



Emerging Options Public Participation Day - Consultation Report

October 2024

www.jbaconsulting.ie

www.jbbarry.ie



OPW Oifig na
nOibreacha Poiblí
Office of Public Works



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí
Cork County Council

JBA Project Manager

Michael O'Donoghue
24 Grove Island
Corbally
LIMERICK
V94 312N

Revision History

Revision Ref/Date	Amendments	Issued to
P01 / 10 July 2024	Draft Report	Cork County Council
P02/ 22 October 2024	Final Report	Cork County Council

Contract

This report describes work commissioned by Office of Public Works (OPW), on behalf of Cork County Council (CCC). Dania Thomas and Michael O'Donoghue of JBA Consulting carried out this work.

Prepared by Dania Thomas BEng MEng (Hons)
Assistant Engineer

Reviewed by Michael O'Donoghue BEng CEng MIEI
Associate Director

Purpose

This document has been prepared as a draft report for OPW and CCC. JBA Consulting accepts no responsibility or liability for any use that is made of this document other than by the Client for the purposes for which it was originally commissioned and prepared.

JBA Consulting has no liability regarding the use of this report except to the OPW/CCC.

Copyright

© JBA Consulting Engineers and Scientists Limited 2024.

Carbon Footprint

A printed copy of the main text in this document will result in a carbon footprint of 58g if 100% post-consumer recycled paper is used and 73g if primary-source paper is used. These figures assume the report is printed in black and white on A4 paper and in duplex.

Table of Contents

1	Introduction	1
	1.1 Purpose of Report.....	1
	1.2 Event Details.....	1
2	Promoting the Event	2
	2.1 Overview.....	2
	2.2 Means of Promotion.....	2
3	On the Day	3
	3.1 Project team representation.....	3
	3.2 Supporting Material.....	3
	3.3 Attendance.....	3
4	Feedback received	4
	4.1 Questionnaire analysis	4
5	Summary of PPD	15
	5.1 Input to the scheme development	15
	5.2 Event arrangements	15

List of Figures

Figure 4-1: Summary of responses to Question 2	4
Figure 4-2: Summary of responses to Question 3	5
Figure 4-3 Mill Measures of Interest	8
Figure 4-4 Mill Catchment Measures	8
Figure 4-5 Mealagh Measures of Interest	9
Figure 4-6 Mealagh Catchment Measures	9
Figure 4-7: Summary of responses to Question 8	12
Figure 4-8: Detail of responses to Question 8	13
Figure 4-9: Summary of responses to Question 9	14

List of Table

NO TABLE OF FIGURES ENTRIES FOUND.

1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of Report

The Emerging Options Public Participation Day (PPD) for the Bantry Flood Relief Scheme was held on Thursday 30 May 2024. This report presents the details of the PPD itself and provides a summary of the feedback received.

1.2 Event Details

Aims	<p>The purpose of this PPD was to present to the public and to the elected members the emerging options for the Flood Relief Scheme.</p> <p>The intention was to receive feedback from the public on the current measures being considered, and to collate this feedback for appraisal as part of the MCA process for option determination.</p>
Venue	The Maritime Hotel, The Quay, Bantry P75 XW35
Date and Time	<p>Thursday 30th May</p> <p>2-3pm – Invited elected members – presentation and discussion</p> <p>4-8pm – Public drop-in</p> <p>8pm - Close</p>
Target Audience	Any and all interested parties, including political stakeholders.
Event Format	<p>Opening presentation to invited elected members</p> <p>Registration (host role) and one-to-one or small group discussions</p> <p>Drop-in format</p> <p>Information stand / posters</p>

2 Promoting the Event

2.1 Overview

A variety of means of promoting / advertising the event were used to increase awareness of the day and aim to maximise attendance. It was anticipated that this event would be well supported by elected members and local residents and businesses.

2.2 Means of Promotion

Direct contact	Direct contact and word of mouth was useful as the community is relatively small. This helped spread the message between people who had seen leaflets / posters and those who had not.
Project Websites	Information in relation to the PPD was uploaded to the project website along with appropriate supporting materials. After the event, all posters and a copy of the questionnaire was also uploaded.
Local Authority mechanisms	Announcements on social media by CCC and OPW
Poster campaign	Posters were displayed in cafes, churches, schools, supermarkets, post offices, garda stations, community centres, libraries etc.
Mail drop	Approximately 1800 letters were distributed to residential properties
Media campaign	A press release was issued to the local media in advance of the event. This was published in the Southern Star newspaper and adverts were run on C103fm radio station.
Social Media	The JV availed of their own individual social media channels to promote the event.

3 On the Day

3.1 Project team representation

There were 16 representatives from the project team (Cork County Council, OPW, and the JBB/JBA joint venture).

3.2 Supporting Material

The following materials were available on the day:

- Copy of the questionnaire - handed to each attendee on arrival
- An information leaflet summarising the purpose of the event and the contents of the presented information
- Overview maps for breakout discussions
- Series of posters which covered the following topics:
 - Introduction to the project, including background, programme, statutory stages and opportunities for further involvement
 - Update on modelling and surveying tasks that have been undertaken to date
 - Baseline flood extents for each of the study areas
 - Examples of similar works (such as flood walls and embankments)
 - Dedicated poster for each of the flood cells detailing the proposed measures
- Copies of the posters were subsequently uploaded to the website.
- Posters presenting climate change adaptation and nature-based solutions

3.3 Attendance

54 attendees were recorded on the sign in sheet with several more in attendance who did not sign in.

15 questionnaires were received either on the day, or by post/email after the event. In addition, four follow-up emails within four weeks after the event were received.

4 Feedback received

4.1 Questionnaire analysis

There were 15 questionnaires returned on the day or posted/emailed back to JBA Consulting offices. Every attendee was given a questionnaire and they were also made available on the project website following the event.

The responses to the various questions are summarised below. Question 1 was a request for participants details. In advance of providing information, all parties were made aware of how their details would be used and that all data would be processed in compliance with the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). This disclaimer was included within the questionnaire documents.

4.1.1 Question 2

How did you hear about this Public Participation Day?

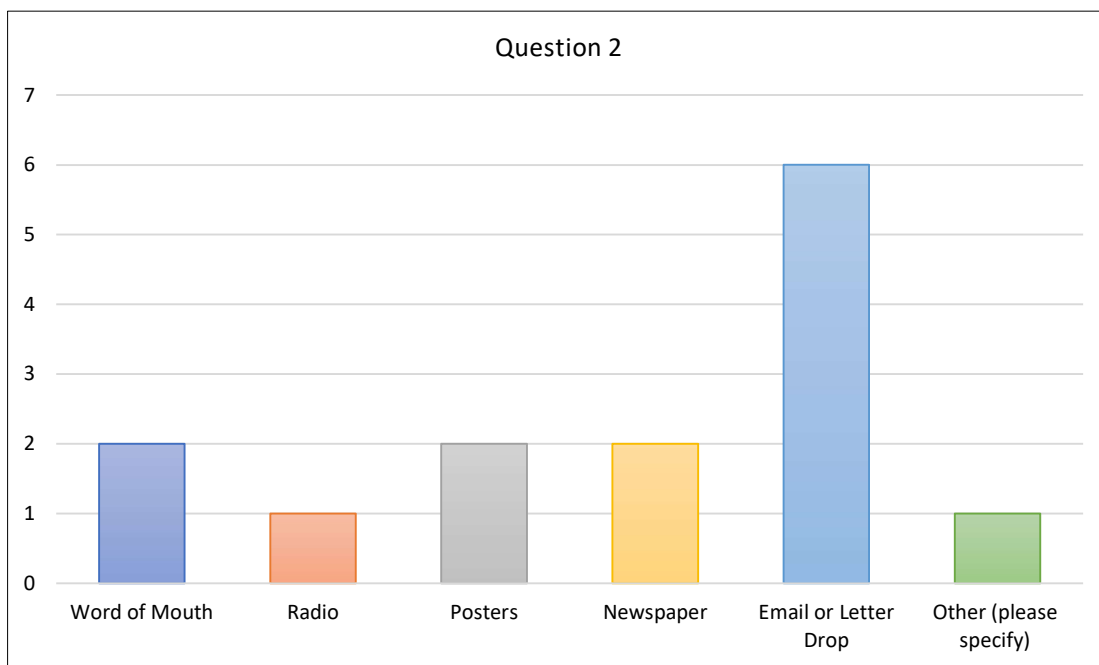


Figure 4-1 Summary of responses to Question 2

The channels of communication through which attendees learned of the Public Participation Day are shown in Figure 4-1. All channels appear to have been effective, with the email and letter drops having the greatest reach. One respondent was informed of the day through Instagram. Instagram wasn't a channel used by the project team but it shows that promotion of the event spread to secondary channels on social media.

4.1.2 **Question 3**

Which of the following best describes you?

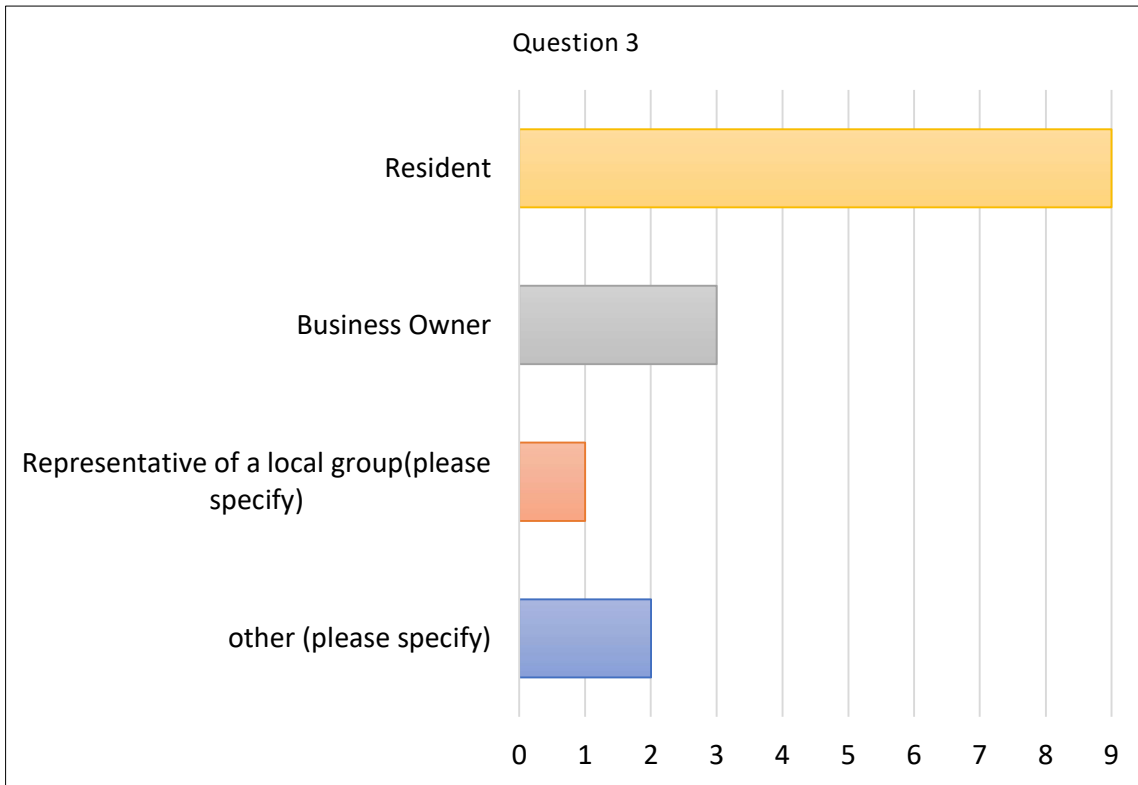


Figure 4-2 Summary of responses to Question 3

Nine out of the fifteen respondents indicated they were residents, and two among the nine were business owners. One respondent is described as a tidy towns-local council election candidate and another as visitor, shopper. One of the respondents did not indicate an option.

4.1.3 Question 4

Which locations in the scheme area are of most interest to you? Please see posters for more information on each area.

There were eleven responses to Question 3. This has been summarised in Figure 4-3 below. Some respondents supplemented their answer with references to the posters that were of particular interest to them. The central area of Bantry received the most interest.

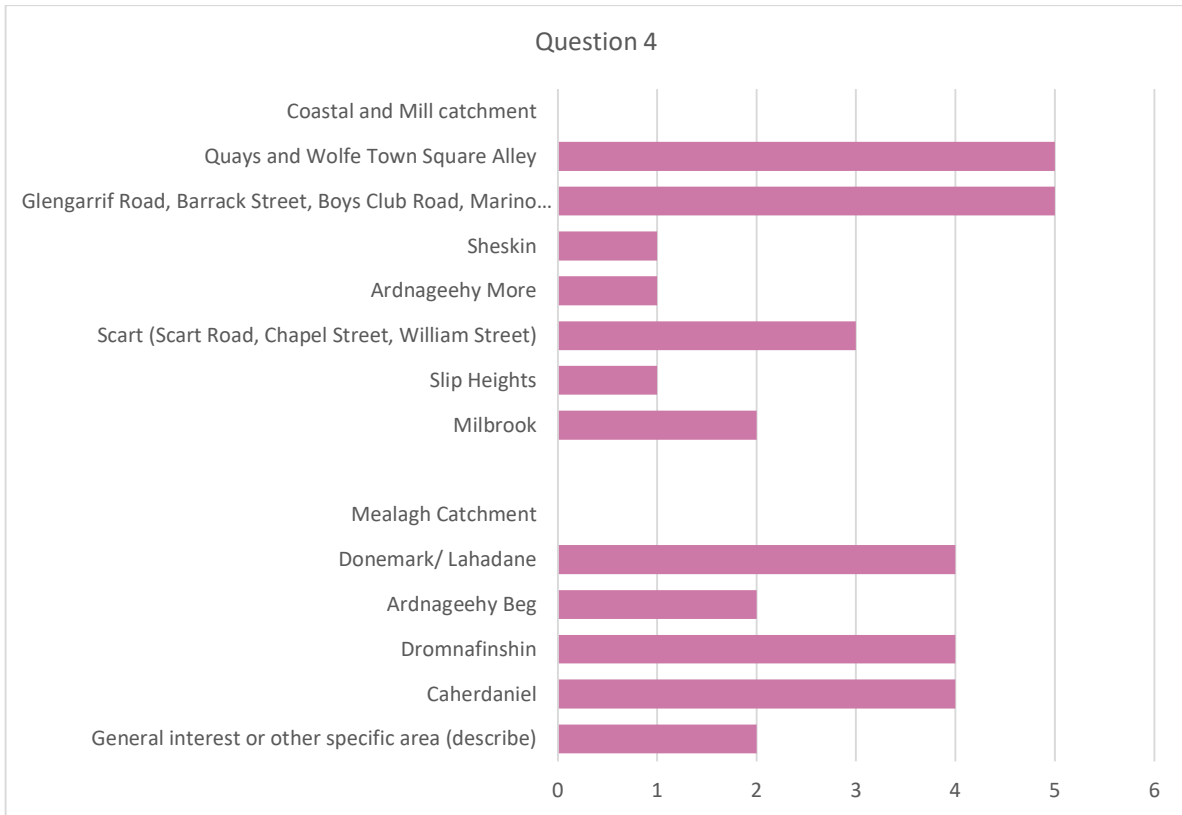


Figure 4-3: Summary of responses to Question 4

4.1.4 Question 5

How have you been affected by flooding?

This question provided an opportunity for each attendee to provide specific feedback relevant to their experiences with flooding. They were provided with three headings to structure their answer. Their responses are summarised below under each heading. Ten of the fourteen questionnaires received contained answers to this section.

i. **When?**

Six of the eight respondents stated that they had not previously been affected by flooding. One respondent didn't provide any answer to this question. One respondent said they are affected by flooding at spring high tides. One respondent noted that a gate feature on the Alley River results in debris carried by the river gets caught at this point and has resulted in problems previously.

ii. **Was it your home, business or another property?**

One respondent stated that their home and business were affected by flooding previously. One respondent stated that their home was affected by flooding and the final respondent to this question stated that their road was affected by flooding.

iii. **How did the flood(s) affect you?**

One respondent identified that flooding from a stream in adjacent lands has become more pronounced in the last two/three years and that the stream was partially diverted in the past by their neighbour. The property is located in Ardnageehy.

Two respondents noted that travelling by alternative routes was necessary as a result of their experience of flooding.

The final respondent to this question noted that equipment stored in their garden shed were damaged due to the flooding that occurred.

4.1.5 Question 6

Please indicate the option(s) you preferred among those presented and of interest to you:

This question asked respondents as to which measures they preferred amongst those presented. The responses are presented in Figure 4-3 & Figure 4-5.

Mill Catchment

In the case of the Mill Catchment, the measures 2D and 5A received the most interest. As is seen in Figure 4-3, all measures received multiple responses from attendees. Measure 2D received the most "No" responses, whilst measures 4A & 4C received "Yes" responses only.

Mealagh Catchment

The Mealagh catchment received more "No" responses than "Yes" responses. Flood cell 2 received the most responses overall.

Some respondents provided additional information as to what informed their decisions for this question. One respondent noted that measure 1B would result in a significant loss of existing trees.

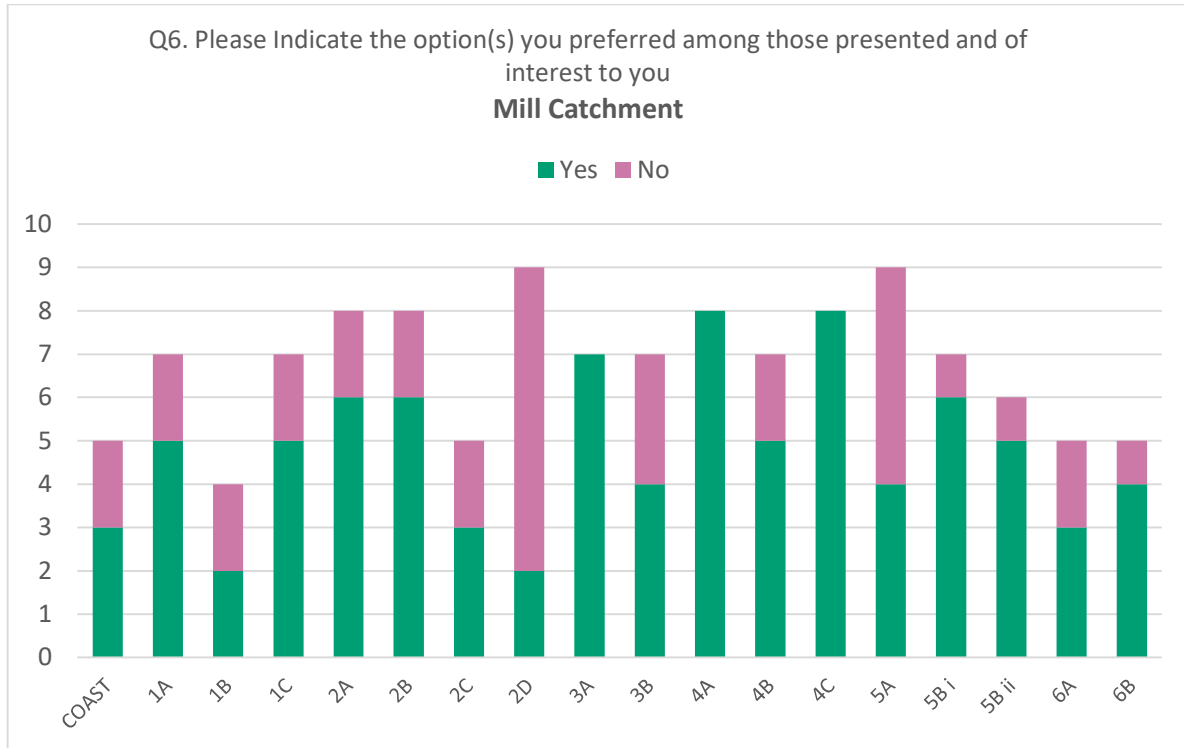


Figure 4-3 Mill Measures of Interest

<p>1 Scart & Library</p> <p>1A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New inlet structure and headwall at lane off Chapel Street ○ Pipe culvert diversion (approx. 0.9 x 0.9m) on Chapel St. / William St. <p>1B</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New inlet structure and headwall at lane off Chapel Street ○ Rehabilitation of existing culvert between Chapel Street and Bridge Street <p>1C</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New low-level walls near Library entrance ○ New wall to rear of Library and measure/wall to protect window ○ Lower weir by up to 0.2m 	<p>4 Sheskin</p> <p>4A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New head wall (approx. 1.3m high) at upstream side of road crossing (Primary Care Centre & School entrance) to prevent flows overtopping road ○ New culvert (approx. 1m x 1m) on Sheskin Road to divert flows further downstream on Carrignagal. <p>4B</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Raise wall (or replace) on right bank (approx. +0.7m) along existing stream approaching aqueduct. ○ New wall on left bank (approx. 2m) near aqueduct ○ Replace channel structure at aqueduct with higher sides (approx. +0.8m) <p>4C</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Headwall and minor works to channel - south of St. Finbarr's School
<p>2 Alley</p> <p>2A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Storage area in field near Slip Grove ○ Wall defence to rear of properties on Slip Grove ○ Diverted channel away from rear of properties <p>2B</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Storage area in Playground and Community Gardens ○ New wall near Playground to retain stored volume <p>2C</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Storage in parking area at Boy's Club Road <p>2D</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Inlet to culvert diversion on Glengarriff Road ○ New box culvert diversion on Glengarriff Road and Barrack Street (approx. 1m x 1m to 2m x 1m) ○ Overflow culvert to harbour (0.9m dia.) via Marino Street 	<p>5 Millbrook</p> <p>5A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New culvert (0.9m) to intercept channel upstream of existing inlet and divert on new route through property/housing estate to existing outfall (approx. length 300m) <p>5B i</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New inlet structure (approx. 0.75m high) to contain surcharge <p>5B ii</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New inlet structure (approx. 0.3m high) fitted with flow control. ○ New overflow culvert (approx. 0.9 x 0.9m) to divert flows from existing culvert to existing outfall.
<p>3 Slip Heights</p> <p>3A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New culvert (0.9m dia.) crossing road ○ Open channel to be realigned within field ○ New embankment (approx. 1.5m high) and flow control to store flows <p>3B</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New culvert (0.9m dia.) crossing road ○ Control and storage by installation of flow control at west side of field. ○ New wall to defend property to west of field 	<p>6 Ardnageehy More</p> <p>6A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New culvert (0.9m dia.) to divert existing under-capacity pipe. Route to east of property. ○ New culvert (1 x 1m) to replace existing 0.8 x 0.5m box culvert (length 30m) ○ Maintain existing culvert (1 x 1m) in field along roadside with low-level wall at upstream inlet (approx. 75m) ○ New flood wall (at downstream end) to prevent overland flows on to road or ○ Open channel for last 50m of existing culvert to capture overland flow. <p>6B</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New culvert (0.9m) to divert existing under-capacity pipe. Route to east of property. ○ New culvert (1 x 1m) to replace existing 0.8 x 0.5m box culvert (length 30m) ○ New open channel to replace existing culvert with low-level wall at upstream end (approx. 75m)

Figure 4-4 Mill Catchment Measures

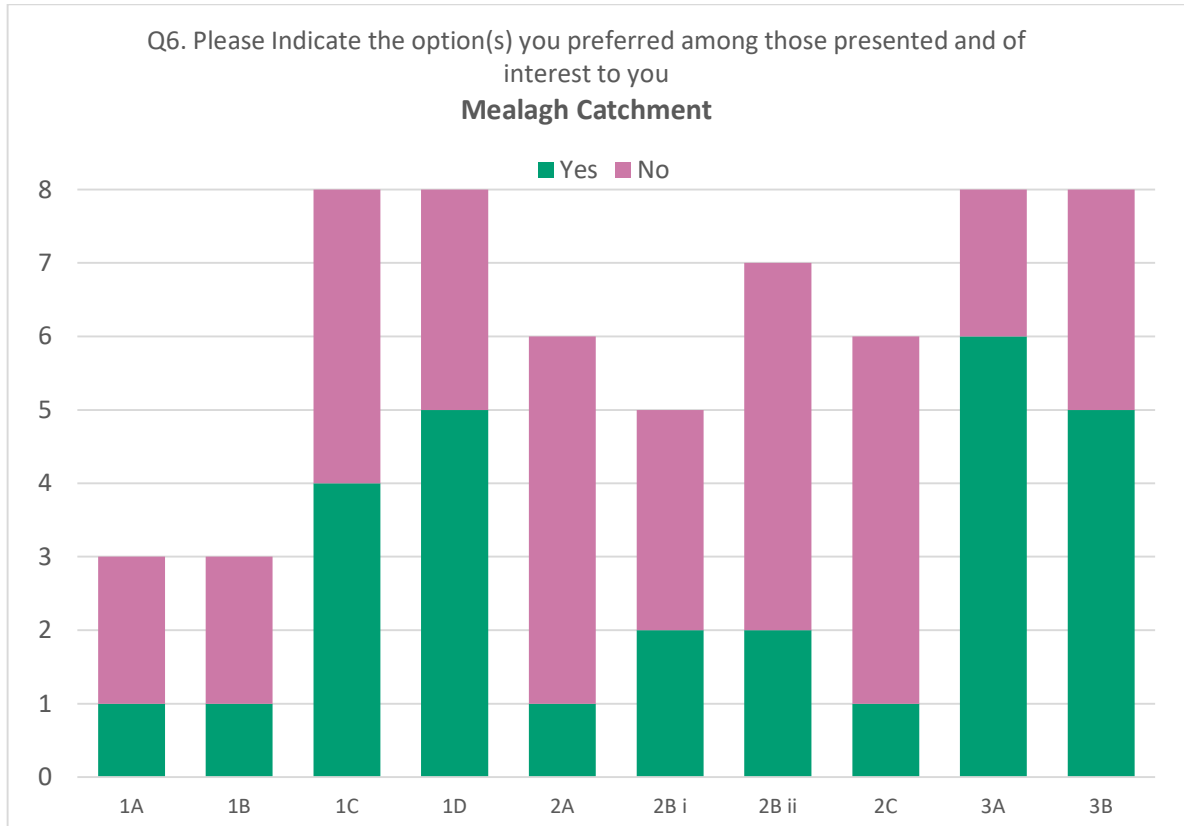


Figure 4-5 Mealagh Measures of Interest

1 Donemark, Lahadane & Dromnafinshin	
1A	o New walls to protect residential properties near Old Donemark Bridge
1B	o New walls to protect Lahadane Business Park
1C	o Excavated flood plain in Dromnafinshin o Measures 1A and 1B required in combination with 1C
1D	o Flow control in form of 'green' bridge and storage in Dromnafinshin o Measures 1A and 1B required in combination with 1D
2 Caherdaniel	
2A	o New culvert (0.9m) to replace existing under-capacity pipes (0.3m) on roadside near ESB substation
2B	o Upstream storage in field east of ESB substation
2C	o New culvert (0.9m) across road near ESB substation to divert existing channel o New open channel across field to north of ESB substation
3 Ardnageehy Beg	
3A	o New embankment to prevent overland flows across road
3B	o New culvert (0.9m) to replace existing under-capacity pipe (225mm) o Localised ground raising to maintain cover over new pipe

Figure 4-6 Mealagh Catchment Measures

4.1.6 Question 7

Having participated in this public participation event, do you have any comments or observations on the proposed measures that you would like the project team to consider?

For example, with regards to environmental, community/social, visual, heritage and archaeological matters:

This question allowed respondents to share any further information that had not been captured within the previous question set. Ten of the respondents provided answers to this question. The responses below include feedback received through email submissions separate to the formal questionnaires.

Harbour/Tidal Barrier

- A request was made to maintain scenic views from the square out to sea. Any work by the harbour, such as a new sea wall needs to be visually appealing, so not detracting from the views over the bay.
- Two of the responses centred around the need to revisit the tidal barrier measure. Respondents believed that a tidal barrier could provide significant amenity benefits to the area and be incorporated into a greater public realm development of the square and town. Within the responses it was noted that excavation of the “slob” area would help provide increased storage for fluvial volumes. Policy Objective BT X-02, from the County Development Plan, was noted in one response, identifying the inner harbour as a place for recreational and amenity use.
- It was also raised that the existing quay walls and the heritage aspect of Sand Quays needs to be considered in the proposals for wall raising and integrated into context of the requirements of BT X-02.
- A weir structure was proposed in the harbour as an alternative to the measures presented, with the weir extending from Maxol to Super Valu. The desire behind this request was to retain a constant volume with the harbour itself. Other respondents also requested that a tidal barrier option be revisited.
- A desire to use the scheme as an opportunity to enhance the recreational and environmental potential of Bantry was raised. The tidal area in the harbour was specifically mentioned. Reference made to the wetlands that are currently present in Tralee as an example of what might be achieved.

Construction disturbance

- Construction disruption was raised as a concern, with consideration for phasing and sequencing required. It was raised that construction of the various parts of the defences will take time, and that care must be taken to minimise disruption in the town. Car parking was noted as a problem.

Seskin/Knocknaveagh

- A specific note was provided in relation to the Seskin and Knocknaveagh area. It was noted that surface water was increased in this area recently, and that an underground stream through their property was causing the ground to become waterlogged.

Nature based Solutions

- The protection of nature and biodiversity was raised, with soft/natural solutions requested including the protection of riparian zones. The proposals for the use of nature-based solutions were welcomed where they were being included.
- A desire for the Bantry Scheme to consider nature-based solutions and not revert immediately to hard engineering solutions. Respondent referenced the Skibbereen Scheme in their submission.

Climate Change

- One respondent noted that the predicted change in sea level as a result of climate change may be underestimated.

Culture/Heritage

- It was asked that any plan should particularly protect existing heritage buildings within the town, including the old courthouse, St. Brendan's Church and St. Brendan's School.

Millbrook

- A number of respondents raised concerns in relation to the proposal at Millbrook, noting that excavation through this location would be through rock and had potential to cause severe disruption to the existing properties during construction.
- Two respondents highlighted concerns in relation to the proposals in the Millbrook flood cell. This concern was centred around the presence of shallow rock being present where a new culvert was proposed. This could, it was noted, result in structural damage to the adjacent properties during the construction phase. It was also raised that the culvert was located within the respondent's property, but they weren't informed of the proposal in advance of it being presented.

4.1.7 **Question 8**

The following are some of the topics of feedback received at the Opening Public Participation Day (May 2022). Do you think these topics have been adequately considered in the potential measures presented?

Both a tick-box response and additional commentary was provided in the questionnaires received.

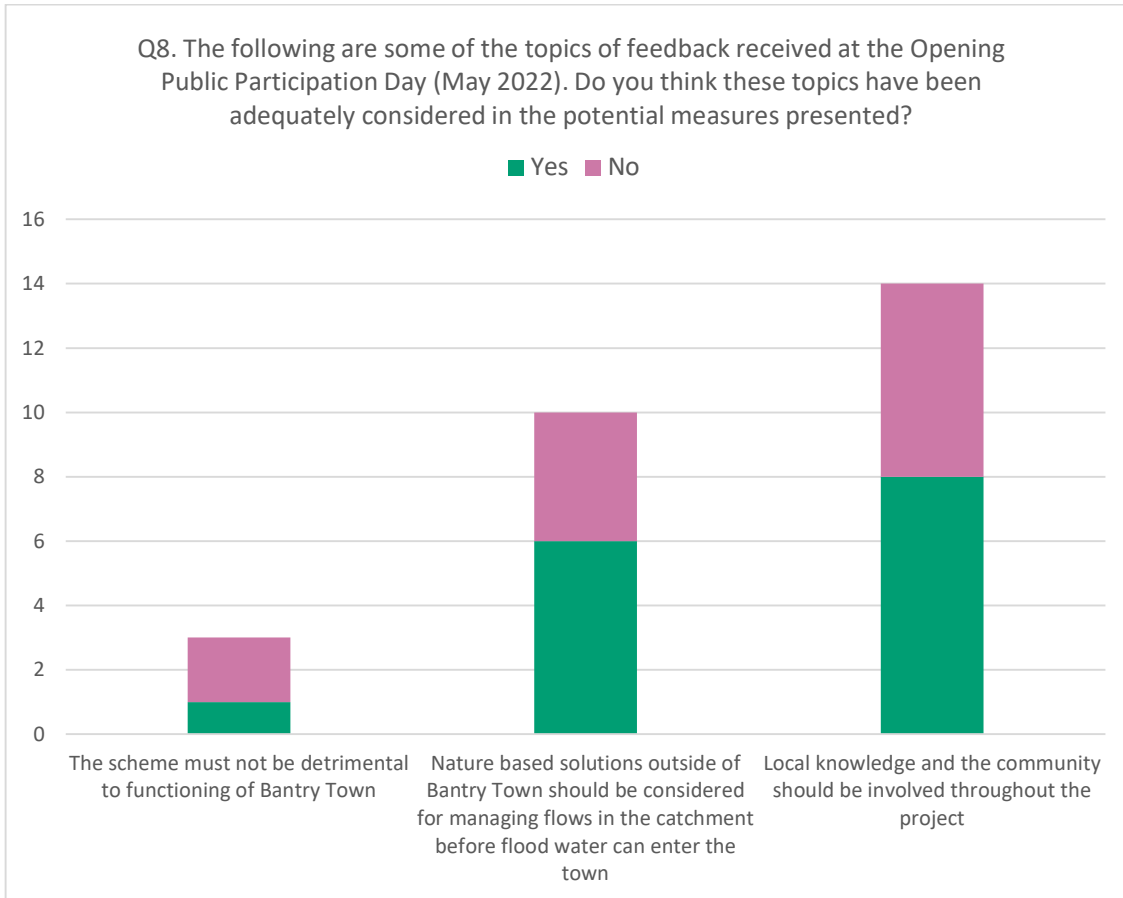


Figure 4-7 Summary of responses to Question 8

In each case, respondents provided additional information as to what informed their decisions. These are presented in Figure 4-6. The responses within the table have been paraphrased or summarised for ease of reference.

The responses received seem to suggest the wording of the question could have been clearer.

Have these been adequately considered?	The scheme must not be detrimental to functioning of the town	Consider Nature based solutions	Local knowledge and community should be involved throughout the project
Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There are insufficient businesses in town. If more close down, it will be detrimental to economic viability. ▪ Scheme is necessary. ▪ The eventual scheme should not be detrimental, but the actual construction could well be. ▪ Disruption should be kept to a minimum. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wildlife and biodiversity are important and need to be considered. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1C, 1D, 2A, 2B & 2C are not favourable. ▪ In complete agreement.
No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Every street is being proposed to be dug up, where lakes with dams could be considered along with a tidal barrier. ▪ Fluvial considerations need to be reviewed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ These have not been considered. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We felt we were not engaged in the final proposal for the Public Participation Day. We should have been consulted as we would have informed engineers that our property is on rock.

Figure 4-8 Detail of responses to Question 8

4.1.9 Question 9

Has the level of information provided at this participation event for the preferred scheme sufficiently detailed to you to understand the project? (please tick appropriate box)

There were 12 responses to this question. Most of the respondents believed that the level of information provided was clear and sufficiently detailed to them to understand the project. The level of detail provided met their expectations and their questions were addressed by the project team.

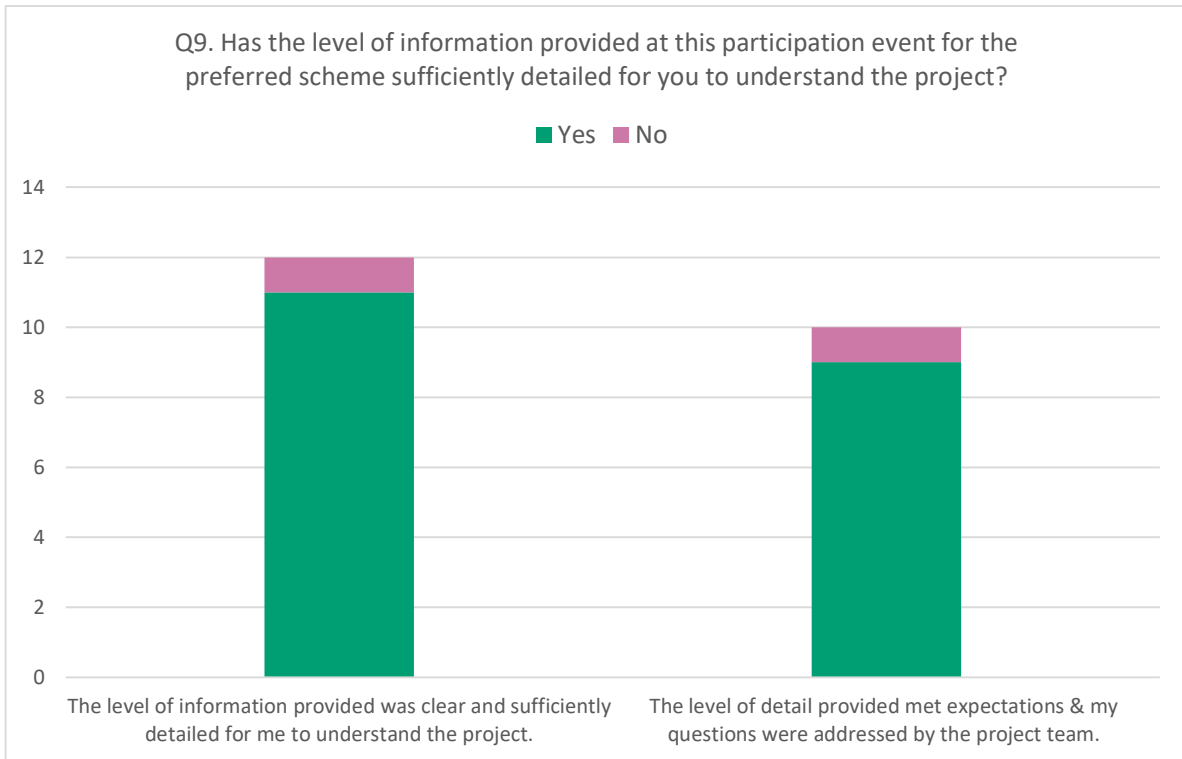


Figure 4-9 Summary of responses to Question 9

A number of respondents requested further information, linking back to specific requests they made within their questionnaires. These related to measures at:

- Alley River,
- Caherdaniel
- Mealagh.

One respondent stated that the level of information provided was not clear and sufficiently detailed to allow them to understand the project.

One noted that it would be useful to have a map of entire area on each board so we can place it in the scheme.

Three respondents didn't comment on the question.

5 Summary of PPD

5.1 Input to the scheme development

The feedback provided on the day, and in following submissions, will be extremely useful in determining the preferred option for the flood relief scheme. The majority of attendees noted that the level of information was extensive and clear.

There was strong interest in the coastal proposals. A number of attendees queried the possibility of a tidal barrier and why it wasn't being considered further. Participants referred to the opportunity with this project to enhance the public realm and amenity value of the square and harbour area. A number of attendees queried if excavating the harbour would provide further flood storage and address the problems that were explained as inhibiting the tidal barrier solution.

Concerns were raised about measures in Lahadane/Dromnafinshin and Caherdaniel – Area 1 and 2 in the Mealagh catchment. These related to the proposed increased in flood plain over an extensive area of land in private ownership. Key landowners in this area provided detailed feedback and important local knowledge.

A number of residents from the Millbrook estate identified potential constructability issues with the proposed measures in Area 5 of the Mill catchment. Whilst welcoming of the proposals to address flooding in the area, the shallow rock stratum believed to be located in this area may cause challenging conditions for construction and is expected to be disruptive to residents. Alternative routes for the proposed culvert were discussed.

All feedback will be considered by the project team.

5.2 Event arrangements

Feedback and lessons learned on the arrangements for the PPD include:

- The letter drop to 1800 properties in the town and environs was effective in notifying people of the event.
- The PPD on 30 May was well-attended (approximately 57 attendees).
- The availability of the project team at the PPD allowed positive and meaningful engagement.
- The generously sized room for venue was beneficial for conversations and circulation.
- The large format posters at the PPD facilitated clear presentation of drawings, maps and other information.
- The text for Question 8 could have been clearer to allow a meaningful response when requesting additional information as to the considerations of Respondents when commenting during the PPD.



JBA
consulting

Offices at:
Dublin
Limerick
Cork
Castlebar

JBA Registered Office
24 Grove Island
Corbally, Limerick
Ireland
+353 61 579400
info@jbaconsulting.ie
www.jbaconsulting.ie

Egis Registered Office
(Formerly JB Barry & Partners)
Classon House
Dundrum Business Park
Dundrum, Dublin 14
Ireland
+353 1 485 1400
www.egis-group.com