



Public Information Day

Tuesday September 12th, 3pm – 8pm

At the Mountmellick Development Association

We invite residents, businesses and interested parties to attend the **Public Information Day** for the Mountmellick Flood Relief Scheme.

Members of the team from Laois County Council, OPW and the designers JBA Consulting and JB Barry will be present to discuss the proposed scheme with you.

You will be able to find out how and why the proposed scheme has been developed and will be able to pass on your comments and thoughts to the team. The presentation will include details of:

- How flood events impact the town and surrounding area
- How properties and businesses will be protected
- The replacement Owenass Bridge
- The alignment of the flood embankments and walls
- How the scheme will allow the enhancement of walkways/cycleways in the town

Drop in at any time from 3pm - 8pm on the day to talk to the team.

You can find out more at www.MountmellickFRS.ie.



OPW Óifig na nOibreacha Poiblí
Office of Public Works

BARRY & PARTNERS
consulting engineers



Mountmellick Flood Relief Scheme



NEWSLETTER NO. 3

August 2023



OPW Óifig na nOibreacha Poiblí
Office of Public Works

BARRY & PARTNERS



Background to the Study

Laois 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 Mountmellick.

Progress to date (May 2021 – Aug 2023)

A project website has been set up and is available at www.mountmellickfrs.ie. Project updates, timescales and published documents will be made available here along with information on past and upcoming events.

Environmental surveys have been carried out and their findings have informed the AA Screening and EIAR Scoping Reports. These included the installation of cameras at Owenass Bridge which confirmed the presence of otters. The Site Investigation works have been completed and the ground conditions confirmed allowing us to determine the appropriate form of flood protection - a flood embankment or a flood wall. A Heritage Survey has been completed to identify local heritage features and how they will impact on the design of the scheme. An assessment of the capacity of Owenass Bridge has confirmed that it will have to be replaced by a structure with a wider span to ensure the integrity of the structure.



A detailed analysis of each option was undertaken assessing both positive and negative impacts of each option in a range of areas including environment, public feedback, cultural heritage, archaeology and biodiversity among others. The outcome of this assessment was the identification of a preferred option. This allowed the preferred option to be progressed and the development of preliminary design drawings, photomontages, and buildability considerations.

Preferred Option

The scheme is currently in the preferred option development phase. The project previously presented three scheme options to the public at a virtual Emerging Options Engagement event in April/May 2021. Based on the feedback received at this event, along with other key considerations, a preferred option was identified and is currently being progressed to the planning stage.

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 Mountmellick and the interaction between the Owenass and the Pound.

Public Participation

Brochures and questionnaires were distributed 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 Mountmellick.

A virtual Emerging Options Engagement event was held in April/May 2021. Once again there was a positive response received along with valuable feedback which aided in the identification of a preferred option.

We now invite you to participate in the final Public Information Day ahead of the planning submission, which will be held at the Mountmellick Development Association (MDA), Mountmellick, Co. Laois on **Tuesday 12th September 2023**. This event is open to all residents, businesses, organisations and other interested parties. On the day, the project team will be present to provide details of the preferred option, answer questions and give you the opportunity to share your thoughts on it. The details of the preferred option can be found [here](#). Please drop in at any time from **3pm to 8pm**.

Next Steps

- Finish Environmental assessments (Natura Impact Statement and Environmental Impact Assessment Report). (Q4 – 2023)
- Planning application. (Q4 – 2023)
- Further Site Investigation to aid the detailed design. (Q4-2023/Q1-2024)

Contact Us

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Completed Tasks ■
 Upcoming Tasks ■

Activity	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Assemble all available data including modelling								
Site Investigation Contract								
Environmental Constraints Study								
Options Development								
Ecological and Environmental assessments								
Preparation of planning submission								
PART 10 Planning Application with An Bord Pleanála								
Detailed design for Flood Relief Scheme								
Tender process for Flood Relief Scheme								
Construction works								