

Preferred Fluvial Option Public Consultation Day

Summary Report

May 2024

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COMHAIRLE CONTAE AN CHLÁIR
CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL



OPW

Oifig na
nOibreacha Poiblí
Office of Public Works

JBA Project Manager

Michael O'Donoghue
 Unit 24 Grove Island
 Corbally
 Limerick
 V94 312N

Revision History

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Contract

This report describes work commissioned by the Office of Public Works (OPW), on behalf of Clare County Council (CCC). Paul Browne and Michael O'Donoghue of JBA Consulting carried out this work.

Prepared by Paul Browne BEng (Hons) MIEI
 Engineer

Reviewed by Michael O'Donoghue BEng (Hons) CEng MIEI
 Associate Director

Purpose

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1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the report

The third Public Consultation Day (PCD) for the Kilkee Flood Relief Scheme was held on Thursday 13th of April 2023. This report presents the details of the PCD itself and provides a summary of the feedback received.

It was made clear that this PCD was to present the preferred fluvial option to members of the public. Aside from an update on progress, no details of the coastal options/measures were discussed during the event.

1.2 Event Details

Aims	<p>The purpose of the Preferred Option PCD was to present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the preferred fluvial flood relief option for the Atlantic and Victoria streams • the areas benefitting from the scheme. • how the preferred option was decided on. • how feedback from the previous Public Participation Day (PPD) was incorporated into the preferred option. • the indicative planning roadmap and estimated construction timeline <p>We sought public opinion on the preferred fluvial option and how this would be implemented in reality. The wider environmental benefits of the scheme were also discussed. We also briefly updated the public on the progress of the coastal scheme and what studies have been completed to date.</p>
Venue	Kilkee Community Centre, Kilkee.
Date and Time	<p>Thursday 13th April 2023</p> <p>12pm - Set up by project team.</p> <p>2-8pm – Public drop-in with presentations at 4pm and 6pm.</p> <p>8pm - Close</p>
Target Audience	Any and all interested parties, including statutory stakeholders.
Event Format	<p>Registration (host role) and one-to-one or small group discussions.</p> <p>Drop-in format, which included presentations by project team at 4pm and 6pm.</p> <p>Information stand / posters set-up.</p>

2 Promoting the Event

2.1 Overview

A variety of means of promoting / advertising were used to increase awareness of the day and aim to maximise attendance.

This event built upon connections made at the Early Engagement event, the Public Participation Day (August 2022) and through site visits and contacts made over the course of the project.

2.2 Means of Promotion

Direct contact	Direct contact and word of mouth was useful as the community, and housing estates, are relatively small. This helped spread the message between people who had seen advertisements and those who had not. Those with a particular interest due to flooding incidents or landowners whose lands might be affected were contacted directly by CCC where possible.
Project Websites	Information in relation to the PPD was uploaded to the Project website along with appropriate supporting materials. After the event, all posters and a copy of the questionnaire were also uploaded.
Local Authority mechanisms	CCC promoted the event through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upload of information to CCC website • Announcements on social media via CCC & OPW sites • Emails to all councillors • Direct contact to interested/affected parties
Media campaign	A press release was issued to the local newspapers and radio stations in advance of the event This was sent to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clare Champion • Clare Echo • Limerick Leader • Live 95 FM • Clare FM
Social Media	The event was advertised on the Kilkee FRS Facebook page.

Attendees reported hearing about the event from a range of sources, mainly advertising and word of mouth.

3 On the day

3.1 Project team representation

There were 5 representatives from the project team (Clare County Council, OPW and JBA Consulting).

3.2 Supporting Material

The following materials were available on the day:

- Copy of the questionnaire - handed to each attendee on arrival.
- Copy of the event flier – included with the questionnaire and handed to each attendee on arrival.
- Sign-in sheet and GDPR consent statement.
- Series of wall mounted posters which covered the following topics:
 - One poster door-mounted at the entrance to the hall.
 - One poster door-mounted directing attendees to the function room.
 - Key plan of Kilkee, numbered 1-6, directing attendees to the locations of the plan layouts for the preferred option.
 - Preferred Option plan layouts for the Atlantic Stream, covering the Kilkee Bay Hotel, Sandpark / Dún an Óir estate, and Waterworld / Atlantic outfall culvert. Cross-section drawings were presented beneath the plan layouts.
 - Preferred Option plan layouts for the Well Stream, Crescent Place / Victoria Court, and Western Tributary / Victoria streams. Cross-section drawings were presented beneath / beside the plan layouts.
 - Baseline flood maps of the Atlantic and Victoria stream systems during a 1% AEP event.
 - Baseline flood map of the 0.5% AEP coastal event.
 - Habitat map of Kilkee and the surrounding area.
 - Planning roadmap.
 - Estimated construction timeline.
- Copies of the key plan, Atlantic stream plan layouts, Victoria stream plan layouts, baseline flood maps and the feedback questionnaire were subsequently uploaded to the website. The list of attendees was subsequently uploaded to the Project SharePoint site (internal).
- Presentation by the JBA Project Manager at 4pm and 6pm.

3.3 Attendance

Twenty-three (23) attendees were recorded on the sign-in sheet. Two (2) more attendees were recorded as being included in a party of more than 1 person, bringing the total number of confirmed attendees to twenty-five (25). However, there was a headcount taken which appeared to show the number of attendees over the course of the day to be in excess of twenty-five (25), meaning some attendees did not sign-in.

No questionnaires were received by post/email within the two (2) weeks following the event, up to and including Thursday 27th April 2023. However, several emails were received during / after the event.

4 Feedback received

4.1 Summary of notes from discussions and queries raised on the day.

- Water quality was a common issue – both from the Victoria Stream and the Atlantic Stream. It was questioned as to why the IW scheme and the FRS aren't integrated / working together to solve the WQ issues on the Victoria Stream
- The wetlands area was broadly welcomed.
- Lack of maintenance of the watercourses was raised and noted as being a potential contributor to the flooding.
- Victoria Court (number of residents in attendance including representative of management company) - concerns over poor condition of the boundary wall on the river side. It was noted that the stop logs have resulted in a higher water table which they believed was causing failure of the boundary wall.
- One attendee added that the CCC compound area was built on marsh lands, and this has affected the flooding extents in the area – pluvial options were explained in response.
- One resident queried whether the bridge that currently exists over the Well Stream will be maintained.
- One resident of Marine Parade noted that their rear gardens flood due to failure of the pluvial system. It was questioned whether this could be addressed as part of the pluvial upgrade.
- It was questioned whether the whole option needed to be built prior to a property being protected or whether the measures worked independently.
- It was queried as to whether there were options to amend the storage area upstream on the Well Stream.
- A number of people queried if the wetland area would be accessible to the public.

4.2 Questionnaire analysis

Questionnaires were requested to be returned by 27th April. To date, no completed questionnaires were returned to the design team or CCC.

It is not therefore possible to provide an analysis of the questions posed within the same questionnaire.

5 Summary of PPD

5.1 Practical Arrangements

The venue size was appropriate and the facilities available (screen and projector) were suitable. This venue would therefore be preferred for all future Public Participation Days.

The event was widely advertised. A mail drop may be of use for future PPD's as it was noted by some residents who direct contact was made with, that they had not heard about the event otherwise.

Due to the very high proportion of tourist population of Kilkee timing of the PPD is a consideration.

5.2 Lessons Learnt

- Meeting with the local councillors a week prior to the event was useful. This allowed the design team to get initial feedback on what was to be presented. It also performed as a means of advertising the event, as the councillors spread notice of the event by word of mouth and by their own social media channels.
- Questionnaires were not filled out by any attendees on the day despite being handed to all attendees. No completed questionnaires were subsequently returned

since the event. A place within Kilkee where questionnaires could be submitted may have helped. Potentially look into a digital survey in the future to prevent the need for attendees to post / scan and email questionnaires if they're not going to fill out on the day.

- The rendered landscape drawings were noted to be clear and obvious, and the correct means for presenting the proposals.
- Individuals are generally only interested in what might directly affect them and their property.
- There was very little attendance for the first hour of the event. Consideration could be given to reducing the time slot for future presentations from 4pm -8pm, commencing straight away with a presentation.

JBA
consulting

Offices at
Dublin
Limerick

Registered Office
24 Grove Island
Corbally
Limerick
Ireland

+353(0)61 579400
info@jbaconsulting.ie
www.jbaconsulting.ie
Follow us:  

JBA Consulting Engineers and
Scientists Limited

Registration number 444752

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