

# Newsletter

## Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme



Tionscadal Éireann  
Project Ireland  
**2040**





Bellagill Bridge

## Introduction

Since the appointment of design consultants for the project in Winter 2019, the project steering group has been working to ensure that the development of the scheme is based on the most accurate and up to date information. Arup (Engineering Consultants) has been reviewing all relevant sources of information, procuring a company to undertake detailed channel surveys, which have recently commenced, to support analysis of how the rivers react to rainfall events in their respective catchments.

The Environmental Constraints Study report is currently being prepared by Ryan Hanley (environmental consultants). The study is assessing constraints relating to a range of environmental aspects as required by the relevant Environmental Directives and Legislation. The responses gathered from the Opening Public Consultation Day in March 2020 will be incorporated into this report.

## Opening Public Consultation Day

The first Ballinasloe FRS Public Consultation Day (PCD) was held on the Thursday 5th of March 2020 in the Shearwater Hotel.



The PCD event was attended by over 82 people, who were provided with background information and an outline of the project, predicted flood risk in the area, the progress to date and future steps. All of the information displayed is available on the project website (<https://www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/ballinasloe/project-info/>).

Attendees on the evening provided valuable feedback and commentary on the potential flood alleviation options and flood risk in the area. The project team recorded these comments and they will be considered further during the detailed design and development of the scheme. In addition, a total of 17 written submissions were received prior to the closing date, following the PCD. We wish to thank all members of the public for their time and contributions to the opening PCD and we look forward to further engagement in the coming months.



Aqua Dam barrier deployed by Galway County Council at Slí na hAbhann during a period of high river levels in February/March 2020

## Impact of Coronavirus (COVID-19)

The Ballinasloe FRS Steering Group (comprising of the OPW, Galway County Council, Arup, HydroEnvironmental Ltd and Ryan Hanley) have continued to meet via video conferencing facilities in order to comply with government guidance during the COVID19 pandemic.

A topographical survey contractor was due to be appointed in March, however this was delayed until May following government guidance on COVID19. Following relaxation of restrictions in late May, Murphy Surveys undertook surveys of the hydrometric gauges at Derrycahill and Belagill.



A second topographic infill contract, covering the Suck and tributaries through Ballinasloe has recently commenced in June. The work is being undertaken by McDonald Surveys.

The purpose of the surveys is to collect further data which will be used to build a predictive computerised hydraulic model of the River Suck and its tributaries. This computer modelling will simulate flooding mechanisms on the river and will build on the work undertaken as part of the CFRAMS project to the level of detail and accuracy required for the detailed design of a flood relief scheme.

All contractors will follow the latest government health and safety guidance in relation to COVID19 whilst undertaking survey activities.

## Additional Information & Contact Details

Additional information in relation to overall progress, current news items and project reports can be found on the Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme project website. The project team can also be reached at the following addresses:



**Project website:**  
[www.floodinfo.ie/  
ballinasloefrs](http://www.floodinfo.ie/ballinasloefrs)



**Email address:**  
[ballinasloefrs@arup.com](mailto:ballinasloefrs@arup.com)

**Post address:**  
Ballinasloe Flood Relief  
Scheme Project Manager  
Arup,  
One Albert Quay,  
Cork

## Next Steps

**Data collection:** Ongoing. If you have any information which could be of use to the project team, such as photos, videos, sketches or any other relevant information regarding previous flood events from those who have experienced it first-hand, please contact us. The information provided will help us to refine our river model and the design of the flood relief scheme.

**Surveys:** A channel survey commenced during June, with an expected fieldwork duration of circa five weeks.

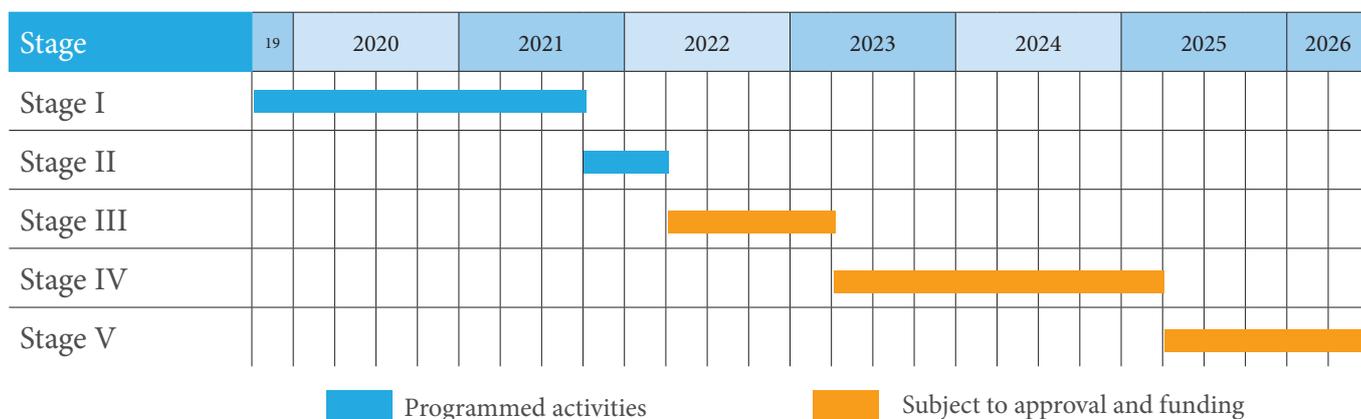
**Hydrological Analysis:** This analysis is carried out to understand how the river system responds to the whole water cycle. Data relating to past rainfall and river flow rates on the River Suck will be analysed, in conjunction with analysing the physical characteristics of the catchment.

Mathematical methods will then be used to develop predictions for future flood flows in Ballinasloe. This analysis is currently ongoing and will provide one of the necessary inputs to the hydraulic computer model of the watercourses.

**Hydraulic Analysis:** A hydraulic computer model will be developed which will simulate the hydraulic performance of the various channels, culverts, bridges and floodplain through Ballinasloe. The purpose of this model will be to analyse the passage of the predicted flood flows through Ballinasloe, and will generate predicted flood extents and flood levels.

**Environmental Assessment:** Ecological survey work will be conducted along the rivers in the coming months to identify habitat types, breeding birds, otters and other species or features of ecological or environmental interest.

## Outline Project Programme



**Note:** Timelines are the current best estimate but are subject to revision.