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## Coirib go Cósta

Scéim Faoisimh Tuilte Chathair na Gaillimhe  
Galway City Flood Relief Scheme

Public Engagement - Day No.1

# Constraints and Opportunities

Newsletter  
01

May 2021



Tionscadal Éireann  
Project Ireland  
2040



OPW  
Oifig na  
«Oibreacha Poiblí»  
Office of Public Works



Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe  
Galway City Council

ARUP

## Introduction

The **Coirib go C6sta** project is being progressed by Galway City Council, in partnership with the Office of Public Works (OPW) to address flood risk in Galway City. **Coirib go C6sta** is at an early stage, and GCC in conjunction with the recently appointed engineering and environmental team at Arup, are keen to incorporate the views and knowledge of the local Galway City communities and all interested parties.

The **Coirib go C6sta** project will address the sustainable and effective management of flood risk in Galway City. It will also ensure that the design of any measures, in particular structural measures, will recognise the distinctive character and heritage of the city.

**This is the first public engagement day for the project.** The objective of the day is to gather valuable information from the public about their experiences of flooding in Galway City and surrounds along with their thoughts on possible solutions to the flooding problem and their preferences in this regard. **Local experience, knowledge and insight** is an essential prerequisite for any successful Flood Relief Scheme. We also welcome any thoughts on potential environmental issues, in particular thoughts on constraints with regard to environmental issues and implementation of solutions.

Galway is a successful regional city, which contributes greatly to the wider economy. It has an **unique built and natural environment**, particularly in the city centre, defined by its archaeological legacy, historical streetscapes, contrasting buildings, canals, millraces and its **strong link with the river and sea**.

## What is happening now?

The scheme development is currently at Phase 1 Identification and Development of Preferred Scheme. The Constraints Study is currently underway alongside a number of surveys within the scheme area.

## Purpose of the Project

The objective of this Project is to assess and develop a Flood Relief Scheme, that is technically, socially, environmentally, aesthetically and economically acceptable, to alleviate the risk of flooding in Galway City.



## Current Position

The OPW in partnership with Galway City Council and other Local Authorities have carried out the Western Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) study for the Corrib River Basin. Galway City was included as an Area for Further Assessment (AFA) and concluded that a flood relief scheme would be viable and effective for the community.