

## River Poddle Flood Alleviation Scheme

The scheme is in Part 10 planning with An Bord Pleanála (ABP) since February 2020 and is still awaiting a planning decision. The original ABP target date for a planning decision was 26/03/2021 but no decision has been released to date.

Since the last update to this committee in February 2022, ABP informed that due to a High Court judgement, delivered in January 2022 on a water abstraction project, that an official water quality status had to be assigned to the River Poddle by the EPA before a planning decision could be provided. A 'poor' water quality status for the river was then confirmed by the EPA in late February 2022.

Following the confirmation of the water quality status, ABP then requested that a Water Framework Assessment Report be carried out on the River Poddle.

This assessment was required to show that the proposed scheme would not in any way deteriorate the 'poor' status assigned to the river. The assessment was provided to ABP in April 2022, which was then followed by 6 weeks public consultation in May and June. Two submissions were received during the consultation, but no responses to the submissions were required.

Currently a planning target decision date of 25/03/2022 is listed on the ABP website but in recent discussions held with ABP, it appears that the Inspectors Report on the scheme has now been presented to the Board. It also appears that the scheme has been moved up on the decision priority list so it is expected that a planning decision will now be issued in Q4.

If planning is approved and no application for a judicial review is made, the scheme is then expected to commence in Q2-Q3 2023.

Full details on the scheme can be found at [www.poddlefas.ie](http://www.poddlefas.ie)

## **Whitechurch Stream Flood Alleviation Scheme**

On December 21<sup>st</sup> 2020, planning approval for the scheme was awarded by ABP.

The scheme was then scheduled to commence in Q1 2021 but in February 2021 an application for leave to apply for a judicial review of the Board's decision was made to the High Court by the Ballyboden Tidy Towns Group (BBTTG). The High Court subsequently granted this appeal.

The Judicial Review hearing was heard by the High Court on 5-6/10/2021 with the judgement delivered on 20/10/2021 and where the applicant's proceedings were totally dismissed.

A Leave for Appeal process on this judgement was triggered by BBTTG on 04/11/2022 but Leave for Appeal was refused by the High Court on 07/01/2022.

On 04/02/2022, the BBTTG applied to the Supreme Court seeking a hearing to overturn the decision not to grant Leave for Appeal, which was granted by the Supreme Court on 04/04/2022.

The Supreme Court hearing was heard on 23/06/2022 and we are currently awaiting the determination, which is expected to be delivered by the end of Q4.

If the Supreme Court determination is made in favour of the council, works will then be free to commence on the scheme. The works are expected to commence in Q1 2023 if a favourable determination is made by the end of Q4.

Full details on the scheme can be found at [www.whitechurchfas.ie](http://www.whitechurchfas.ie)

## **Camac Flood Alleviation Scheme**

Stage 1 – Preliminary Design commenced in November 2019 with a current estimated completion date of Q2 2023.

Since the last update provided to this committee, works have been concentrated on the hydraulic modelling of the river and the production of catchment flood maps alongside the development of flood defence optioneering. Draft flood mapping was issued in Q2 2022 but delays have recently been encountered in the calibration and sensitivity analysis, mostly due to the size of the model.

Public consultation events were held in June 2022 where the project team provided a presentation on the current and future status of the scheme, along with seeking real life details and feedback from stakeholders and local residents on previous flood events so they can be compared with model outputs and the draft flood mapping.

Following the consultations, high level optioneering commenced, with initial draft defence options issued to the Steering Group in Q3. Discussions on these options has commenced with affected stakeholders and will continue through Q4, with further public consultation events to be held in Q1 2023 on preferred defence options.

Other work items that have continued through 2022 include the preparation of tender documents for Site Investigation works which are expected to be published in Q4.

The Multi Criteria Analysis (MCA), which provides a weighting to possible flood damage of properties and infrastructure etc. and assists in determining the Cost Benefit Analysis of the scheme has also commenced and is expected be completed in Q1 2023.

Works have also been continuing on the Environmental Impact Assessment Report in conjunction with determining the appropriate planning requirements in line with new polices included in the new SDCC and DCC Development Plans.

CCTV and Structural Condition Surveys of culverts and bridges have also been completed.

Details on the scheme along with the presentation provided at the public event held in June 2022 can be found at [www.camacfas.ie](http://www.camacfas.ie)