



13<sup>th</sup> June, 2018

**TO: AN CATHAOIRLEACH  
& EACH MEMBER OF KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL**

**RE: FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT PLANS**

Dear Councillor,

### **BACKGROUND - EU FLOODS DIRECTIVE**

The assessment and management of flood risk in Ireland was aligned to meet the requirements of the 2007 EU Floods Directive through the Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Programme.

The objectives of the CFRAM Programme were to:

- Identify and map the existing and potential future flood hazard and flood risk in the areas at potentially significant risk from flooding, called Areas for Further Assessment (AFA's)
- Identify feasible structural and non structural measures to effectively manage the assessed risk in each of the AFAs and
- Prepare a set of plans that set out the proposed feasible measures and actions to manage the flood risk in these areas and their river catchments.

### **PRELIMINARY FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT**

In 2012, the OPW designated 300 areas or communities across the country believed to be at significant flood risk. These areas and identified flood risk were identified through a Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA), which was a nationwide screening of flood risk.

In Kilkenny, 12 areas were identified as AFA's – these were:

- |                   |                   |             |                        |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------|------------------------|
| ○ Ballyhale       | ○ Ballyragget     | ○ Callan    | ○ Fiddown              |
| ○ Freshford       | ○ Graiguenamanagh | ○ Inistioge | ○ Kilkenny (Breaghagh) |
| ○ Kilkenny (Nore) | ○ Mullinavat      | ○ Piltown   | ○ Thomastown           |

### **ASSESSING AND MAPPING THE FLOOD RISK**

Following the identification of the AFA's, the OPW embarked on extensive and detailed analysis to fully assess the risk of flooding in each of these areas. The detailed work involved engineering analysis of the river systems, estuaries and coastal areas, including their hydrology and involving detailed hydraulic modelling. The CFRAM Programme has assessed and mapped the flood extents, hazard and risk for a range of flood events from frequent, minor flood events up to very rare extreme events.

Flood Maps were developed for each of the AFA's, describing the characteristics of floods and the potential impacts on communities, the economy and the environment.



## IDENTIFYING OPTIONS TO MANAGE THE ASSESSED RISK

In assessing what measures might be effective to address and manage the impacts of severe floods the OPW considered a range of potential measures including:

### Prevention Measures

- Land Use Management and Natural Flood Risk Management Measures

### Protection Measures

- Flood defences, diversion of flood flows, storing flood water, channel maintenance

### Preparedness Measures

- Flood forecasting and Warning, Emergency Response Planning etc.

Where measures are considered to protect communities against flooding, these have been designed to provide protection against extreme floods, such as the 1 in 100 year flood in rivers.

## DECIDING ON PROPOSED MEASURES

The decision as to which option best addresses the flood risk for each AFA was based on an assessment of the various options against agreed flood risk management objectives. These were aimed at considering potential benefits and impact across a broad range of factors including Economic, Environmental, Social, Cultural and Technical factors.

Each of the potentially feasible options for each AFA were tested and scored against these objectives, taking into consideration local issues.

## FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT PLANS

Flood Risk Management Plans were prepared for each River (Basin District) that included the 300 communities assessed. These plans describe the flood risk assessed and set out the feasible proposed measures for each AFA. The plans were subject to statutory consultation and observations received were used to inform the final plans. The Commissioner for Public Works formerly adopted the Plans on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

The plans were subsequently approved by the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2018. Details of the final plans are available on [www.floodinfo.ie](http://www.floodinfo.ie) and hard copies have been on display in County Hall since 28<sup>th</sup> May 2018, following a public notice.

The outcome of the assessment of the AFA's in Co. Kilkenny is summarised as follows:

Area	Existing Scheme	New Scheme proposed in FRMP	Potential scheme subject to further assessment	No scheme proposed as community at low risk or scheme not viable
Ballyhale		✓		
Ballyragget				✓
Callan	✓		✓	
Fiddown				✓
Freshford		✓		
Graiguenamanagh		✓		
Inistioge		✓		
Kilkenny - Breagagh			✓	
Kilkenny Nore	✓			
Mullinavat				✓
Piltown		✓		
Thomastown		✓		

Section 20 of Statutory Instrument No. 122/2010 - European Communities (Assessment and Management of Flood Risks) Regulations 2010 requires that when the Minister confirms a Flood Risk Management Plan, the OPW are required to send a copy of the plan to the County Council - in this case, copies of the plan were issued to Kilkenny County Council by way of letter dated 9<sup>th</sup> May 2018. The Statutory Instrument further requires that ".....the County Council shall within three months examine and consider the flood risk management plan and adopt or otherwise the said plan as such County Council....shall see proper" This is a reserved function of the County Council.

In considering the adoption of the Flood Risk Management Plans, the following should be noted:

- The Flood Risk Management Plans are an outline design, which indicates that there is a viable flood scheme in the communities in question.
- Where viable flood schemes have been identified, these schemes will now proceed to detailed design.
- The detailed design will take into consideration the particular characteristics of the communities to be protected including the visual impact of the proposed schemes, environmental, social and cultural considerations and also extensive consultations with the local communities.
- By adopting the Flood Risk Management Plan, the County Council is agreeing to the proposed schemes progressing to detailed design. Any specific flood scheme proposal will be subject to a statutory planning in due course, which will include public consultation.
- The OPW has committed € 1bn to a 10 year programme for the implementation of 118 flood schemes nationally. This includes the following schemes in County Kilkenny, with the number of properties to be protected in each town outlined in brackets:
  - Ballyhale (25)
  - Freshford (93)
  - Graiguenamanagh (64)
  - Inistioge (34)
  - Piltown (14)
  - Thomastown (135)
- Kilkenny Co. Co. will continue to work with the OPW in relation to the delivery of the Pilot Individual Property Protection (IPP) schemes for Thomastown and Graiguenamanagh.

Following examined and considered this report, the documents and plans available on [www.floodinfo.ie](http://www.floodinfo.ie) , and on public display at the Council Offices, John Street, Kilkenny, I would be grateful for your decision on the adoption of the Flood Risk Management Plans for the Nore, Suir and Barrow as the y refer to County Kilkenny in accordance with Section 20 of Statutory Instrument No. 122/2010.

Yours sincerely,

*Tim Butler*

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**Tim Butler,**  
Director of Services