

ENNISCORTHY FLOOD DEFENCE SCHEME

PROGRESS REPORT 15TH MARCH 2022

- Communications:

Liaison is on-going. Parties consulted include Inland Fisheries Ireland; National Parks & Wildlife Service; Government Departments; Environmental Protection Agency; Transport Infrastructure Ireland; Irish Water; Iarnród Éireann; National Monuments Service; Slaney Search & Rescue; Inland Waterways Association of Ireland Slaney Branch; Slaney River Trust; Enniscorthy Local Anglers Association; An Taisce, Enniscorthy Chamber of Commerce & Subcommittee and the Enniscorthy Business Association. Communication with the Landowners & Local Businesses is on-going.

Minister of State with responsibility for the Office of Public Works, Patrick O'Donovan, visited Enniscorthy on the 26th December to view the impact of severe flooding which had occurred in the town that day and the day before. The minister held an on-line meeting with local councillors on the 13th Jan 2022 to answer their questions on the scheme.

Minister for the Department of Public Expenditure & Reform (DPER) issued his decision to refuse the scheme on 4th March 2022. OPW have confirmed their commitment to delivering an effective scheme for Enniscorthy to provide the community with much-needed protection from extreme flood events, both now and into the future.

Information on the scheme is available on the scheme website www.enniscorthyfds.ie.

Information on DPER's decision is available on www.gov.ie.

- Preliminary Design:

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Outline Design was completed by the OPW. The scheme was first exhibited to the public in 2009 and was put on public display again in 2012.

- Design Development, Detailed Design & Procurement:

Consultants for the detailed design phase were appointed in November 2015. Mott MacDonald is the main Flood Defence Scheme consultant; Roughan & O'Donovan is the design consultant for the new road bridge & traffic management plan.

Environmental documentation & scheme design alternatives will be reviewed with regard to DPER's decision to reject the scheme.

- Statutory Process - Public Consultation & Scheme Confirmation

The developed scheme was exhibited to the public in Enniscorthy Library from the 17th May to 18th June 2019. Over 400 people attended the exhibition. Submissions received during the exhibition were considered and replied to. The scheme confirmation documents required for ministerial consent were submitted to the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER) in March 2020. In April 2021, WCC issued supplementary environmental information to the OPW and DPER to support the approval process. DPER issued their decision to reject the scheme on the 4th March 2022. Details are available on www.gov.ie.

- Site

Ecological surveys to update the baseline data are scheduled to commence later this month.

- Programme

Scheme Confirmation Process 2020 to 2022 – concluded 4th March 2022, Scheme rejected.

2022 – Update ecology baseline data, review alternatives, consult on options, select preferred option, prepare EIAR & NIS.