

Midleton Flood Committee

11th July 2024

MIDLETON FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME



OPW

Oifig na
nOibreacha Poiblí
Office of Public Works



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí
Cork County Council

ARUP



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Introductions & New Members; Purpose of the Committee



Welcome to new members of the Midleton Flood Committee: Cllr Rory Cocking, Cllr Patrick Mulcahy and Representatives of Midleton & East Cork Flood Protection Group



Enhance communications between the Flood Relief Scheme Steering Group and the community of Midleton, in particular in relation to progress on interim measures in the short to medium term



Allow for open dialogue with and input from the general public

Interim Works – progress to date (1)



- Roll out of interim measures is underway in a phased manner, in compliance with the regulatory frameworks; the following has been completed and/or is ongoing, since our last meeting:
 - Interim and Advance Works Report has been published on the project website ([here](#))
 - Installation of river gauges – gauges at People's Park and Tir Cluain were removed (by a 3rd party); we are engaging with the contractor regarding vandal proof replacement
 - Derogation licence application for removal of gravels downstream of Moore's Bridge; initial application (May 2024) was refused, a revised application was submitted in June, and we await the decision of the Dept of Environment. A Contractor to carry out these works has been identified. Discussions ongoing with landowners regarding access.
 - Vegetation clearance adjacent to Woodlands estate was carried out in June
 - Replacement of non-return valves at Dwyer's Road and Ballinacurra – Contractor is appointed and valves are on order
 - Engagement with riparian landowners re river channel maintenance is ongoing

Interim Works – progress to date (2)



- The following interim works are planned for the coming summer (pending various statutory approvals):
 - In channel vegetation channel clearance and removal of deposited material from the channel near the Lidl Bridge – tender documents to be issued this week
 - Clearance of additional vegetation in the Owenacurra (various locations); a further contract may follow in the tree cutting season
 - Continued engagement with Met Éireann
 - Continue with efforts to reach landowner agreement re removal of bridges



Advance Works



- In addition to the preceding interim works, an initial assessment of Advance Works has been carried out
 - Advance works involve the delivery of certain elements of the main scheme in specific areas in advance of delivery of the whole scheme – e.g. construction of embankments at certain locations
 - Initial assessment identified a number of locations where Advance Works can be considered, including Tir Cluain, Woodlands and around the Northern Relief Road
 - Hydraulic modelling of these possible advance works locations is due for completion during July
 - Following this assessment, consideration of the effects of the viable measures in combination will be required, as well as an environmental screening assessment to determine potential planning routes
 - Construction of isolated sections of defences to protect one area can potentially increase risk at other locations
 - Statutory Planning Consent may be required, as may environmental assessment
 - Landowner constraints may also influence what works can be delivered

Individual Property Protection

- Individual Property Protection (IPP) is being considered as part of the overall suite of measures for Midleton, in tandem with Interim and Advance Works.
- A revised IPP application has been submitted to the OPW to fund IPP for eligible properties. This is the largest IPP funding application in the country.
- Subject to approval, the IPP scheme proposed is a grant scheme.



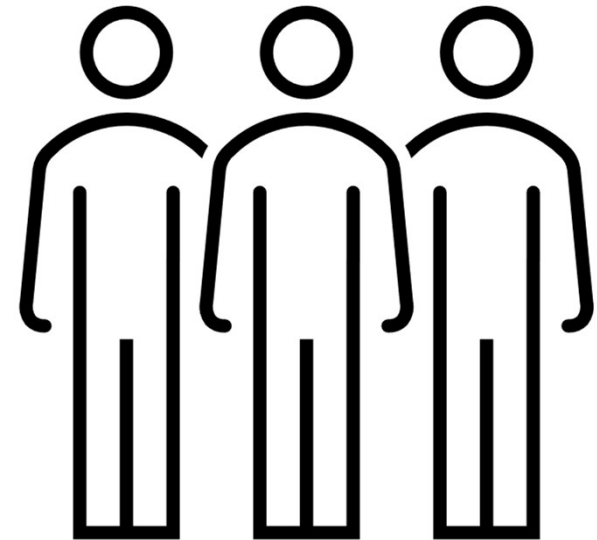
Timeline – Interim and Advance Works



July – September 2024	Medium Term
Removal of deposited material at Moore’s Bridge area (subject to DECC approval, and landowner agreement)	Continued engagement with Met Éireann
In channel clearance near Lidl Bridge	Advance construction of elements of the main scheme - subject to assessment
Replacement of non-return valves at Dwyer’s Road and Ballinacurra	Additional vegetation clearance (Owenacurra)
Installation of replacement gauges at People’s Park and Tir Cluain	
Removal of bridges – subject to landowner agreement	
Individual Property Protection - subject to funding approval	

Interim Works – resourcing

- Cork County Council received confirmation of funding from the Office of Public Works for one additional engineer in 2023
- The additional engineer who has been approved is in place since March 2024 and is 100% allocated to the delivery of interim measures for Midleton
- A Clerk of Works has also now been appointed to the Midleton FRS project team
- OPW and CCC are finalising additional staffing to CCC to support the delivery of the Midleton scheme, and all FRS across the County.



Update on Middleton Flood Relief Scheme Delivery (1)



- Work on the planning design for the ‘main’ scheme is ongoing – Arup have a significant team working on the project at present
- In the last period:
 - Phase 6 Ground Investigation contract is ongoing; some delays have occurred on site, due to landowner access permission and ground conditions, in particular in Ballinacurra. CCC, Arup and PGL are working to resolve this and minimise impact on programme
 - Topographic survey – final survey delivered to Arup in May; some minor additional surveys carried out by CCC
 - Point Cloud survey – commenced in June, with provisional completion date of late July/early August; vegetation clearance/maintenance carried out in advance of survey by CCC contractor
 - Culvert survey – completed in June 2024
 - Drainage survey has been received and is under review
 - Environmental surveys – update to fisheries survey and ecological water quality sampling to be carried out in the next period

Update on Middleton Flood Relief Scheme Delivery (2)



- Arup deliverables in the last period:
 - Options Report ([Part 1](#), [Part 2](#), [Appendices](#))
 - Scheme Update Post Storm Babet Report ([Report](#) & [Appendices](#))
 - Interim & Advance Works Report ([here](#))
- Planning design is advancing:
 - A number of workshops have been held including public realm, opportunity mapping, and second technical workshop
 - Drainage assessment is ongoing, and is nearing completion
 - Hydraulic Modelling is ongoing
 - Ongoing engagement with landowners and other stakeholders
 - Planning design, including optioneering, drafting, finalisation of wall types etc is ongoing across the scheme

Riparian landowners (1)

- OPW has developed a guidance document ([here](#)) which is aimed at owners of land or property which is located on the banks of a watercourse – both natural and artificial
- Such landowners are commonly termed riparian owners.
- CCC wrote to upstream riparian landowners on the Owenacurra and Dungourney in 2021 and again in 2023 to remind them of rights and responsibilities
- Riparian owners need to be aware of their rights and responsibilities in relation to watercourses.
- Rights include:
 - Right to protect your property from flooding and your land from erosion
 - Fishing rights (consultation with Inland Fisheries Ireland is advised)



Living near Watercourses

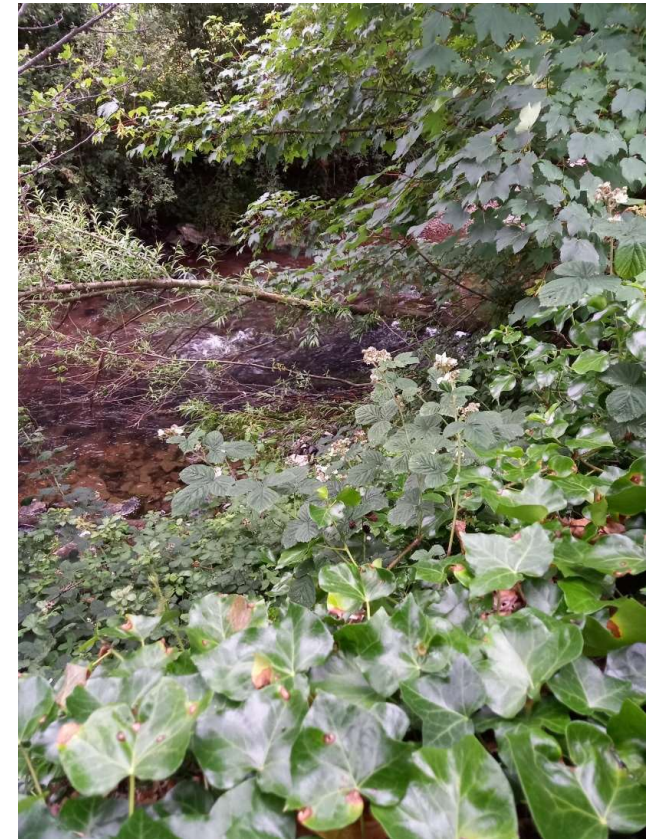


A guide to the Rights and Responsibilities
of Landowners

January, 2020

Riparian landowners (2)

- Responsibilities as a riparian landowner include:
 - Passing on water flow without obstruction, pollution or diversion affecting the rights of others,
 - Managing the channel for the purposes of flood risk and having due regard for the needs of wildlife and giving space for nature
 - Maintaining the bed and banks of the watercourse (including trees and shrubs growing on the banks), taking appropriate steps to prevent erosion of the banks, clearing any debris, including litter whether or not it originated from your land,
 - Protecting waters against pollution from agricultural sources,
 - Maintaining free passage for fish,
 - Keeping clear any structures that you own such as culverts and weirs
 - Not building new structures that encroach on the watercourse or alter the flow of water.
- Consent may be required from the Local Authority (Cork County Council), the OPW, National Parks and Wildlife Service for works to riparian lands.



Any other business?



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