

MIDLETON FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME

INTRODUCTION

Cork County Council, working with the Office of Public Works, has commissioned Arup to develop a Flood Relief Scheme for the Midleton Area, including Water Rock and Ballinacurra. The purpose of the Midleton Flood Relief Scheme is to assess and develop a viable, cost effective and sustainable Flood Relief Scheme to alleviate flooding in the Midleton Area.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The second Public Participation Day was held on 7th March 2020 in the Midleton Park Hotel.

Over 70 submissions of feedback were received on the options presented at the Public Participation Day. This feedback included a number of common topics, such as:

- Climate Change
- Natural Flood Management
- Programme



This leaflet provides detail on these topics, together with progress updates on the Midleton Flood Relief Scheme.

A full summary of the public feedback is available on our project website, together with a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document.



Climate Change

A Climate Change Adaptability Plan (CCAP) is being developed for Midleton. The purpose of this plan is:

- Assess what the potential future flood risk in Midleton might be due to sea level rise and increased river flows,
- Determine the cost of this increased flooding and,
- Develop mitigation measures to reduce this risk.

The plan also sets out a pathway for potential future actions for flood mitigation/ alleviation and ensures that the measures currently proposed do not negatively impact future interventions.

Natural Flood Management

Natural Flood Management (NFM) involves using natural features to reduce the risk of flooding. Examples include restoring bends in rivers or changing the way land is managed so soil can absorb more water.

A comprehensive NFM assessment for Midleton was completed in December 2020, which examined NFM in detail. It concluded that if NFM measures were used, structural flood defences such as embankments and/or walls would still be required. Only relatively minor reductions in flow could be achieved, even with significant investment. Given the scale of NFM measures which would be required, together with the associated costs, landowner interaction and impact, it is clear that a NFM solution is not viable for Midleton (even in combination with other measures) to meet the required standard of protection.

NFM will however be considered as a potential future measure as part of the Climate Change Adaptability Plan. Further details on both NFM and the CCAP will be available on the project website shortly.

Where we are now?

- Multi-Criteria Analysis taking into consideration feedback from the public
- Detailed Geotechnical Investigations
- Development of Emerging Preferred Option

Public Participation Day No.3

- PPD3 will be held later in 2021
- Presentation of the Emerging Preferred Option
- A third chance to have your views heard

What happens then?

- Scheme Review
- Production of Scheme Documentation
- Appropriate Assessment
- Environmental Impact Assessment

Statutory Consent Process

- A fourth chance to have your views heard

And then?

- Scheme Refinement
- Ministerial Approval
- Detailed design
- Procurement and Construction

OTHER UPDATES

Site Investigation Works

Site Investigation Works commenced in August 2020. The works comprised of the investigation of ground conditions using site investigation techniques across the scheme area. The techniques used include: trial pits, slit trenches, boreholes, groundwater monitoring and permeability tests. This information will inform the scheme design.

Invasive Plant Species Treatment

The ongoing treatment of Invasive Plant Species is having positive effects in terms of limiting regrowth, thereby reducing the risk of blockages in water courses. A fourth year of treatment of Japanese Knotweed (and other invasive species) took place in August and September 2020.

Cork County Council plan to treat Himalayan Balsam in early summer 2021, as well as Japanese Knotweed (and other species) later this year.

Landscape Architect

Cork County Council will shortly appoint a Landscape Architect to the Middleton FRs. The Council will work together with the Landscape Architect, to ensure that the Flood Relief Scheme respects the unique character of Middleton, positively linking with and building on the cultural heritage of Middleton, while reinforcing connectivity with the river.

Ongoing flood response

Cork County Council continues to respond to flood issues with pumping arrangements being put in place at Baby's Walk, most recently in February 2021. Issues such as fallen trees, flooding and road damage should be reported to your local Council Office during working hours. Details can be found at www.corkcoco.ie. The Council's Emergency Out of Hours number is available outside these times on (021) 4800048.

Contact Us

All queries, questionnaires and comments in relation to this project can be addressed to:

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