

Flood Prevention Scheme Update

Summer 2011



At May's Bandon Town Council Meeting the Town Engineer, Raymond Crowley was hopeful that both works on the Sewerage Scheme and Flood Prevention Scheme could happen simultaneously.

This will reduce the length of disruption to the town. Although the Sewerage Scheme is pending a finance allocation, Councillors welcomed the news that both could occur at once.

Mr Crowley also said that any disruption to traffic management will be subject to agreement with stakeholders within the town.

Cllr Gearóid Buckley welcomed this news, "Both of these projects are vital to Bandon. The Town Manager and Engineer are now about to send back to the Department of Environment the plan of works for the Sewerage Scheme.

Consultants have been appointed for the Flood Prevention Scheme and are working in tandem to this. It is possible that diggers for both projects could be in place for January 2012."

OPW Bandon Flood Relief Scheme

At present the Consultant Engineers for the Bandon Flood Relief Scheme are advancing the project through Stage I: Feasibility Study and Preparation of a Draft Flood Risk Management Plan. The schemes Site Investigation Works will be commencing late June/early July. Stage I is to programme & should be completed on schedule in early December 2011.



The Process Involved in Constructing the Flood Relief Scheme

- Surveying must be completed.
- A Hydrology & Hydraulics study will be carried out. This will measure the rivers capacity and indicate exactly how much water the flood prevention scheme must deal with.
- A series of options of measures will be then proposed and analysed. If you have a solution which is a valid solution to solving the problem, you should submit it now so it can be assessed.
- Valid solutions/measures will then go to public consultation.
- Public views will be taken into account and a decision made. The preferred scheme will then go to public consultation. The public can propose alterations to the scheme at this point.
- Bandon Town Council will then vote for the preferred scheme and programme of works.
- The scheme will then be drawn up in detail and sent to tender.
- The Minister for Finance must then sign off on funding. (Note the OPW have budgeted for these works in their three year plan).
- Scheme will then be constructed.
- The scheme will subsequently be maintained by the OPW.

COUNCIL DENIED FUNDING FOR SUMMER DREDGING ON BANDON RIVER



Cork County Council's application to the OPW for funding to carry out remedial works on the Bandon river has been denied.

Cllr Gearóid Buckley has called on the OPW to release the vital funding required to clean and dredge the Bandon River over the summer period. "I am in disbelief that the OPW have turned down an application by Cork County Council for vital funding for remedial works on the Bandon River. At the earliest works on a flood prevention scheme will begin in December, in the meantime Bandon will have to contest with another long winter of worry."

"If a similar flood event occurs to that of November 2009, Bandon will not be in a position to get back on it's feet. Coupled with the recession businesses are still closing as a result of the damage since November 2009.

"I appreciate that works have been carried out, the early warning system is in place, the timetable for the development of long term flood prevention measures is progressing as fast as it possibly can, however we need cleaning and dredging to occur this summer. This January we experienced a flood event which was just short of November 2009's levels, it was too close. Since then there has naturally been further sediment and stones deposited throughout the river.

"The County Engineers Department have now reapplied for funding. I applaud them for this and urge the OPW to reverse their original decision.

Cork County Council applied to the OPW for funding for river cleaning (dated 7th April 2011).

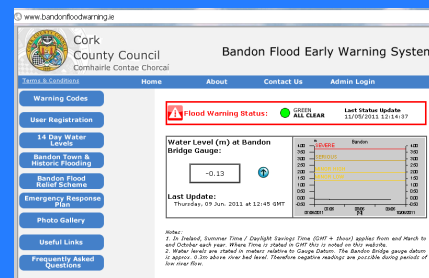
In a letter dated 17th May 2011 the OPW turned down the funding application.

The reply noted that as the feasibility study is underway for the main scheme & it is anticipated that, after a further round of public consultation, a preferred option will be chosen before the end of the year. The OPW considered it to be premature to carry out further works under the Minor Works Scheme.

Early Warning System News

In my last flood update newsletter I noted problems with the Early Warning System. However since then the system has been reconfigured since January and is now in perfect working order. A new rain-gauge is scheduled to be installed in the Bandon catchment this week.

Don't forget to subscribe to the free text alerts if you have not already done so. Check out www.bandonfloodwarning.ie



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If you have any further questions do not hesitate to contact me



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