

## CONTACT US

You can keep in touch with the project through our website where we will be posting updates on progress and details of works that are ongoing. For further enquiries feel free to contact us via email or post at:

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## RELEVANT LINKS

**Website:** [www.liffordfrs.ie](http://www.liffordfrs.ie)



**OPW** Oifig na  
nOibreacha Poiblí  
Office of Public Works



Comhairle Contae  
Dhún na nGall  
Donegal County Council

**rps** MAKING  
COMPLEX  
EASY

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Project Ireland  
**2040**

# LIFFORD

## Flood Relief Scheme

**Newsletter No. 02**  
*May 2020*



## WHAT STAGE IS THE STUDY AT?

Since the appointment of design consultants for the project in Autumn 2019, the project steering group has been working to ensure that all of the works planned are based on the most accurate and up to date information. RPS (Engineering Consultants) have been reviewing all relevant sources of information, procuring a company to undertake a detailed river and terrain survey (due to commence at the end of May) as well as analysing how the rivers react to rainfall events in their respective catchments.

Ryan Hanley (Environmental Consultants) completed a preliminary ecological walkover survey in early 2020, this revealed localised abundance of the invasive plant Giant Hogweed along the rivers Finn, Foyle and Mourne. The OPW and Donegal County Council are to resume control treatment of this Giant Hogweed as soon as easing of COVID19 work restrictions permits.

The Environmental Constraints Study report has recently been completed in which Ryan Hanley assessed Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soils and Geology, Archaeology, Architectural and Cultural Heritage, Land Use and Material Assets, Landscape and Visual Impact, in addition to Population and Human Health. The responses gathered from the Opening Public Consultation Day in February 2020 are also incorporated into this report.

## OPENING PUBLIC CONSULTATION DAY

The Opening Public Consultation Day (PCD) was held on Thursday 27th February 2020, at Lifford Old Courthouse from 4pm to 8pm.



PCD held on 27/02/2020 at Lifford Old Courthouse

Forty-three members of the public attended the event and were provided with information including an outline of the project, predicted flood risk in the area, the progress to date and future steps regarding the flood relief scheme. Attendees were given the opportunity to provide feedback and comments on potential flood alleviation options and any details on flood risk in the area.

In total, there were 26 respondents to the questionnaire, 20 of whom have been directly affected by past flood events. The window for return of completed questionnaires closed on 16th April 2020.

## IMPACT OF CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

The Lifford FRS Steering Group (comprising of the OPW, Donegal County Council, RPS and Ryan Hanley) have continued to meet via video conferencing facilities in order to comply with government guidance during the COVID19 pandemic.

The topographical survey contractor was scheduled to have been appointed in late March, however, this was delayed until early May following government guidance on COVID19. The topographical survey contractor has now been appointed and surveying will commence in late May. The purpose of the survey is to record the physical features of the Dee, Finn, Foyle and Mourne rivers (and their floodplains) so that they can be represented in a computer model which will simulate the flooding mechanisms. The contractor will follow the latest government health and safety guidance in relation to COVID19 whilst undertaking the survey.

## OUTLINE SCHEME PROGRAMME

		Outline Scheme Programme							
Activity		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Stage 1	Data Collection and surveys	■	■						
	Hydrological Analysis		■	■					
	Hydraulic Analysis		■	■					
	Scheme analysis and development			■	■				
Stage 2	Public Exhibition				■	■			
Stage 3	Detailed design of Scheme				■	■			
	Confirmation by Government					■	■		
Stage 4	Construction works						■	■	■
Stage 5	Scheme Operational								■

*Timelines provided as current best estimate, but are subject to revision.*

## NEXT STEPS

**Data Collection:** Data Collection is ongoing. The project team are interested in receiving photos, videos, sketches or any other relevant information regarding previous flood events from those who have experienced it first-hand, particularly from 2015 onwards. The information provided will help us to refine our river model and the design of the flood relief scheme. If you have any information which could be of use, please contact us.

**Surveys:** The river channel and embankment surveys will commence in May 2020 on the Rivers Finn, Foyle, Dee, and Mourne. The survey is programmed to be completed in July 2020.

**Hydrological Analysis:** The hydrological analysis, which includes an assessment of the frequency and magnitude of river flows over a range of scenarios, is substantially complete. This, along with the survey data, will provide the necessary inputs to the computer model as part of the hydraulic analysis.

**Hydraulic Analysis:** Construction of the computer model will commence following receipt of the topographical survey information.

**Environmental Assessment:** Further ecological survey work will be conducted along the rivers (Finn, Foyle, Mourne and Dee) in May to June in relation to habitat types, breeding birds, otters and other species or features of ecological or environmental interest.