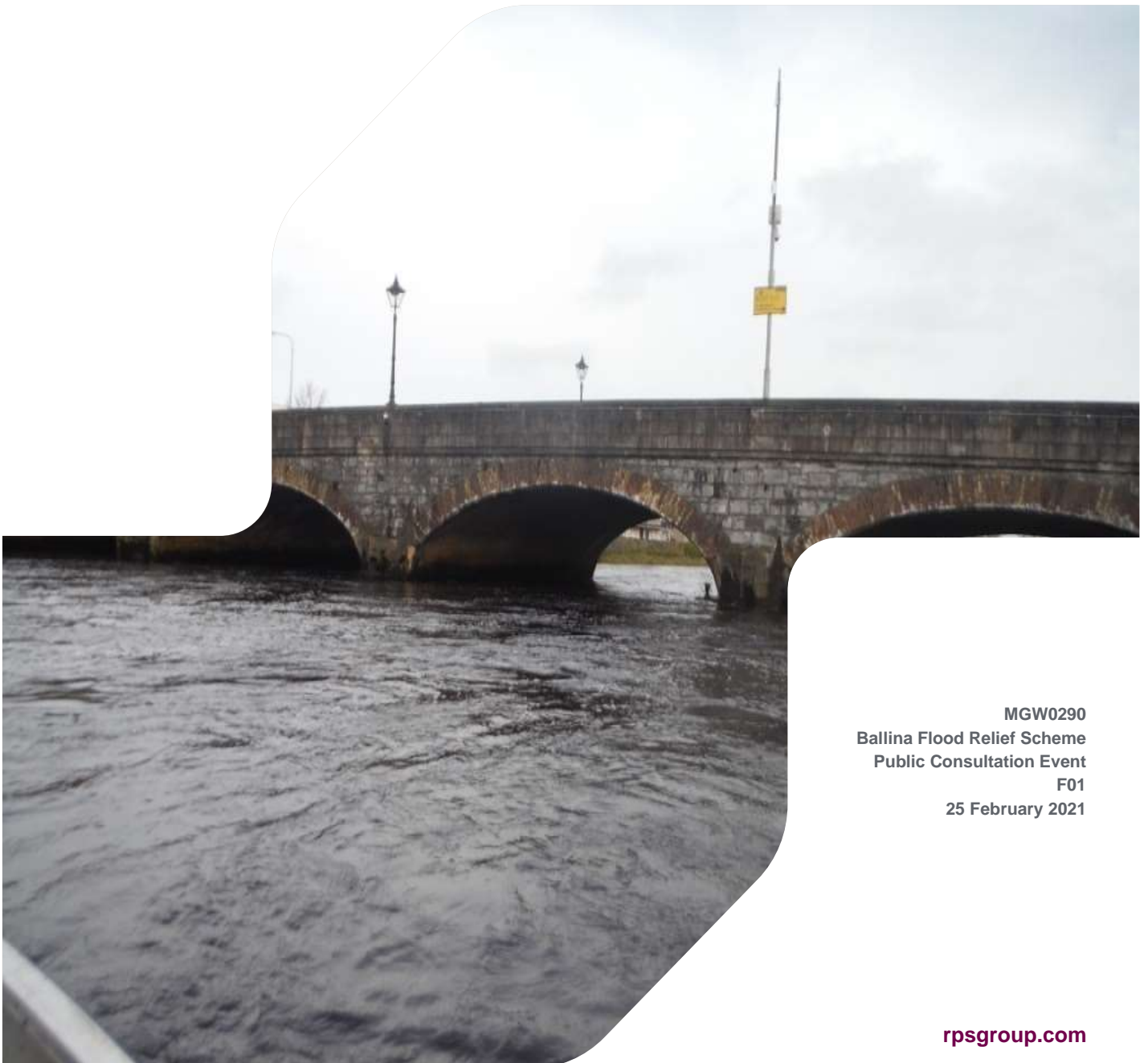


Appendix A

Consultation Report

BALLINA FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENT



MGW0290
Ballina Flood Relief Scheme
Public Consultation Event
F01
25 February 2021

REPORT

Document status

| Version | Purpose of document | Authored by | Reviewed by | Approved by | Review date |
|---------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| F01 | Final | Emily Kelly-Leahy | PJ Griffin | PJ Griffin | 25/02/2021 |

Approval for issue

PJG

25 February 2021

© Copyright RPS Group Limited. All rights reserved.

The report has been prepared for the exclusive use of our client and unless otherwise agreed in writing by RPS Group Limited no other party may use, make use of or rely on the contents of this report.

The report has been compiled using the resources agreed with the client and in accordance with the scope of work agreed with the client. No liability is accepted by RPS Group Limited for any use of this report, other than the purpose for which it was prepared.

RPS Group Limited accepts no responsibility for any documents or information supplied to RPS Group Limited by others and no legal liability arising from the use by others of opinions or data contained in this report. It is expressly stated that no independent verification of any documents or information supplied by others has been made.

RPS Group Limited has used reasonable skill, care and diligence in compiling this report and no warranty is provided as to the report's accuracy.

No part of this report may be copied or reproduced, by any means, without the written permission of RPS Group Limited.

Prepared by:

RPS

Prepared for:

Mayo County Council

Dublin | Cork | Galway | Sligo
rpsgroup.com

RPS Group Limited, registered in Ireland No. 91911
RPS Consulting Engineers Limited, registered in Ireland No. 161581
RPS Planning & Environment Limited, registered in Ireland No. 160191
RPS Engineering Services Limited, registered in Ireland No. 99795
The Registered office of each of the above companies is West Pier
Business Campus, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, A96 N6T7



Contents

| | | |
|----------|---|----------|
| 1 | INTRODUCTION | 1 |
| 2 | CONSULTATIONS | 2 |
| 2.1 | Public Consultation Evening | 2 |
| 2.2 | Ballina Flood Relief Scheme Website | 5 |
| 2.3 | Consultations with Statutory and Non-Statutory Bodies | 7 |
| 3 | ISSUES RAISED | 8 |
| 3.1 | Lessons Learned and Suggested Improvements | 8 |

Figures

| | | |
|-------------|---|---|
| Figure 2-1 | Public Information Notice 23rd September 2020 | 2 |
| Figure 2-2 | Public Consultation Notice Boards | 3 |
| Figure 2-3 | Public Consultation Notice Boards | 3 |
| Figure 2-4 | Public Consultation Notice Boards | 4 |
| Figure 2-5 | Public Consultation Notice Boards | 4 |
| Figure 2-6 | Public Consultation Notice Boards | 5 |
| Figure 2-7 | Virtual Consultation Room | 5 |
| Figure 2-8 | Virtual Consultation Room | 6 |
| Figure 2-9 | Virtual Consultation Room | 6 |
| Figure 2-10 | Virtual Consultation Room | 7 |

Appendices

- Appendix A
- Appendix B

1 INTRODUCTION

Ballina has a long history of tidal flooding due to its location on the River Moy which flows through the town. This flood risk is well documented and has been subject to hydrological and hydraulic analysis, flood risk assessment and development of a preferred option through the Western CFRAM Study.

In March of 2020 RPS were appointed as the engineering and Environmental consultants for the Ballina Flood Relief Scheme to deliver the scheme through the statutory processes and complete detailed designs.

The objective of this project is the identification, design and submission (for planning consent) of a flood scheme, that is technically, socially, environmentally and economically acceptable, to alleviate the risk of flooding to the community of Ballina to a determined standard of protection, and to procure, manage and oversee the construction of that scheme.

At this time the Project is in Stage 1 of 5 (as noted below) and a Constraints Study is currently being prepared for the project. This will highlight the environmental constraints within the Scheme Area.

- **Stage I:** Identification and Development of a Preferred Scheme
- **Stage II:** Planning process
- **Stage III:** Detailed Construction Design, Compilation of Work Packages and the Preparation of Tenders for Contracts
- **Stage IV:** Construction Supervision and Project Management Services
- **Stage V:** Handover of Works

As part of the Constraints process a Public Consultation Event was held on the 23rd of September from 4pm-8pm at Kennedy Glasgow House, Quignamanger, Ballina, Co. Mayo. This event was attended by RPS employees and staff from the OPW and Mayo County Council.

2 CONSULTATIONS

2.1 Public Consultation Evening

The public information evening was held on the 23rd of September 2020 from 4pm-8pm in the Kennedy Glasgow House, Quignamanger, Ballina, Co. Mayo.

The Event was advertised in the Western People, the principal paper for the locality in the week leading up to the consultation, from the 14th to the 20th.

A copy of the consultation notice has been included in **Figure 2-1** below.

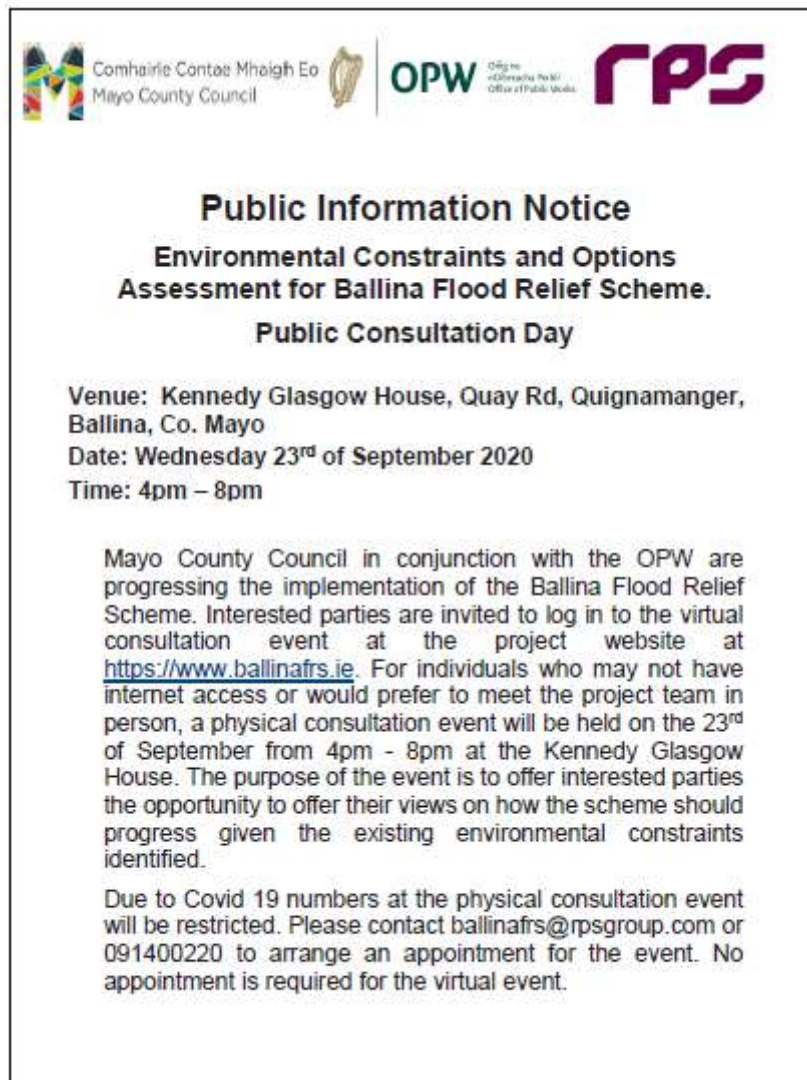


Figure 2-1 Public Information Notice 23rd September 2020

The format of the event was centred around the presentation of a number of information boards. (See **Figures 2-2 to Figure 2-6** Public Consultation Notice Boards). These boards displayed the Scheme Area, Watercourses within the Scheme Area, Designated Sites within the Zone of Influence, European Sites within the Zone of Influence, Archaeological Sites within the Scheme area, Architectural Sites within the Scheme area and the Preferred Option following the CFRAMs study previously undertaken (the consultation materials are provided in **Appendix A**)

Attendees were requested to fill out an attendance log and were invited to fill out a comments sheet setting out their views and concerns regarding the Project. A Covid-19 log of attendees and contact information was also taken to ensure contact tracing details were available if required.



Figure 2-2 Public Consultation Notice Boards



Figure 2-3 Public Consultation Notice Boards



Figure 2-4 Public Consultation Notice Boards



Figure 2-5 Public Consultation Notice Boards



Figure 2-6 Public Consultation Notice Boards

2.2 Ballina Flood Relief Scheme Website

Details of the public consultation were also posted on the Ballina FRS Website (www.ballinafrs.ie) with the opportunity for members of the public to submit comments online and a Virtual PCD was held for those unable to attend the event. The virtual room was accessible from the 23rd September until mid November approximately. Images of the Virtual Room can be seen in the following figures.

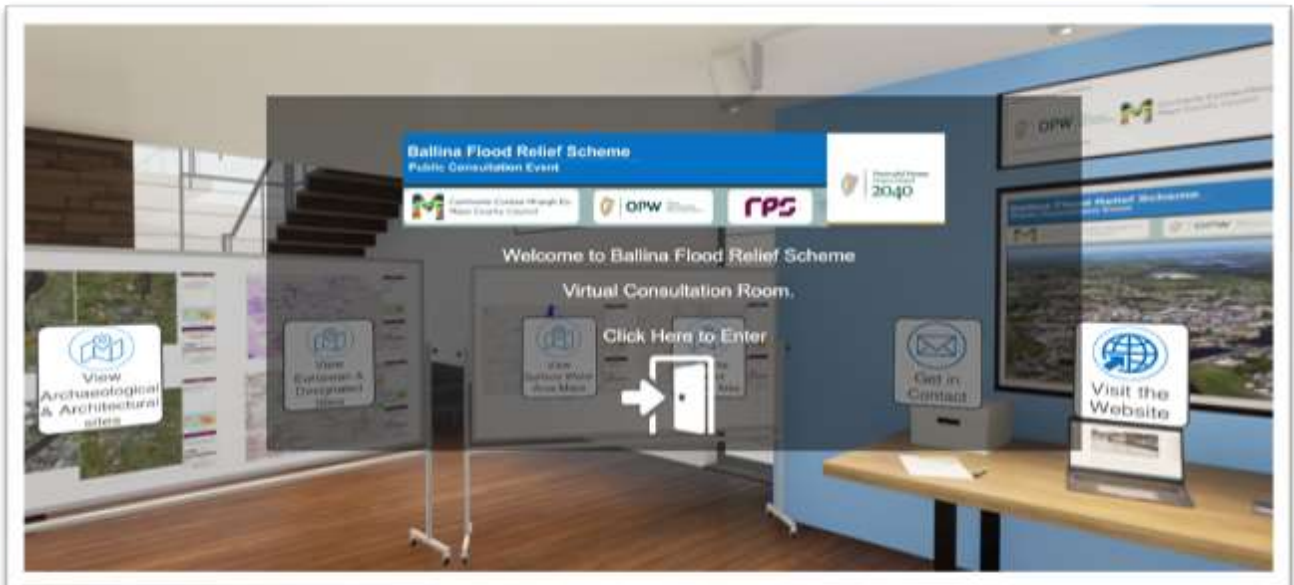


Figure 2-7 Virtual Consultation Room



Figure 2-8 Virtual Consultation Room

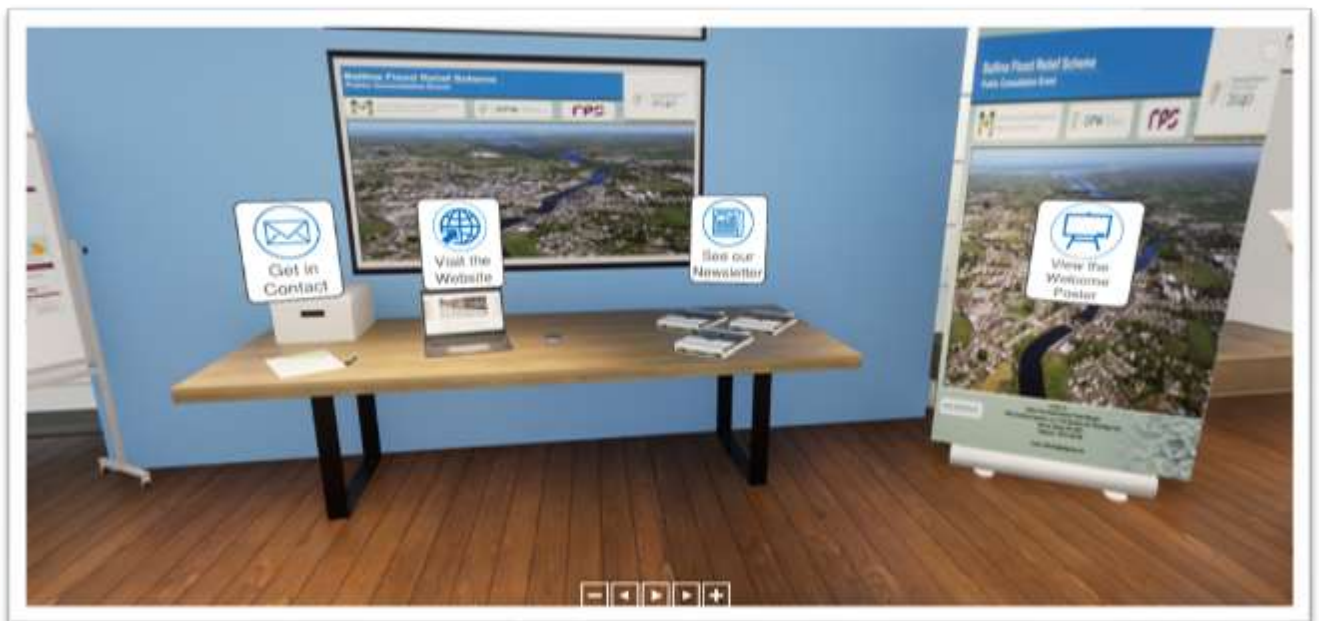


Figure 2-9 Virtual Consultation Room



Figure 2-10 Virtual Consultation Room

2.3 Consultations with Statutory and Non-Statutory Bodies

A consultation letter was issued to statutory and non-statutory bodies inviting comment on the proposals. Details of the consultees, their responses to date and a sample consultation letter are provided in **Appendix B**.

3 ISSUES RAISED

A total of 16 people attended the Public Consultation Day and to date four comments forms have been received via the website and one via a phone call. A summary of the comments received are as follows;

- Need to ensure the project is adapted to climate change and ensure there is no impact on the local salmon population and their food sources.
- Consider reuse of the existing stone wall as cladding on any new wall.
- The project team should make sure to use the information that locals have provided in the past.
- Concerns were expressed over the timeline of the project being too long and asking for remediation works to be completed on the existing wall along Bachelor's Walk in the meantime as water is coming through the wall during high tides.
- It was noted that the Pier at Ballina house is an obstruction to water flow, around the headland (across from the Bunree inlet) there is a dock that also causes restriction to the flow of water, Bushes along both banks of the river need to be cut bank between the town and the Bunree River inlet.

Overall comments were positive that the scheme is moving forward and the main area of concern is the timeline of the project being too lengthy and the lack of new information.

3.1 Lessons Learned and Suggested Improvements

As a result of the PCD there were a number of lessons learned including,;

- Some people had difficulties interpreting the mapping and struggled with the spatial awareness required to understand the content displayed on the maps.
- Most attendees quickly reviewed the main constraint mapping but were mainly interested in the CFRAMs options
- One of the main verbal queries was a query as to whether or not the funding is in place for the project.

Improvement measures that could be considered for the next Public Consultation Day, include;

- The use of a large screen and laptop to zoom into areas and take advantage of Google Street view, which would assist attendees in getting a better understanding of affected areas, option locations etc.
- Use of analytics to record the number of visitors to the virtual room for future consultation events.
- Possible use of a presentation in the virtual room to explain the various maps