



Public Participation Day

CASTLE OAKS HOTEL

WEDNESDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER 2022

4pm to 8pm

Members of the public along with local businesses and organisations are invited to attend a Public Participation Day to view, discuss and have an input to the potential solutions that are currently being considered for the proposed Flood Relief Scheme.

Presentations from the project team will be held at 5:00pm and 7:00pm.

Members of JBA Consulting, JB Barry & Partners, Office of Public Works and Limerick City & County Council will be present.



Castleconnell Flood Relief Scheme



NEWSLETTER NO. 2

September 2022



Background to the Study

Limerick City and County Council, along with OPW, appointed JBA Consulting and JB Barry & Partners to assess, develop and design an appropriate, cost-effective and sustainable flood relief scheme which aims to reduce flood risk to Castleconnell.

Progress to date

Brochures and questionnaires were distributed in June 2020 as part of the initial public consultation event for the flood relief scheme. There was a positive response received which provided valuable insight into previous flooding mechanisms and issues throughout Castleconnell. As part of the development of the flood relief scheme, the project team reviewed a number of previous flood events (2009, 2015 & 2020) within Castleconnell in order to develop a detailed understanding of the relevant flood mechanisms throughout the scheme area. In particular, the flood event that occurred in February 2020 has been important in calibrating the 2D hydraulic model to accurately represent flooding to Castleconnell.

Hydrology and hydraulics tasks are being finalised with the final reports to be published in the coming weeks. As a result of this work, it is generally accepted that the 2009 flood event was of a similar magnitude to a 1% Annual Exceedance Event (AEP) also known as the 1 in 100-year event. The proposed scheme will be designed to protect against a 1 in 100-year event and will take appropriate account of the unique flow conditions that are experienced in Castleconnell downstream of Parteen Weir.

To ensure sustainable design, a Climate Change Adaptation Plan is under development and is a key part of the option selection process. This will set out the strategy for future adaptations that will be required for increased flows and river levels in the River Shannon due to climate change.

A number of drainage surveys have been undertaken, including CCTV surveys, to understand the existing drainage network.

All environmental and ecological surveys are now being finalised, including surveys for invasive species, bats, birds, aquatic electro fishing, alluvial woodland and tree survey. The findings of these surveys are critical to inform the environmental assessment of the scheme options.

Site Investigation works were carried out in strategic locations throughout the village to establish existing ground conditions. The results demonstrated challenging ground conditions throughout Castleconnell Village. This information has informed the selection of technically viable scheme options.

Scheme Options

The scheme is currently in the options appraisal phase. The project team have considered an extensive list of potential flood management measures, including flood walls, embankments, road raising, demountable barriers, river restoration & maintenance works, flow diversion, storage and more. Each of these measures have been assessed by technical, social, environmental or economic criteria. From this appraisal, three options are being brought forward to this Public Participation Day for a more detailed assessment.

Whilst the cost benefit criteria for the scheme options has generally proved challenging to achieve to date, an alternative novel approach that uses the likely increased damages arising from climate change is currently being investigated.

Public Participation Day

We invite you to participate in a Public Participation Day which will be held at Castle Oaks House Hotel, Castleconnell, Co. Limerick on **Wednesday 21st September 2022**. This event is open to all residents, businesses, organisations and other interested parties. On the day, the project team will present the technically viable options under consideration and give you the opportunity to share your thoughts on them, any potential constraints to their implementation and suggestions for changes. Participation in this event will help to develop the appropriate solution for Castleconnell that is considered most acceptable to all. Please drop in any time from **4pm to 8pm**. Presentations from the project team will be held at 5pm and 7pm.

Next Steps

- Progress the Options Report presenting all measures and options considered for inclusion in the scheme. (Q4-2022 to Q2-2023)
- Planning level design. (Q4 – 2022)
- Further Environmental assessments (Screening for Appropriate Assessment & NIS, Environmental Impact Assessment Report). (Q1 – 2023)
- A follow-up Public Participation Day for the preferred scheme ahead of the planning submission. (Q2 – 2023)

Contact Us

Should you have any queries on the project or views on the emerging options please contact:

Project Office: JBA Consulting, Unit 24 Grove Island, Corbally, Limerick

Phone: 061 - 579400

Email: castleconnellfrs@jbaconsulting.ie

Refer to Limerick City & County Council's MyPoint online portal for further information in advance of the event;

<https://mypoint.limerick.ie/>