

An Bord Pleanála,  
64 Marlborough Street,  
Dublin 1  
D01 V902

27/11/2024

Dear Sir/Madam,

### **Castleconnell Flood Relief Scheme**

#### **1. Introduction**

Please find enclosed Limerick City & County Council's (LCCC) application, under Section 175 and Section 177AE of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (As Amended) (hereafter referred to as "the Act") for approval of a proposed flood relief scheme in Castleconnell, Co. Limerick. Limerick City & County Council (LCCC), in conjunction with the Office of Public Works, are proposing the scheme for Castleconnell to address the risk posed by fluvial and pluvial flooding. The proposed planning submission relates only to the construction of fluvial and pluvial flood defence assets.

Accordingly, under Section 175 and Section 177AE of the Act, LCCC considers that it is required to apply to the Board for approval.

The FRS will comprise a series of walls and embankments along the banks of the River Shannon in Castleconnell, along with demountable flood barriers, road raising works, and removal of vegetation and alterations of a culvert on the Cedarwood Stream, a tributary of the River Shannon in the northern part of Castleconnell.

The proposed walls and embankments will run generally from north to south, mostly between the river and the built-up area of Castleconnell. At the northern end of the scheme, new flood walls will be constructed along the boundary of two houses (Rivergrove B&B and Grange House), with minor changes to the layout of one garden to facilitate the new walls, and minor changes to drainage infrastructure. A new flood wall will also be constructed around Mall House, and along the length of the Mall Road, to the entrance of Island House.

Island House will require alterations to its entrance in the form of road raising and a demountable flood barrier. South of the entrance, the new flood wall on Mall Road will continue, with a realigned footpath inside it. At Maher's Pub, the flood wall will continue, before transitioning into an earth embankment to the west of Meadowbrook. This will merge into higher ground at Stormont House, which will require a low-level flood wall, and road raising along its driveway.

At the entrance to Coolbane Woods, road raising will occur, and an earth embankment will be constructed along the back of the houses. A demountable flood barrier is also required at the Coolbane Woods junction. This barrier will be put in place only during flood events, and will mean that this road will be closed any time the barrier is in place. An alternate route into Castleconnell from the south will be in use at these times.

The installation of fluvial defences will result in a change in how the existing pluvial (stormwater drainage) system operates. As such, a suite of upgrades and amendments to the network is proposed. This includes the introduction of both permanent and temporary pumping station installations.

The final part of the proposed development is removal of overgrown vegetation along the Cedarwood Stream from the railway line to approximately 300m downstream, and replacement of two private culverts along the Cedarwood Stream, at the northern end of Castleconnell. The Cedarwood Stream flows into the River Shannon downstream of the proposed works.

## **2. List of enclosed planning documents**

The following documents are enclosed as part of this application:

- 3 copies of plans and particulars for the proposed scheme;
- 3 copies of the EIAR for the proposed scheme;
- 3 copies of the NIS for the proposed scheme;
- 3 copies of the AA Screening for the proposed scheme;
- 1 no. soft copy of the above.

In addition, the following documents have been appended to this letter.

- Copy of newspaper advertisements and site notice;
- Copies of letters to Prescribed Bodies;
- Receipt of payment to An Bord Pleanála;
- Confirmation of upload to EIA Portal; and
- Letters of endorsement
- Road Safety Audit

## **3. Land acquisition**

It should be noted that whilst Limerick City & County Council holds title to a considerable extent of land within the boundary of the proposed development, the remaining lands are within third party ownership. The Council has been engaging with the relevant third-party landowners over the past 24 months, regarding details of the proposed development and issues relating to land acquisition. Whilst these discussions are continuing, it is likely that the Council may bring forward an application to An Bord Pleanála for the Compulsory Purchase of Land in connection with the proposed development at a later date.

#### **4. Section 50 (Arterial Drainage Act, 1945) Applications**

It is noted that Section 50 applications have not been included in the document pack. Engagement with the Office of Public Works (OPW) has commenced with respect to these applications. These applications will be submitted to the OPW shortly.

#### **5. Payment**

A payment of €30,000 has been made by electronic transfer to An Bord Pleanála (with the accompanying reference 35990154).

#### **6. Public Display**

Hard copies of the application plans and particulars and the EIAR will be available for public inspection at the offices of An Bord Pleanála and Limerick City and County Council. With respect to the LCCC offices, the documents will be available at both of the following locations:

*Merchant's Quay  
Limerick  
V94 EH90*

*Dooradoyle Road,  
Dooradoyle,  
Limerick,  
V94 WV78*

The full suite of documents will be also available to view and download at the following website addresses:

<https://www.castleconnellfrs.ie/>

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

These websites contain a complete set of the plans and particulars submitted with this application.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned below.

Yours faithfully



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**Vincent Murray**  
Director of Services, Planning & Placemaking