

Update on Progress

Welcome to the fourth newsletter for the Shannon CFRAM Study. A lot of progress has been made since our last update.

Public Consultation - 27th and 28th April, Athlone

We will be holding a public event in Athlone on the 27th and 28th April to launch the Shannon CFRAM Study to the public. The events will take place in central Athlone (see location details below) and will be open to anyone who is interested in finding out more about flooding in the Shannon area.

There will be an information point with several exhibition boards for you to discover further about the flooding challenges which the Shannon area faces, as well as the aims and objectives of the Study and progress so far.

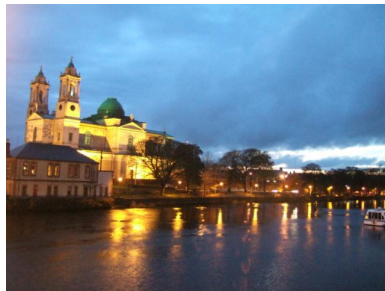
The event will not only be about information provision. Your views and comments are an important part of the Study, and we want to hear your thoughts. Members of the Shannon CFRAM Study team will be there if you have any questions or comments. There will also be a questionnaire available for you to voice your thoughts.

Friday 27th April: 5pm – 7pm

Radisson Blu Athlone
De Constien Suite
Northgate Street,
Athlone,
Co Westmeath

Saturday 28th April: 10am – 4pm

Athlone Town Centre Shopping
Centre
Mardyke Street,
Athlone,
Co Westmeath



Public Consultation – What to Expect

The public event is being set up to introduce the Shannon CFRAM Study to the wider public.

You will be able to gain a better understanding of how the Study is being undertaken, how it has progressed so far, and what to expect in the future.

There will be further information regarding **Areas for Further Assessment (AFAs)** and **Individual Risk Receptors (IRRs)**. These are locations and sites within the Shannon River Basin District which have been identified as being at higher risk of flooding compared to other areas within the Study area. These areas will now be the focus of all future activity within the Study. The event will include a map of the Shannon Study area showing each AFA and IRR.

There will also be further information on the progress of the Study's **Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)**. The Flood Risk Management Plans will need to take environmental and sustainable principles into consideration. Consultation workshops have already been undertaken with key environmental stakeholders and Local Authorities to discuss environmental issues. This event will give you the opportunity to understand what environmental issues have already been considered, inform us which issues you feel are most important and identify any which you feel we have missed.



Topographic Surveys

A number of topographic surveys are taking place throughout the Shannon River Basin District (RBD). These are to assist in our understanding of the varying river profile, floodplains and crossings within or close to Areas for Further Assessment (AFAs).

The surveys will involve several teams using boats, helicopters and other more traditional land based techniques to capture the necessary survey data. You will be able to recognise the teams as they will be wearing high visibility jackets at all times, as well as carrying ID and a letter of introduction on OPW headed paper.

These surveys are important for the Shannon CFRAM Study as they will ensure that we have the right information to develop flood maps (and ultimately, to ensure that we can establish successful flood risk management strategies).

It is anticipated that the surveyors will be working in various locations, on both large and smaller watercourses, for up to 6 months, ending in September 2012. They will not be entering private lands before seeking the appropriate permissions to do so. They will not be entering private homes or other buildings – access is only required through land (to be able to reach the watercourse).



Getting Involved

There will be many stages throughout the life of the project where we will involve stakeholders and local communities.

You have an important role to play and we are keen to hear from you at any point of the Study. If you have any questions or comments relating to the Shannon CFRAM Study, You can contact us on any of the methods below

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