



Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme

Public Consultation Day 3

27th February 2024

Feedback Report

CLIENT	Office of Public Works/ Galway County Council
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REPORT TITLE	Public Consultation Day 3 – Feedback Report

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	Introduction	1
1.1	Aims and Approaches of the Public Consultation Day.....	1
1.1.1	<i>Aims.....</i>	<i>1</i>
1.1.2	<i>Target audience.....</i>	<i>1</i>
2	Advertising of the Public Consultation Day	1
2.1	Traditional media.....	1
2.2	Social / Other Media.....	3
2.3	Mail Drop.....	4
2.4	Statutory and Non-Statutory Consultees.....	4
3	Public Consultation Arrangements	5
3.1	Event Format.....	5
3.2	Preferred Options Public Consultation Day (PCD)	5
3.3	Presentation to Local Elected Public Representatives	5
3.4	Public Consultation Period	5
3.5	Public Consultation Materials.....	5
3.5.1	<i>Public Consultation Questionnaire</i>	<i>5</i>
3.5.2	<i>Public Consultation Exhibition Posters.....</i>	<i>6</i>
3.6	Public Consultation Event.....	7
3.6.1	<i>Staffing of Event.....</i>	<i>7</i>
3.6.2	<i>Numbers of Public Attendees</i>	<i>7</i>
3.6.3	<i>Website Traffic for Public Consultation</i>	<i>7</i>
4	Public Consultation Response	9
4.1	Comments from Local Elected Representatives	9
4.2	Verbal Comments at Event	9
4.3	Questionnaires Returned.....	9
4.4	Communications, Emails and Phone Calls.....	10
4.5	Responses from Statutory and Non-Statutory Bodies.....	10
5	Analysis of Public Consultation Response	11
5.1	Analysis of Questionnaires	11
6	Conclusions and Recommendations.....	13

APPENDICES

Appendix A – Blank Questionnaire

Appendix B – Photos of the Public Consultation Venue

Appendix C – Flyer & Invitation

Appendix D – Notes/Discussions from the PCD

Appendix E – Email to Statutory and Non-Statutory Consultees

1 INTRODUCTION

The third Public Consultation Day (PCD) for the preferred options for the Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme (FRS) took place on Tuesday 27th February 2024 in the Shearwater Hotel, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway. The public consultation followed on from previous public consultation events held on 5th of March 2020 and 15th of March 2022. The third PCD event was held in the Dunlo Suite of the Shearwater Hotel, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway from 01:00pm to 07:00pm at which members of the public were able to view the preferred scheme options and proposed scheme drawings and discuss with members of the project team. Following the PCD event, the consultation extended to Tuesday 19th of March 2024 to allow a period for feedback and submissions. All relevant PCD material was made available to view online and download via the project website at <https://www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/ballinasloe/home/>.

1.1 Aims and Approaches of the Public Consultation Day

1.1.1 Aims

- To provide members of the public with an update on the progress and development towards the Preferred Options for the Ballinasloe flood relief scheme.
- To obtain further information on flooding or other relevant environmental information about the preferred options presented.
- To elicit feedback on preferred options in order assist with the assessment of options as part of this project.
- To communicate the project processes and timescales.
- To encourage further participation from stakeholders and the public generally in relation to their own observations on the preferred options and additional experiences of flood events.
- To invite stakeholders and the public to contribute their views by way of submissions, observations, discussions, verbal comments and via the questionnaire.
- A further opportunity for Interested persons to discuss the displayed consultation materials, have relevant questions answered and engage with the project.

1.1.2 Target audience







Members of the public and all interested parties, including political stakeholders, the Ballinasloe Flood Action Group, affected landowners and local residents.


During the course of the PCD Event – project team members including senior Engineering and Environmental team members and/or members of the OPW and local authority team were available to discuss the Preferred Options in more detail.

2 ADVERTISING OF THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION DAY

2.1 Traditional media

Advance advertising of the Public Consultation Event was undertaken in various online news outlets and on social media in the weeks preceding. In addition, notices were placed in the local papers in the week and weekend preceding the event and radio announcements were made on Galway Bay FM.

Newspaper Advertisements	Editions
	22 nd February 2024
	15 th & 22 nd February 2024
	15 th & 22 nd February 2024
	20 th February 2024
	14 th & 21 st February 2024
Radio Advertisements	Allotments
	12 th , 14 th , 16 th , 19 th , 20 th , 21 st , 22 nd , 23 rd & 26 th Feb 2024) – Morning & Evening Time Slots



As part of the development of a viable Flood Relief Scheme for Ballinasloe, Co. Galway, the Office of Public Works in conjunction with Galway County Council, wish to invite members of the public to the third Public Consultation Event at which the emerging preferred option for the proposed scheme will be presented.

The event will take place in the Shearwater Hotel, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway on **27th February 2024 from 1.00pm to 7.00pm.**

The purpose of the event is to give interested parties an update on the project, to the emerging preferred option for the Flood Relief Scheme and to offer a further opportunity to engage with the project team. The project team would welcome feedback from members of the public and you are invited to attend the consultation event and submit comments, observations and/or queries. Questionnaires will be available both on-line and at the event.

Members of the Project Team, including our Engineering Design Consultants, Arup & Environmental Consultants, Ryan Hanley will attend the public consultation event to provide further information and address any queries.

In advance of the event, information on the Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme will be made available via the Project Website:


<https://www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/ballinasloe/home/>

OPW and GCC would welcome feedback and the public are thus invited to submit comments, observations or queries. Those living within the scheme area will shortly receive an information leaflet pertaining to the Project.

Questionnaires can be returned via drop-box at the at the Shearwater Hotel on the day of the event (27th February 2024), via the Project Website, via email to: ballinasloefrs@arup.com or by post to:

**Flood Projects Management Services,
Office of Public Works,
1GQ,
Georges Quay,
Dublin 2, D02 Y098**

The Office of Public Works would encourage interested parties to engage with this event. All feedback received will be treated in strict accordance with GDPR regulations.



council drones

As part of the development of a viable Flood Relief Scheme for Ballinasloe, Co. Galway, the Office of Public Works in conjunction with Galway County Council wish to invite members of the public to the third public consultation event at which the emerging preferred option for the proposed scheme will be presented.

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Members of the project team along with Arup our engineering design consultants, and Ryan Hanley the environmental consultants will attend the public consultation to provide further information and address any queries. In advance of the event, information on the Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme will be made available via the project website: <https://www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/ballinasloe/home/>

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The Office of Public Works would encourage interested parties to engage with this event. All feedback received will be treated strictly in accordance with GDPR regulations.

If you wish to contact our newsroom, please email news@galwayadvertiser.ie

Galway Advertiser

Figure 2.1 Tuam Herald Preprint Proof (L) and Galway Advertiser Advert 15th March 2024 (R)

2.2 Social / Other Media

Social media sites, such as Facebook and X (formerly Twitter) groups, provided a suitable format to promote messages and information about the Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme Public Consultation Day.

Galway County Council published a post on their Facebook and Twitter pages in advance of the public engagement period and event in the Shearwater Hotel, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.

Twitter posts were published from Galway County Council & OPW twitter accounts informing the public of the event.

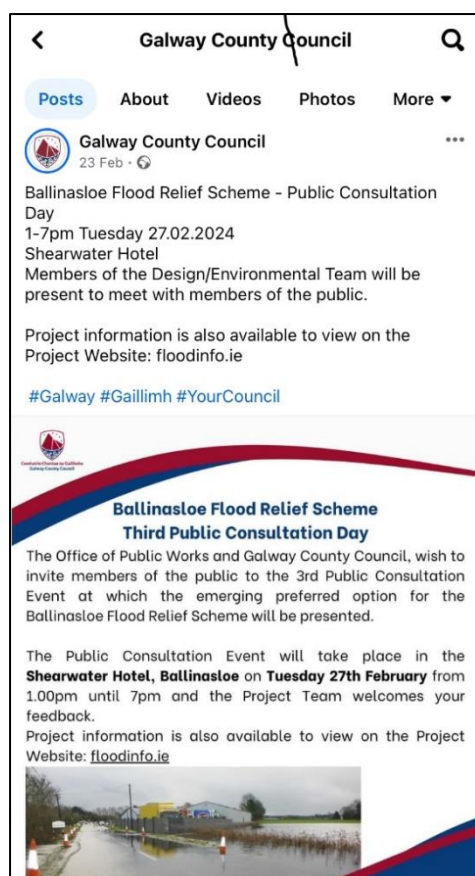


Figure 2.4 Facebook Post from Galway County Council

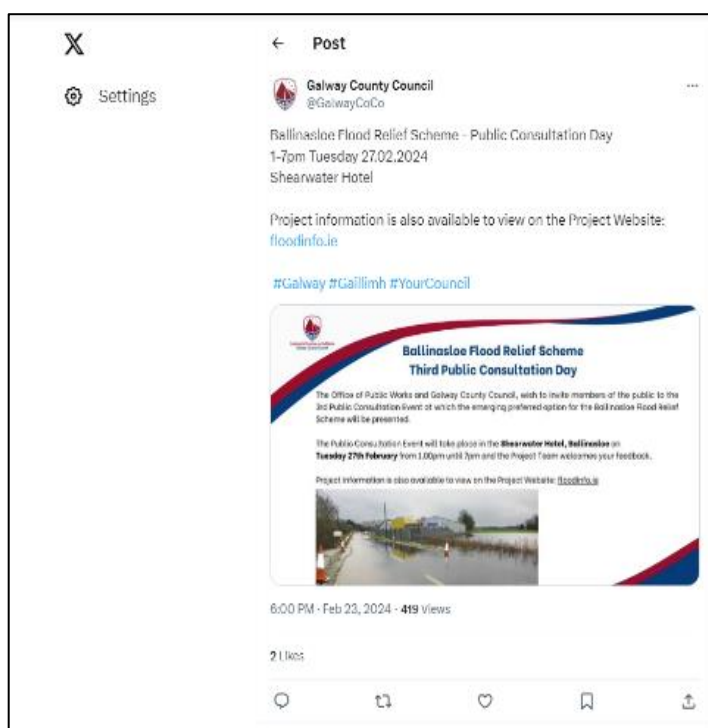


Figure 2.2 X (Formerly Twitter) Post from Galway County Council



Figure 2.4 X Post (formerly Twitter) from OPW

2.3 Mail Drop

The event was also publicised locally through targeted distribution of information leaflets to residents and landowners. *All Homes Leaflet Distribution Ltd.* were engaged to distribute flyers across the scheme area. Mail drop was completed on the 25th of February 2024 to approx. 3,437 properties in Ballinasloe urban area. A copy of the information flyer and invitation as well as *All Homes Leaflet* distribution maps is available in Appendix C.

2.4 Statutory and Non-Statutory Consultees

Invitations were issued to statutory and non-statutory consultees on the 21st of February 2024 notifying them of the upcoming PCD event, its purpose and directing them to up to date information on the project website. Some initial bounce backs were received, which were investigated and invitations reissued. The list of stakeholders is included below.

Stakeholder List	Stakeholder List
Galway County Council – Executive	Birdwatch Ireland
Office of Public Works (OPW)	Irish Peatland Conservation Council
Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII)	Friends of the Irish Environment
Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI)	Irish Wildlife Trust
National Monuments Service (NMS)	Bat Conservation Ireland
National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS)	Ballinasloe & District Anglers
Uisce Éireann (UÉ)	The River Trust
Archaeology Management Solutions (AMS)	An Bord Pleanála
The Heritage Council of Ireland	An Comhairle Ealaíon (The Arts Council)
Environmental Pillar	An Taisce - The National Trust for Ireland
An Taisce	Commission for Electricity Regulation
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	Dept. of Environment, Climate and Communications
Shannon Working Group	Dept. of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht
Irish Farmers Association (IFA)	Dept. of Housing, Planning & Local Government
Teagasc	Dept. of Justice and Equality
Dept. of Agriculture	Dept. of Transport
Electricity Supply Board (ESB)	Faile Ireland
Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO)	Health and Safety Authority
Flood Alleviation Ballinasloe (FAB)	Angling Council of Ireland
Waterways Ireland (WI)	Irish Federation of Pike Angling Clubs
Coillte	Ballinasloe Fair and Festival Office
Ballinasloe Community Development/Enterprise Centre	Geographical Society of Ireland
Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI)	National Association of Regional Games Councils
Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers Association (ICMSA)	Irish Environmental Network

Stakeholder List	Stakeholder List
Irish Heritage Trust	Voice of Irish Concern for the Environment
Irish Planning Institute	

3 PUBLIC CONSULTATION ARRANGEMENTS

3.1 Event Format

- Advance Advertising & Dissemination of Event Information to the Public;
- Public Consultation Day at Shearwater Hotel, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway;
- PCD Material, Preferred Options Drawings and Posters published online;
- Drop-in style consultation event between 01:00pm and 07:00pm, with representatives from the Project Team of OPW, GCC, ARUP and Ryan Hanley present;
- Poster and Engineering Drawings displayed on day of PCD; and
- PCD Material, Preferred Options Drawings and Posters published online.

3.2 Preferred Options Public Consultation Day (PCD)

On the Tuesday 27th February 2024, an exhibition of Preferred Options for the Ballinasloe FRS was opened to the public between 1:00pm to 7:00pm. The event was held in the Dunlo Suite of the Shearwater Hotel in Ballinasloe, Co. Galway (see Photos in Appendix B). The Oranmore Suite was made available to the OPW Valuers for private meetings with landowners and members of the public whom may be affected by the proposed scheme.

3.3 Presentation to Local Elected Public Representatives

A presentation to Local Elected Representatives from the Municipal District of Ballinasloe was conducted in advance of the PCD which allowed the Project Team to deliver a detailed presentation of the proposed Scheme.

3.4 Public Consultation Period

Physical project information, poster displays and engineering drawings were displayed to the public on the day of the PCD. The project team advised that the consultation period extended to Tuesday 19th of March 2024 to allow for any submissions or observations from members of the public and/or stakeholders.

3.5 Public Consultation Materials

3.5.1 Public Consultation Questionnaire

A questionnaire with pre-printed questions was provided at the public exhibition on the 27th of February 2024. Attendees were asked to complete the questionnaire and/or comments sheet and return to dropbox available on the day of the PCD or access the questionnaire project website and return to the project team.

The availability of a questionnaire provided an opportunity for members of the public to express their views on the preferred options and to discuss any concerns regarding these and flooding in their area. A copy of the blank questionnaire is attached in Appendix A.

3.5.2 Public Consultation Exhibition Posters

The format of the Preferred Options exhibition was information would be displayed in poster format which also included engineering plans and elevations sections, there were a total of 18. No posters. The posters included:

- Board 1: Scheme Objectives and Overview
- Board 2: Public Consultation Process
- Board 3: Fluvial Flood Extents and Benefitting Areas
- Board 4: Environmental Constraints Poster No. 1
- Board 5: Environmental Constraints Poster No. 2
- Board 6: Landscape Constraints
- Board 7: Key Plan – Drawings
- Board 8: Deerpark
- Board 9: Derrymullen North
- Board 10: Derrymullen South
- Board 11: Station Road and Sarsfield Road (Sheet 1 of 3)
- Board 12: Station Road and Sarsfield Road (Sheet 2 of 3)
- Board 13: Station Road and Sarsfield Road (Sheet 3 of 3)
- Board 14: Town Centre (Sheet 1 of 2)
- Board 15: Town Centre (Sheet 2 of 2)
- Board 16: The Pines
- Board 17: The Portnick
- Board 18: Scheme Climate Change Adaptation Plan

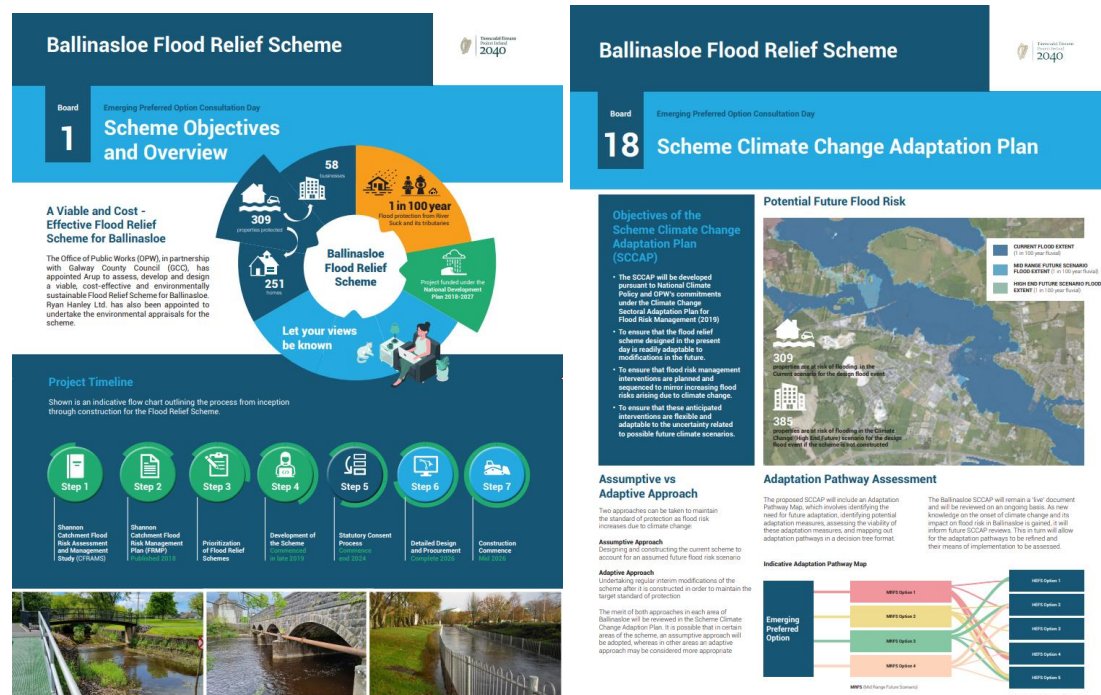


Figure 3.1 Illustration of Some of the Posters Displayed at the Event

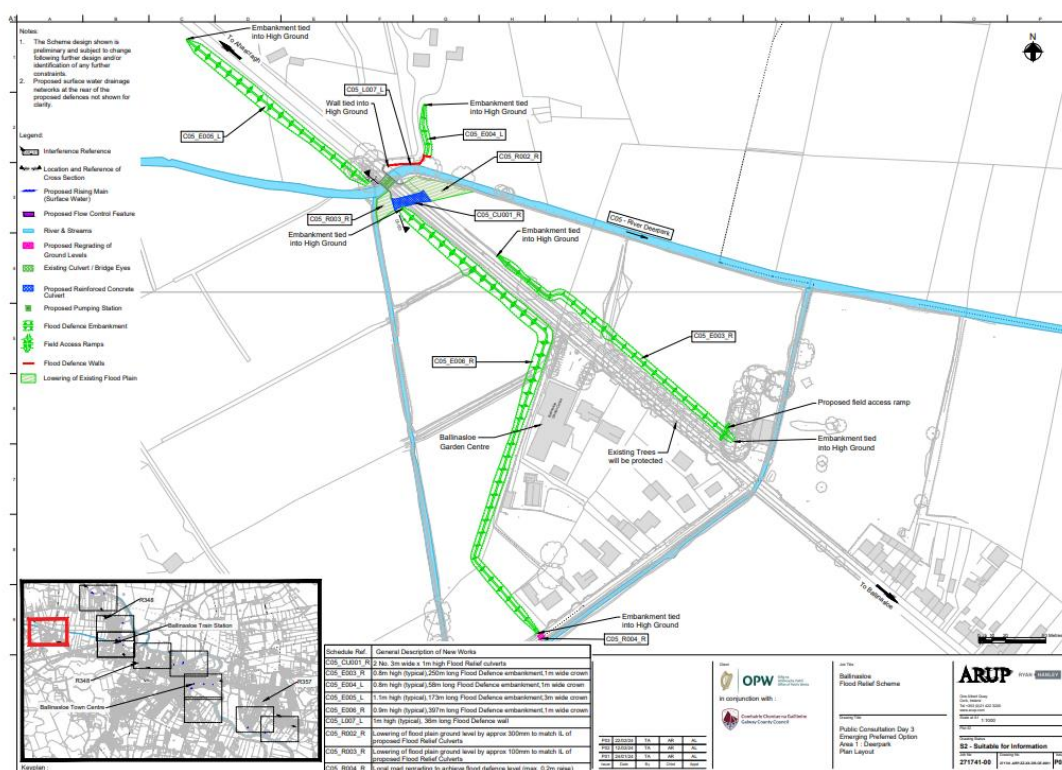


Figure 3.2 Example of the Engineering Plans Displayed at the Event

3.6 Public Consultation Event

3.6.1 Staffing of Event

At the venue, staff from the OPW, Galway County Council, ARUP (Design Team) and Ryan Hanley (Environmental Team) were in attendance to present the preferred options with associated heritage and environmental constraints as well as receive information from the general public and answer any questions. Additional photos of the event are available in Appendix B.

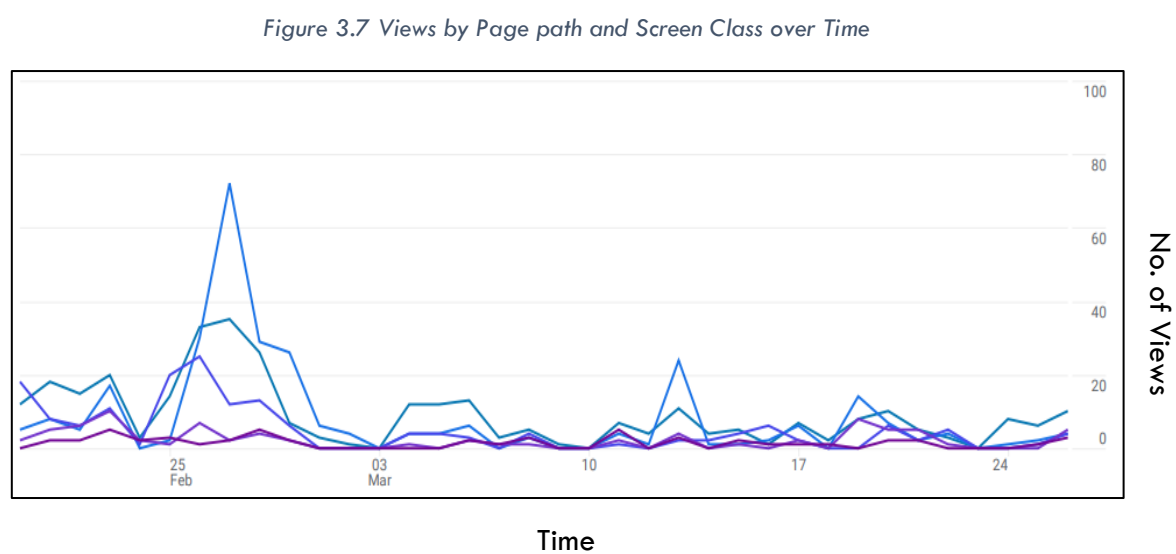
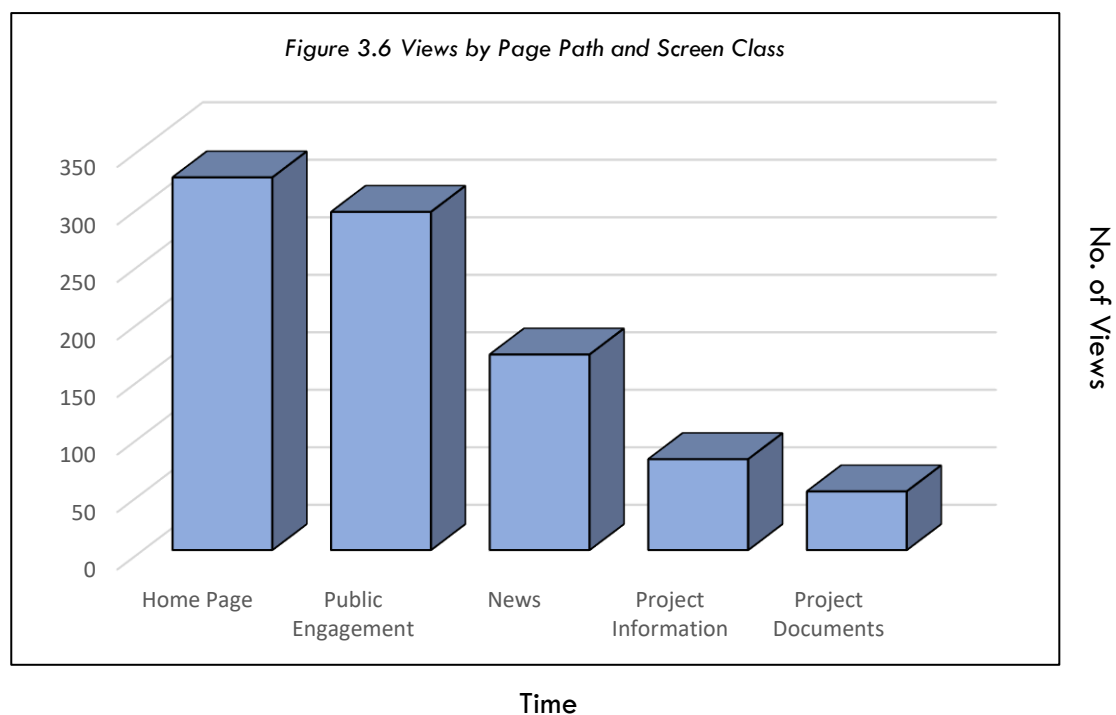
3.6.2 Numbers of Public Attendees

Members of the public attending at the PCD were invited to sign a visitor's book to enable a record of the number of attendees to be maintained. A General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) compliant sign in book was used to ensure compliance with EU GDPR regulations. A total of 65. No attendees signed the attendance book at the event in Shearwater Hotel, Ballinasloe.

3.6.3 Website Traffic for Public Consultation

The project website hosted on OPW's National Flood Information Portal can be accessed at <https://www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/ballinasloe/home/>. Project information and material related to the PCD were uploaded in advance.

From assessment of the website analytics for the period from the 20th of February until 26th March 2024, the "Total views of the webpage" was 1,043 by 285 "users". The "views per user" was 3.66 and the "average engagement time" was 1 minute 14 seconds. The Initial "Home Page", "Public Engagement" and "News" heading were the most accessed as illustrated in Figure 3.6 below. Website traffic and views of the website peaked in and around the time of the PCD as illustrated in Figure 3.7 below.



4 PUBLIC CONSULTATION RESPONSE

4.1 Comments from Local Elected Representatives

Some of the most relevant questions are listed below

Area	Summary of Questions and Queries
Area 1 - Deerpark	Some suggestion that the 2009 flood on the Deerpark River downstream of Kilclooney Bridge was higher than the proposed defences suggest. Existing ground levels/flood levels in this area to be reviewed by the Team.
Area 2 – Derrymullen North	Questions from the elected representatives about the flood protection required on the R358 road and the access to a commercial property close to Bunowen Bridge; and Some concern regarding the suitability of the proposed temporary traffic diversion route while the road is closed during flooding.
Area 3 - Derrymullen South	There was a suggestion to liaise directly with the landowner regarding the proposed replacement of the existing flood gate.
Area 4 - Sarsfield Road	N/A
Area 5 - Town Centre	West Channel: Some queries regarding the potential for the flood scheme to resolve the existing issue with drying out of the west channel in summer low flows. Arup noted two issues that cannot be addressed by the flood scheme: the high point in the channel bed level at the west bridge, and the lack of sufficient head in the main channel during summer low flows

4.2 Verbal Comments at Event

Visitors and attendees to the event are considered to have understood the proposals as presented at the event. Comments received from attendees generally reflected specific areas of interest relating to property and lands within Ballinasloe as well as business and commercial interest and political, environmental and safety. Members of the public attended the event to discuss and engage with the project team and seek further information and clarity on the proposed scheme, to discuss concerns and views or get more detailed information. Discussions at the PCD with various attendees resulted in some further communications as summarised in Section 4.3.

Representatives from Waterways Ireland and GCC's Active Travel Unit attended and were interested in further information and liaison relating to hydrology factors and integration of scheme with active travel. Many of the Elected Representatives from the local municipal district who attended the earlier presentation as outline in Section 3.3 remained on at the PCD and engaged with the project team and members of the public.

Summaries of verbal comments received are available in Appendix D.

4.3 Questionnaires Returned

A total of **11. No questionnaires** were received or returned back. Some additional comments sheets were also completed by attendees.

4.4 Communications, Emails and Phone Calls

A number of communications (letter, email and telephone) were received by the project team between the 22nd of February and 19th of March 2024 which were generally further information requests related to specific areas of interest within Ballinasloe and some were follows ups and related to discussions conducted at the PCD, these are summarised in Table below.

Table 3.8 Summary of Communications received between 22nd February and 19th March 2024

No	Date	Query
1	29 th Feb 2024	Requested a hardcopy set of all of the display material
2	27 th Feb 2024	Highlighting some pluvial flooding adjacent to Portiuncula Hospital
3	27 th Feb 2024	Suggestions on alignments of defences to reduce flood of properties
4	27 th Feb 2024	Requested some flooding maps of Kilclooney area
5	19 th Mar 2024	Query related to property access in Kilclooney, flooding, stone finishing of hard defences and proposed future maintenance
6	13 th Mar 2024	Observations pertaining to his existing residential sites at Clos An lamroid, in the context of the proposed flood relief measures.
7	22 nd Feb 2024	Submission from GCC highlighting a Planning Permission for the National School
8	27 th Feb 2024	Submission of photos and some information relating to a right of way
9	15 th Mar 2024	Email to GCC supplying a Letter and Map (also supplied to OPW and Department)
10	29 th Feb 2024	Landowner requested a map of lands and defence alignments in the Town Park area of Ballinasloe, query on compensation also raised.
11	26 th Feb 2024 6 th Mar 2024	Requests and communications related to previous information gathered for the previous PCD, Inspection dates, appraisals etc in Moycarn Area
12	14 th Mar 2024	Summary of Landowner Meeting conducted at PCD on 27 th Feb 2024

Responses to submissions received from landowners, residents and information requests were provided as soon as required information was collated following the PCD including letters and emails up to publication of this report.

4.5 Responses from Statutory and Non-Statutory Bodies

Following issuing of the invitations to statutory and non-statutory bodies on the 21st of February 2024 (invitation email provided in Appendix E) from the designated project email address: ballinasloefrs@arup.com, a number of automatic email responses were received including:

- Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications;
- Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage;
- Department of Transport;
- Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII);
- Health and Safety Authority;
- Friends of the Earth; and
- Galway to Athlone Cycleway.

The Irish Wildlife Trust (IWT) responded on the 21st of February 2024 indicating that they do not have the “staff capacity to respond to this consultation at the moment but we will endeavour to respond if possible”.

Bat Conservation Ireland (BCI) also responded on the 26th of February 2024 and indicated they unfortunately, as a “very small organisation, with limited resources”, they do not have the capacity to get involved presently.

The Geological Survey Ireland (GSI) responded on the 28th of February 2024 with information related to access to a substantial list of publicly available GSI datasets that may be useful to the environmental assessment and planning process for the Ballinasloe FRS.

5 ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION RESPONSE

5.1 Analysis of Questionnaires

The attendance sheet reported a total of 65. No attendees on the day of the PCD event, although the unofficial attendance is believed to be closer to ~85. No persons. Questionnaires and comment sheets were available for completion on the day of the Preferred Options PCD.

A total of **11**. **No** questionnaires were completed and received by the project team.

In total, only **16.9%** of members of the public who attended the Preferred Options PCD event completed a questionnaire, those who's addresses were identifiable on the questionnaire where resident within the town and/or work either within the study area and/or areas affected by the indicative flood extents.

Approximately **54%** of attendees questioned indicated that they attended the previous PCD in 2022 while 27% indicated they did not (See Figure 5.1).

Attendees indicated they were notified of the event through a range of different mediums including Ballinasloe Area Community Development (BACD), letter through post, on-line, work of mouth and through a family member.

Full details of the responses to the questionnaires were provided to the Design Team. Outlined below is a summary of some information obtained from the questionnaires.

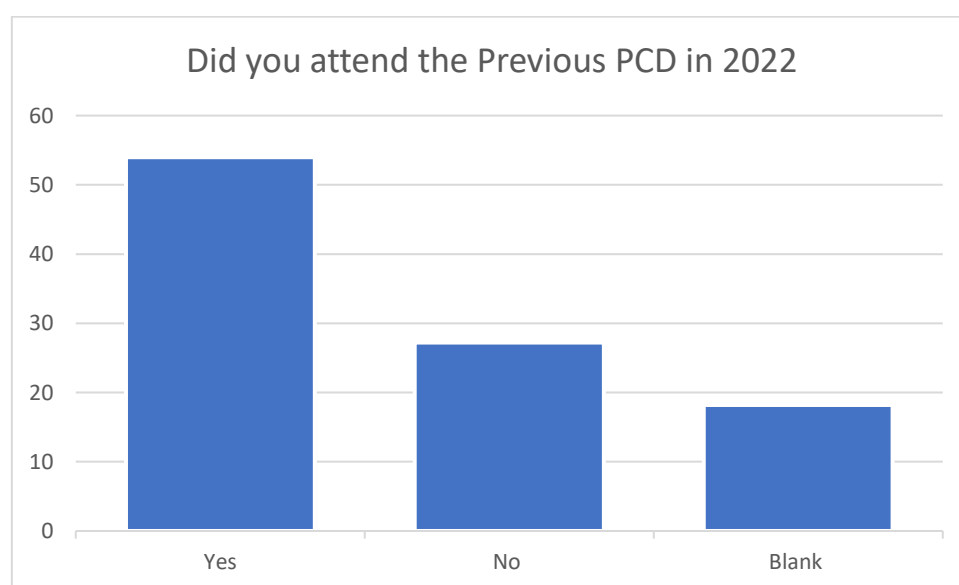


Figure 5.1 Question: Did you attend the PCD in 2022

What Part of the Study Area have you a particular interest in?	
Area 1: Deerpark	0%
Area 2-3: Derrymullan	36%
Area 4 & 5 Station Road & Town Centre	15%
Area 6: The Pines & Portnick	36%
Not indicated	9%

Table 5.2 Results from the Question: What part of the Study Area have you a particular interest in?

The questionnaire also asked what areas within the study area they have a particular interest in. The majority of respondents (>70%) were interested in the Derrymullan, The Pines and Portnick Areas while 15% showed an interest in Station Road and Town Centre.

Question 5 asked the following question “How do you view the overall proactive strategy for the Ballinasloe FRS outlined in the Preferred Scheme which focuses on containment (e.g. flood wall and embankment defences) and integrates conveyance improvements (e.g. culverts, West Channel closed, East Bridge Arch reopened)?”

A selection of some of the responses is provided below

“Very detailed plans”. Is what one respondent suggested and “to send a Postal Household drop to make all of Ballinasloe aware of what is happening and an email to all sporting bodies in the urban and rural area of the town”, including “fishing groups”. Also suggested was to “commercialise the Riverbanks for leisure purposes”.

“Very informative and complement the presentation of ideas. Good engagement for staff with queries” was a comment left on one of the questionnaires.

Another respondent “disagreed” with proposed embankments alignments on their land, which is considered “high value land” where it is full serviced for potential residential development, the respondent proposed that “embankment be moved to inline with existing developments either side” of land.

A resident of the Pine area complemented the “Very good work done on this project” and “would like to see the proposed strategy for the area start as soon as possible”

A resident near the East Bridge “would welcome measures to take the pressure off the bridges near the church, as the backing up of that channel caused properties to flood in December 2015” and “Re-opening of the arch would take the additional pressure, caused by the new flood measures, off the east bridge”.

Another resident commented on the protracted progress on the flood relief scheme. Other comments related to increased future flooding scenarios, dredging and capacity of river channels.

A landowner from the Portnick area suggested to consider “Several alternative options” which were submitted on the day of the PCD.

A business owner in the East Bridge area provided a response on Question 6 on measures proposed for Area 4-5: Station Road and Town Centre which indicated that they were “positively disposed to the scheme” and believe “that a comprehensive approach with a mix of hard engineering and softer measures” would be required. The respondent also suggested that “care and consideration in which it is executed with respect to existing structures and property rights is crucial to it’s implementation and success”.

The business owner in the East Bridge area also provided a response to Question 7 which asked for some comment on any negative aspects of the Preferred Scheme on historic and cultural heritage of buildings in proximity to the East Bridge (e.g distillery), suggesting that “flood defence construction will need to take into account the age, integrity and durability of the existing structures, especially given the limited space between the existing structures and the river itself”.

6 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The third Public Consultation Day (PCD) for the preferred options on the Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme (FRS) took place on Tuesday 27th February 2024 in the Shearwater Hotel, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway. The public consultation followed on from previous public consultation events held on 5th March 2020 and 15th March 2022.

Advance advertising of the PCD and event which included print & social media and radio adverts as well as leaflet drops ensured excellent publicity of the events.

The public event was held in the Dunlo Suite of the hotel while the adjacent Oranmore Suite was made available to the OPW valuers for private meetings with landowners and members of the public who may be affected by the proposed scheme.

Attendance at the PCD was very much increased on previous PCD’s where signed in attendees numbered 65. No persons. The increased attendance reflected interest in the project, advanced advertising and project information on the preferred options for Ballinasloe. The Project Team in attendance on the day consisted of personal from the OPW, GCC, ARUP and Ryan Hanley.

A presentation to the Local Elected Representatives from the Municipal District of Ballinasloe was conducted in advance of the PCD opening to the public which allowed the Project Team to deliver a detailed presentation of the proposed Scheme and allow time for questions and answers.

Again, similar to feedback from the other PCD event, overall, there has been a positive response to the scheme to-date and that local resident and business community are eager for the flood relief scheme to commence. The communications & submissions and discussion with the attendees during the PCD event again highlighted the urgency of the project. Feedback, communications, observations and submissions from interested parties, landowners etc was taken on board by and addressed by the project team following the PCD up to the publication of this summary report.

Notes and Information gathered from conversations and discussions are contained in Appendix – D and reflect a mixture of positives and negative attitudes toward the preferred options. The project team have taken on-board the discussions and various points raised with regard to the preferred options.

Appendix A – Blank Questionnaire

Ballinasloe
FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME



OPW Óifig na
Cúigeachtaí Publí
Office of Public Works



ARUP

RYAN HANLEY

Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme EMERGING PREFERRED SCHEME PUBLIC CONSULTATION No.3:

Please complete this questionnaire and return to the drop box provided or by post to Arup, One Albert Quay, Cork, T12 X8N6, or via email ballinasloefrs@arup.com by Tuesday 19th March 2024. An online version is also available at <https://www.floodinfo.ie/ballinasloefrs>

1. Did you attend the Public Participation Day held on 15th March 2022? Yes ☐ No ☐
2. How did you hear about this Public Consultation? _____
3. Are you: (a) A householder directly affected by flooding ☐ (b) a landowner affected by proposed works ☐ (c) Member of a local flood group ☐ (d) Other ☐ (Please Specify)

4. What part of the study area have you a particular interest in (indicate below with X)?

Area 1: Deerpark	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Area 2 – 3: Derrymullen	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Area 4 - 5: Station Road & Town Centre	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Area 6 - 7: The Pines and Portnick	<input type="checkbox"/>	

5. How do you view the overall proactive strategy for the Ballinasloe FRS outlined in the Emerging Preferred Scheme which focuses on containment (e.g. flood wall and embankment defences) and integrates conveyance improvements (e.g. culverts, West Channel closed, East Bridge Arch reopened).

Ballinasloe
FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME



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Oifig na hOibreacha Poiblí
Office of Public Works



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6. What are your thoughts on the measures proposed for Area 4-5: Station Road and Town Centre which aims to mitigate flood risk through Direct flood defences and Conveyance improvements (West Channel closed + Existing East Bridge Arch reopened and lowering of the flood plain)?

7. Are there any aspects you feel the construction of the Emerging Preferred Scheme for Ballinasloe could negatively affect?



8. In your opinion, and taking into account the Emerging Preferred Scheme for Ballinasloe how important are the following environmental factors? (please tick appropriate boxes)

Issue	Very Important	Important	Moderately Important	Of Little Importance	Unimportant
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Land Use and Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water Quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural and Cultural Heritage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Landscape and Visual Amenity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Angling, Tourism & Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please let us know if you have any other comments (additional Comments Sheets also available):

Name (optional): _____

Address (optional) _____

Email (optional): _____ Phone (optional): _____

I agree to the Office of Public Works (OPW) using my contact details to inform me regarding this scheme.

Signed: _____

Privacy & Data Protection:

Personal information collected by the Office of Public Works is done so in order for us to engage with you in relation to the Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme. Any details provided will only be used for the purposes of contacting you in relation to the scheme, which may include some or all of the following:

- Notifying you of future consultation opportunities
- Arranging access to your lands for the purposes of data collection by project staff and approved third party surveyors.
- Clarifying information, you have already provided to the project team and obtaining further inputs

The protection of your personal data is a key priority for the OPW and your data will be processed in line with our Privacy policy which is available at <https://www.gov.ie/en/organisation-information/ddf8e0-protecting-personal-data-in-the-office-of-public-works/#> or hardcopy from our offices at Flood Projects Management Services, Office of Public Works, 1GQ, Georges Quay, Dublin 2, D02 Y098. Should you have any questions about our privacy policy or the information we hold about you please contact us by email to ballinasloe@arup.com or write to us at the above address.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION

Ballinasloe
FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME



OPW Oifig na hOibreacha Poblai
Office of Public Works



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RYAN HANLEY

Additional Comments:

Appendix B – Photos of the Public Consultation Venue



Plate 001: Dunlo Suite, Shearwater Hotel, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway

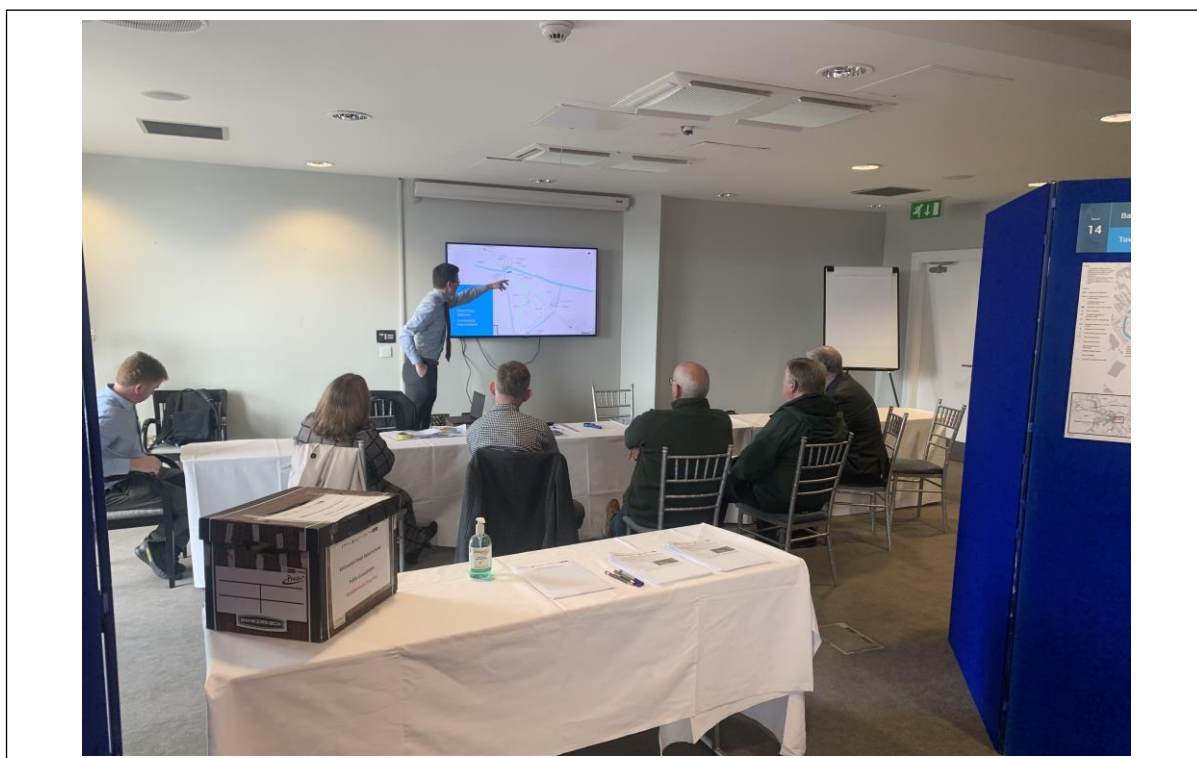


Plate 002: Presentation of Preferred Options to Local Elected Representatives from the Ballinasloe Municipal District.



Plate 003: Display boards showing Preferred Options during Public Consultation Day



Plate 004: Dunlo Suite Room Layout with sign in table and display boards



Plate 005: Interactions between Project Team and Members of the Public during PCD Event



Plate 006: Interactions and Discussions between Project Team and Members of the Public during PCD Event

Appendix C –Flyer & Allhome Distribution Tracking

Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme



Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040



Emerging Preferred Option Consultation Day

**Tuesday
27th February 2024**

Where:

The Public Consultation
Event will be held in
the Dunlo Suite of
the Shearwater Hotel,
Ballinasloe, Co. Galway
from **13:00 to 19:00**

For more information please visit
www.floodinfo.ie/ballinasloefrs



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RYAN HANLEY



Example view of distribution tracking map in the Ballinasloe Area



Detailed view of leaflet distribution tracking map in Creagh, Ballinasloe

Appendix D – Notes/Discussions from the PCD

Some Verbal Comments recorded from the PCD 27/02/2024

The following are notes of verbal discussions between the project team members and attendees at the Preferred Options PCD.

Local Residents in Area 1 – Deerpark

- Discussion points related to finish of proposed wall; query on extent of 1% AEP as shown on predicted flood mapping, map is underestimated, so they would like to see more information on the post-scheme scenario and if proposed embankments could be changed to a wall defence.

Local Business Owner in Derrymullen North

- The property owner disagreed with the proposal to raise the road, explaining that his property is flooded by the drainage located on the west side of the road, and the only protection is a culvert that crosses the road allowing water to drain into the river Suck, therefore raising the road will worsen this situation. The project team outlined the drainage works in the area and the installation of a non-return valve at that location, in addition to the embankments being raised by more than 2 meters at that location.

Local Landowner in Derrymullen North

- Landowner concerned about access to areas of his property and requested separate access to these areas and indicated they would submit information related to the concern.

Derrymullen South

- Generally, it was noted that attendees agreed with the installation of permanent pumping stations in the area.

Property Owner on Station Road

- Property owner noted support for the scheme and asked if it could be implemented as soon as possible.

Property Owner on Station Road

- Discussed alteration to southern end of defence at clos an iarnrod, Ballinasloe and indicated they would submit information related to the concern in a separate post-event submission)

Property Owner in Area 5

Proposed alternative alignment for flood defence which Arup agreed to review. Property owner believes that water levels on land will increase as a result of the scheme., however Arup stated that the modelling undertaken indicates that that water levels won't. Property owner also commented on the proposed lowering of the floodplain and potential scour.

Property Owner in Area 5

Brief discussion with property owner where Arup explained the rationale of the proposed defence alignment – i.e. avoiding the existing foul drain in the field to the north of his house

Landowner west of the Pines in Area 6

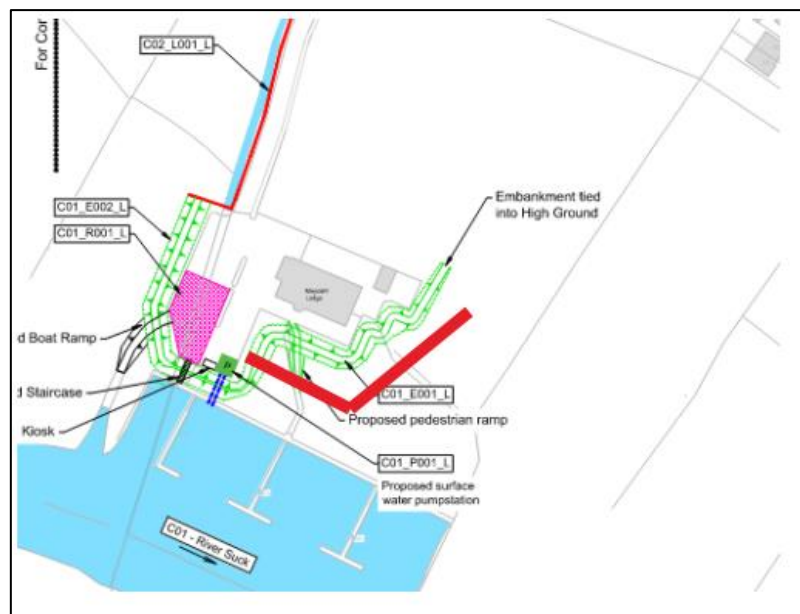
Owner from the land agreed with the alignment of defences but requested that the existing access to his land is maintained.

Landowner east of the Pines in Area 6

Access route for construction needs to be agreed. Arup to propose a route for discussion landowner. The Landowner indicated that that the southern part of the field is generally used for grazing and stated that the land to the northern end of his holding is considered high value and noted some dissatisfaction with how site investigation exploratory holes on his land were reinstated. Arup stated that we were unaware of this and if any further reinstatement work is necessary, that OPW could potentially facilitate

Businessowner in Area 7: Portnick

Owner of the business suggested moving the proposed embankment away from the property as the proposed alignment would be in an area important to the business.



Landowners in Area 7: Portnick

Meeting with Landowners where diversion channel is proposed. Landowners indicated that the proposal for a flood relief channel is not favourable as land is considered high value to and they consider it to be development land rather than agricultural land. The landowners suggested several alternative scheme options. Landowners expressed some comments on project public communications. Landowners were given information on how the ADA process works including interference notices, wayleaves and maintenance of defences. OPW valuers also met with the landowners.

Resident of Ballinasloe

A resident who was present at previous PCD's noted some previous comments made at PCD1 regarding the potential influence of peat silt on flood levels on the River Suck. Arup stated that the view of the project team is that there may be a buildup of peat silt at some locations, however it is typically not cohesive and would be dispersed by a major flood event.

Appendix E – Email sent to Statutory and Non-Statutory Consultees

From: ballinasloefrs <ballinasloefrs@arup.com>
Sent: Wednesday 21 February 2024 10:22
Subject: Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme Public Consultation

Caution: This eMail originated from outside your organisation and the BTS Managed Desktop service. Do not click on any links or open any attachments unless you recognise the sender or are expecting the email and know that the content is safe. If you are

To whom it may concern

The third **Public Consultation Day (PCD)** for the Ballinasloe FRS will take place on **Tuesday 27th February 2024** in the Shearwater Hotel, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway from **1.00pm to 7.00pm**.

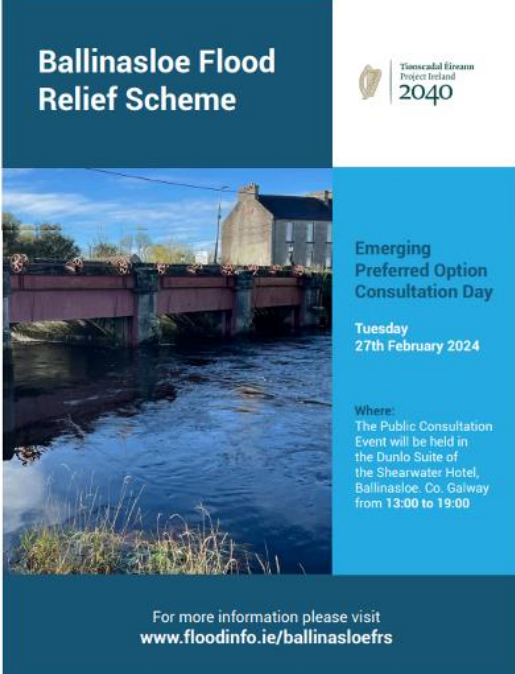
This public consultation event follows on from previous events held in March 2020 & March 2022.

The purpose of the event is to give interested parties an update on the project, to the emerging preferred option for the Flood Relief Scheme and to offer a further opportunity to engage with the project team.

You are invited to attend the consultation event, engage with the project team and submit comments, observations and/or queries. Questionnaires will be available both on-line and at the event.


All feedback received will be treated in strict accordance with GDPR regulation.

Additional event & contact information is available through the Project Website at: www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/ballinasloe/home/



The poster features a dark blue header with the text 'Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme' in white. Below this is a photograph of a river flowing under a stone bridge. To the right of the photo, on a light blue background, is the text 'Emerging Preferred Option Consultation Day' followed by 'Tuesday 27th February 2024'. Below this, in a smaller font, is the location: 'Where: The Public Consultation Event will be held in the Dunlo Suite of the Shearwater Hotel, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway from 13:00 to 19:00'. At the bottom, a dark blue bar contains the text 'For more information please visit www.floodinfo.ie/ballinasloefrs'.

Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme

 Tionscail Eireann
Project Ireland
2040

Emerging Preferred Option Consultation Day

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Electronic mail messages entering and leaving Arup business systems are scanned for viruses and acceptability of content.