

Pre-Planning Public Consultation Event

Summary Report

March 2024

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COMHAIRLE CONTAE AN CHLÁIR
CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL



OPW

Oifig na
nOibreacha Poiblí
Office of Public Works

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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.

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Purpose

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Contents

1	Introduction	1
1.1	Purpose of the report	1
1.2	Event Details	1
2	Promoting the Event	2
2.1	Overview	2
2.2	Means of Promotion	2
3	On the day	3
3.1	Project team representation	3
3.2	Supporting Material	3
3.3	Attendance	3
4	Feedback received	4
4.1	Questionnaire analysis	4
4.1.1	Question 1	Error! Bookmark not defined.
4.1.2	Question 2 – 5	Error! Bookmark not defined.
4.1.3	Question 6	Error! Bookmark not defined.
4.1.4	Question 7	Error! Bookmark not defined.
4.2	Summary of notes taken on the day	Error! Bookmark not defined.
5	Summary of PPD	4
5.1	Practical Arrangements	4
5.2	Lessons Learnt	4

1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the report

The fourth Public Consultation Event (PCE) for the Kilkee Flood Relief Scheme was held between Monday 26th February 2024 and Wednesday 06th March 2024. This report presents the details of the PCE itself and provides a summary of the feedback received.

This PCE was to give the public an opportunity to comment on the draft planning document set. The documents were put on public display throughout the period specified above and a public consultation day was held in the afternoon of the 6th March 2024 at Kilkee Library.

1.2 Event Details

Aims	<p>The purpose of the Pre-planning PCE was to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give the public the opportunity to review a draft set of the intended planning documents • Discuss with the Consultants, OPW and CCC any queries or concerns they may have on the draft planning set • Collate feedback in advance of submission for planning that could be incorporated into the planning set <p>We sought public opinion on the draft planning documents, including drawings, Options Report and statutory environmental documents. This was the first time any member of the public would have had sight of the Options Report, Hydrology Report or Hydraulics Report.</p> <p>Though no formal presentation was held on the day, intended timelines for planning and construction were given to any public member that requested it</p>
Venue	Cultúrlann Sweeney
Date and Time	<p>Monday 26th – 6th March</p> <p>Documents on display at Cultúrlann Sweeney and on the project website</p> <p>Wednesday 6th March</p> <p>1pm - Set up by project team.</p> <p>2-5pm – Public drop-in</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>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), the Preferred Option Consultation Event (April 2023) 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 PCE was uploaded to the study 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 • 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

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:

- Sign-in sheet and GDPR consent statement.
- Series of posters (wall-mounted and laid out on tables) which covered the following topics:
 - Planning 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.
 - Planning layouts for the Well Stream, Crescent Place / Victoria Court, and Western Tributary / Victoria streams. Cross-section drawings were presented beneath / beside the plan layouts.
 - Photomontages of the intended scheme for selected areas of the Victoria and Atlantic Stream
 - AA Screening & NIS Reports (A4, one copy)
 - Environmental Impact Assessment Report (A4, one copy)
 - Hydrology & Hydraulics Report (A4, one copy)
 - Options Report (A4, one copy)

3.3 Attendance

Nineteen (19) attendees were recorded on the sign-in sheet. It was noted that some attendees did not sign in, with an estimated attendance of twenty-three (23). This includes those who signed the register when they visited the library to view the documents in the period leading up to the consultation evening.

Questionnaires were not requested as part of the event. However, several emails were received both before and after the event.

4 Feedback received

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

- A number of queries relating to potential ponds on the Atlantic Stream were raised.
- Planning and construction timelines were queried by a number of people with concerns around access being dominant.
- One resident queried whether the bridge that currently exists over the Well Stream will be maintained.
- One resident queried whether coastal risk was being assessed as part of the scheme.
- Queries around interaction of the scheme with the Uisce Eireann pump station were raised.
- A query was raised in relation to a number of properties in the Atlantic Stream which were indicated to flood in the baseline but were not indicated as being protected.

5 Summary of PCE

5.1 Practical Arrangements

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

The event was widely advertised. No feedback was received in relation to late or poor advertising of the event.

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.
- A number of attendees asked whether a presentation would be given. This wasn't advertised to be given, but it possibly needs to be clearly stated.
- Good attendance
- The photomontages were useful in clearly presenting before and after scenarios.
- An overall map of Kilkee just indicating properties may have been useful as the drawings provided were focussed on the areas of the scheme and didn't provide a whole scheme overview.
- There was very little attendance in the final hour of the event. This may relate to the second bullet point above where it was possible people assumed a presentation would occur at the beginning of the session.

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