



# Public Consultation 03 Report

Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch Flood Relief Scheme

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## Document Control

### Project

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## [1] Introduction

### [1.1] Background

Kilkenny County Council (KCC) as the Lead Authority, in partnership with Carlow County Council (CCC) and the Office of Public Works (OPW) are advancing the Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch Flood Relief Scheme (GTFRS).

Ayesa (formerly ByrneLooby) were commissioned in February 2020 by KCC, to develop and implement a flood relief scheme (FRS) that alleviates the risk of flooding to the community of Graiguenamanagh and Tinnahinch by providing a scheme that is technically, socially, environmentally and economically acceptable.

Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch is situated on the Kilkenny-Carlow border and lies on the confluence of River Barrow and River Duiske. Significant flood events have occurred, the largest of which was in Winter 2015 when the River Duiske burst its banks, creating devastating levels of water in the towns of Graiguenamanagh and Tinnahinch.

#### [1.1.1] First consultation event

The first consultation with the public and stakeholders took place between Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> of June to Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2020. The objective of this event was to make stakeholders and the public aware of the project, to provide early engagement and to get feedback on the flooding, environmental and other issues of concern. The consultation was held online due to Government COVID-19 restrictions on in-person events. The online consultation included a recorded presentation, an information leaflet, and an online questionnaire.

All relative materials from this consultation period were published on the scheme website (see Section [2] for website link), and a summary of discussions and results was provided in the Public Consultation 01 Summary Report (W3451-W-PCD02, 7<sup>th</sup> October 2020).

#### [1.1.2] Second consultation event

The second public consultation event took place at The Hub, Graiguenamanagh on Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> August 2022 between 2pm and 7pm. Councillors were invited along prior to the event from 12pm to 2pm.

The purpose of the second consultation event was to present to the community with five options developed to alleviate flooding in Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch. During the event, information posters were made available for public viewing with opportunity for discussion with the project team and provision of feedback.

The five options presented to provide flood protection as part of the scheme design were:

- Option 1: Raised Defences Only
- Option 2: Raised Defences and River Duiske Flow Diversion
- Option 3: Raised Defences and River Duiske Storage
- Option 4: Raised Defences and River Duiske Storage and Diversion
- Option 5: Raised Defences & River Duiske Culvert

Questionnaires were made available in hard copy and through an online survey format, to either be filled in on the day or at the individual's convenience. Stamped and addressed envelopes were provided to those who received a hard copy questionnaire. The questionnaire sought to gain an understanding of the individual's experience with flooding, their main concerns with the FRS, and their preference of flood defence options presented to them. Individuals were given a three-week period to return all questionnaires to the project team (i.e., to 30<sup>th</sup> August 2022). 27 responses were received via physical and online versions of the questionnaire, 6 responses via the Consult Portal and two responses via e-mail to Ayesa.

The summary report for the second public consultation is available under stakeholder engagement on the scheme website ((W3451- PCD-03, 26<sup>th</sup> September 2022).

### [1.1.2.1] Options Report

Considering the outcomes public consultation process described above, as well as other factors influencing the decision-making process, Option 3 was chosen. The rationale for this decision is outlined in the Options Report (W3451-R-W-R009) and summarised below:

Having considered the results of the various assessments it is our professional judgement that **Option 3 – Raised Defences and River Duiske Storage** represents the optimum combination of measures with the most appropriate balance of impact across all disciplines.

It also meets the council's desire for passive, sustainable flood defences, whilst balancing the various and competing interests of other legislation and objectives. The main reasons why this is the Preferred Option over all the others and in particular is that:

- A significant element of the work is concentrated outside of the town.
- A large portion of the works on the River Duiske are located outside the SAC.
- The works within the town are reduced in nature and scale to a reasonable extent.
- The option will not negatively impact on the water quality objectives under the WFD of the Barrow or the Duiske.
- The risk to the project budget due to construction price inflations is lower than for the other options.
- It is the least sensitive options to ground conditions, a major source of cost overruns on projects.
- The risk of during construction of flooding is reduced as the volume of instream works in the River Duiske is reduced compared to Option 1.
- The extent of works instream in the SAC is reduced compared to Option 1.
- In consideration of the Climate Sectoral Adaptation Plan for Flood Risk Management (2019 - 2024) this approach allows for an integrated assessment of flood management at the catchment scale.

The WFD has also called for a shift in flood management approach away from site specific raised engineering solutions, towards an integrated assessment of water resources and flood management at the catchment scale.”

## [1.2] This Report

This report summarises the events of the third public consultation event carried out on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January 2025 from 2pm to 7pm in The Hub, Graiguenamanagh.

The purpose of the third consultation event was to present the emerging preferred option - Option 3 Raised Defences and Storage Area. During this event, a series of information posters were available for public viewing. These posters are available on the scheme website. The event also provided the opportunity for community members to discuss their concerns with the team and provide feedback. This is discussed in more detail in following sections of this report.

## [2] Event Promotion and Invitation to Participate

The following table details the steps undertaken to advertise the event and invite the public to actively participate in the consultation process.

Promotion Means	Details
Flyers	Flyers and Posters for the PCD were placed in Graiguenamanagh Town's commercial businesses by Kilkenny County Council.
Newspaper	Advertised in the Kilkenny People
Email / phone calls	Invitations were provided to affected landowners from the Flood Relief Scheme via emails and mobile contact for notice of the PCD.
Social Media	The event was advertised across Kilkenny County Council's Social media: Instagram, Facebook, Twitter.
Websites	<p>Event information and invitation for public participation was posted on the following websites on the day of the PCD event:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch Flood Relief Scheme website  <a href="https://www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/grauguenamanagh-tinnahinchfrs/news/">https://www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/grauguenamanagh-tinnahinchfrs/news/</a>.</li> <li>Kilkenny's online consultation portal  <a href="https://consult.kilkenny.ie/en/consultation/grauguenamanaghtinnahinch-flood-relief-scheme-public-display-no-3-preferred-option">https://consult.kilkenny.ie/en/consultation/grauguenamanaghtinnahinch-flood-relief-scheme-public-display-no-3-preferred-option</a></li> </ul>

### [3] Public Consultation Event No.3

The objective of the third public consultation was to present the detailed design of the emerging preferred option. The development of the emerging preferred option was informed by a Constraints Study, Public Consultation (as outlined in Section 1), collaborative meetings with stakeholders, multi-criteria assessment, an environmental appraisal (incl. climate change implications). The options were also appraised economically with the benefits of defending to the design standard of 1% Annual Exceedance Protection (AEP) - typical flood magnitude of a 1-in-100-year flood event, established to inform a detailed benefit analysis.

Consider all the above, as well as the reasoning outlined in Section 1.1.2.1, the emerging preferred option was determined to be Option 3. This option would require the construction of raised defences on the River Barrow along with raised defences and an upstream flood storage area on the River Duiske to prevent flooding. Where possible and required, new flood defence walls will replace existing walls throughout the scheme.

The design has included and considered environmental factors such as conservation, cultural heritage, biodiversity, archaeology and social factors by liaising and refining the defence lines with the interest of stakeholders and landowners. Photomontages, landscape specialist drawings and engineering drawings were produced to be displayed for the consultation, providing visual representation for the emerging preferred option of areas requiring flood protection.

#### [3.1] Event Details

As previously stated, the third public consultation event took place at The Hub, Graiguenamanagh on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> of January 2025 between 2pm and 7pm. Councillors, landowners, interested parties and local residents were invited to drop in to the consultation between this timeframe.

Informative posters were displayed around the room, See Figure 3-1, detailing the stages of the schemes, overall targeted areas, in-depth detail designs of each areas, planning approach, cultural heritage and archaeology, and environmental and biodiversity. These posters are available on the scheme website.

Representatives of the project team were available to provide explanation of the posters, answer queries and listen to views and opinions.

An attendance form was provided to document the persons attending and to record any questions raised to allow the project team to respond make consideration of the matters raised when finalising the scheme. This attendance record is included in Appendix A<sup>1</sup>. A summary of questions and responses are detailed in Section [4.2].

<sup>1</sup> Not all attendees chose to record their presence and observations  
Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch Flood Relief Scheme





Figure 3-1: Public Consultation Event 03

### [3.2] Target Audience

All interested parties were targeted for invitation, with a focus on residents, landowners, and business owners. This included properties owners who both have and have not been flooded in the past, and non-residents who may have concern for the area.

### [3.3] Project Team Representation

Kilkenny County Council representatives Joseph Scully and Phillipe Beubry attended the event. Three members of Ayesa staff; Dr. Seán Harrington (Project Manager), Liam Tobin (Principal Infrastructure Technician) and Olivia Keady (Project Engineer) were present at the event. TBS landscape architect Linda Maher was also in attendance. TBS have been working closely with the Ayesa on landscape drawings, public realm enhancements and scheme photomontages.

### [3.4] Attendance

All public attendees were prompted to fill in their name, address, comments and contact information in an attendance sheet (see Appendix A) if they so wished. 27 attendees recorded their participation and comments.

### [3.5] Supporting Material

The following material was available on the day:

- Informative posters detailing the stages of the schemes, overall targeted areas, in depth detail designs of each areas, planning approach, cultural heritage and archaeology, and environmental and biodiversity.
- Photomontages
- Landscape Drawings
- Engineering Drawings

Posters include:

- Board 1: Background and Public Process
- Board 2: Flood Extents and Benefitting Area
- Board 3: Preferred Option Areas
- Board 4: Area 1 Storage area
- Board 5: Area 2 Well Lane
- Board 6: Area 3 Turf Market
- Board 7: Area 4 Turf Market to The Hub
- Board 8: Area 5 The Boat Club
- Board 9: Area 6 Graiguenamanagh Quay
- Board 10: Area 7 The Dock
- Board 11: Area 8 The Hub
- Board 12: Area 9 Hotel Street
- Board 13: Area 10: Tinnahinch Quay
- Board 14 & 15: Cultural Heritage and Archaeology
- Board 16 & 17: Environmental and Biodiversity
- Board 18: Planning Approach

All of the above material is available online via the Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch Flood Relief Scheme website (<https://www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/grauguenamanagh-tinnahinchfrs/home/>) and the Kilkenny Online Consultation Portal for those who did not attend.

## [4] Public Feedback

### [4.1] General Overview of Tone and Perception

Following the event, the sentiment from the project team was that those attending were largely positive towards the information and scheme details presented, with the impression that the majority of attendees were pleased and relieved that a scheme option for flood relief has been developed.

### [4.2] Questions Raised / Consultant Response

Submission	Response
In the landscape drawings and photomontages there is proposed new asphalt surfaces for Graig Quay, the Dock and propose resin bound gravel on Tinnahinch Quay. Is there a maintenance plan for the upkeep of these surfaces with the scheme?	KCC will be responsible for maintaining the scheme once completed and will follow an agreed Operational and Maintenance Plan.
Timelines are very long.	No response required.
Can flood gates be added into the Boat Club flood defence walls to allow for separate pedestrian access and to allow view of the Barrow from inside the club?	Measures have already been discussed with the club and previously agreed, but this will be considered by the team.
If Graiguenamanagh Quay is one way, is there a sufficient turning circle for trailers with boats?	Yes, the accessibility for vehicles has been checked as a part of the scheme development.
Can tree pits/drainage soil pits be added to landscape of Graig quay?	There are trees with associated tree pits included in the design details presented for Graiguenamanagh Quay.
Has water quality and nature-based solutions been brought into account?	These aspects were considered as part of the Natural Flood Management Feasibility Report completed for the scheme development.
How will surface drainage be affected after the works?	The proposed scheme includes new stormwater drains and pumping station to allow the discharge of surface water to the River Barrow
Will migrating fish especially salmon be affected by the debris traps and storage area?	No – Fish passage was considered in the development of the scheme measures, and both these measures will allow passage of fish in an upstream and downstream directions.
Has there been any forward planning on disruption during the works?	The Environmental Impact Assessment Report is currently being developed which include assessing the impact on disruption to the community.
How will moored boats be protected during flood events?	There are no proposals to protect boats from flood waters during event.

### [4.3] Follow up Actions

Some request for further information and minor amendments to the scheme were made by attendees. The team are engaging with these stakeholders as part of the finalisation of the scheme. No significant follow up actions arose from the consultation.

## [5] Next Steps

The comments and queries raised at the public consultation event shall be considered in the finalisation of the scheme development.

Following this, the planning documentation will be finalised and be made ready for submission to An Bord Pleanála for statutory approval along with the Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPOs) necessary for the scheme.

Members of the public and stakeholders will have an opportunity to submit their observations on the scheme in a formal statutory process during the planning period.