

RIVER PODDLE FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME

Response to RFI no. 1 – Consultations Report



**SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL & DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL IN ASSOCIATION
WITH THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC WORKS**

RIVER PODDLE FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME

RESPONSE TO RFI NO. 1 – CONSULTATIONS REPORT

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1 INTRODUCTION

This Consultations Report provides an update to the information provided in **EIAR Chapter 3, Section 3.6**. This purpose of this Report is to provide supplementary information on the consultations and engagement undertaken for the proposed River Poddle Flood Alleviation Scheme (FAS) from the early stages of the project beginning with the Eastern CFRAM stakeholder engagement and public consultations. It also provides additional information on the engagement and public consultations undertaken by the applicant councils from the development of the Poddle FAS since 2018, and in March 2020, once the planning application was submitted to An Bord Pleanála. Lastly, this Consultations Report concludes by describing the steps that were taken by the applicants to notify the public of the extended statutory consultation for the application following the Government’s introduction of public health measures due to COVID-19.

2 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

2.1 Introduction

This section describes the extensive community engagement that was undertaken throughout the various stages of the Project and how the information received and issues raised by attendees at Public Information events and through other channels was taken into consideration in the environmental impact assessment and design of the project.

2.2 Eastern CFRAM Consultation

As described in **EIAR Chapter 4, Section 4.3.4**, the Eastern CFRAM examined alternatives for the River Poddle FAS. Community consultations formed part of the CFRAM Study and were held at various stages of the Study from 2011 to 2016. **Figure 2-1** provides an overview of the CFRAM consultation stages and structures.

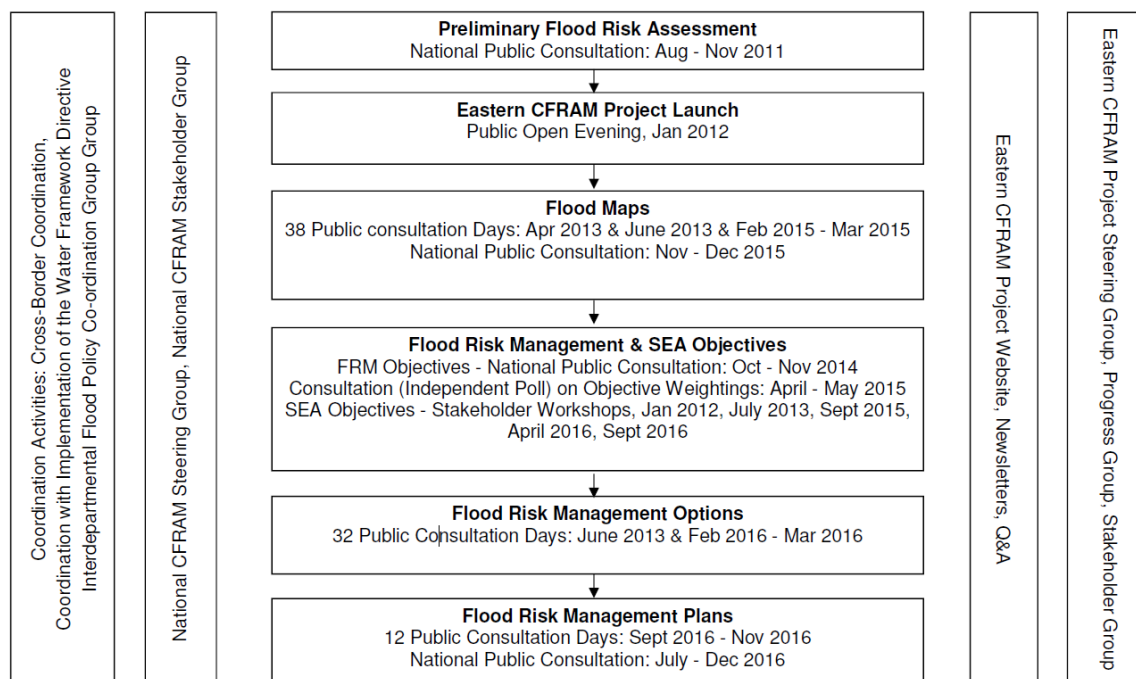


Figure 2-1. Overview of CFRAM Consultation Stages from 2011 to 2016

Details of the Public Information Days that were held as Part of the Eastern CFRAM Study are provided in the following documents:

1. Eastern CFRAM Study - Initial Scoping Phase Synthesis Report - Public Open Evening, May 2012¹
2. Camac and Poddle Consultation Synthesis Report, October 2013 (**Appendix 2-1**)
3. Eastern CFRAM Study - Poddle Options Report, extract Section 8, July 2014 (**Appendix 2-1**)
4. Public Consultation on the Draft Flood Risk Management Plans – Summary Report, 2018²
5. Liffey & Dublin Bay FRMP extract Section 4 and Appendix C and D on Stakeholder Consultation, 2018³

2.2.1 Initial Scoping Phase Consultation

On the 26th of January 2012, an Initial Scoping Phase public open evening was held at the Red Cow Moran Hotel to provide an introduction and overview of the Eastern CFRAM Study. This event was attended by approximately 60 people. According to the Initial Scoping Phase Synthesis Report, the majority of attendees were homeowners and landowners who had experienced flooding in their homes and lands. The event was also attended by elected members and members of non-governmental environmental organisations.

A programme of public consultation and engagement was later undertaken as part of the CFRAM Study for the Liffey-Dublin Bay River Basin in the development of the Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP). Based on the flood hazard and risk identified in the flood maps, options for reducing or managing flood risk in each Area for Action (AFA) were developed and assessed.

Consultation days were held in each AFA to engage locally and directly with the community to provide people with the opportunity to discuss and fully understand the draft plans. Public Consultation Days (PCDs) were held for each AFA at the Flood Mapping Stage, the Flood Risk Management Optioneering Stage, and the Draft Flood Risk Management Stage.

PCDs relating to the DCC AFA were held in the DCC Civic Offices on 30th of March 2015 (Flood Mapping Stage), 25th of March 2016 (Optioneering Stage) and 13th of October 2016 (Draft Flood Risk Management Plan Stage). Details of attendance numbers are presented

¹ Eastern CFRAM Study - Initial Scoping Phase Synthesis Report - Public Open Evening, May 2012, Available at: http://eastcfрам.irish-surge-forecast.ie/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/IBE0600Rp0011_Initial-Scoping-Phase-Synthesis-Report-Public-Open-Evening_D02.pdf

² Public Consultation on the Draft Flood Risk Management Plans – Summary Report, 2018, Available at: https://www.floodinfo.ie/static/floodmaps/docs/public_consultation_summary/Public_Consultation_Summary_Report.pdf

³ Liffey & Dublin Bay FRMP extract Section 4 and Appendix C and D on Stakeholder Consultation, 2018, Available at: https://s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/docs.floodinfo.opw/floodinfo_docs/Final_FRMPs_For_Publication/FRMP_Final2018_RiverBasin_09.pdf

in **Table 2-1**. The public and other stakeholders were invited to attend and make observations at each of these PCDs.

Table 2-1. Details of Public Consultation Events for CFRAM

	Date	Attendees
Flood Mapping Stage	30/03/2015	117
FRM Optioneering Stage	25/03/2016	21
Draft FRMP Stage	13/10/2016	Data Available Not Available

A copy of the Synthesis Report on public consultation and stakeholder engagement for the Camac and Poddle is contained in **Appendix 2-1**.

2.2.2 Poddle Options Report Consultation

As described in **EIAR Chapter 4, Section 4.3.4**, an initial options assessment was undertaken for the Poddle Catchment as part of the Eastern CFRAM Study and was produced in the Poddle Options Report. The purpose of this assessment was to examine all of the viable options that could be implemented in the Poddle catchment and to select the preferred option.

An important element of the Eastern CFRAM Study was consultation with all interested parties, including members of the public, non-governmental organisations and elected officials. Consultation was carried out through elected members briefings, a stakeholder workshop, public consultation days and correspondence with the Local Authorities and the OPW. Consultation was carried out at strategic points in the study, including the identification of preferred FRM options. A majority of the people who attended the events had experienced flooding and consequently were in support of any kind of flood defense along the River Poddle. A report of the public consultations and stakeholder engagement is contained in Section 8 of the Poddle Options Report. This section of the Report is extracted in **Appendix 2-1**.

2.3 River Poddle Flood Alleviation Scheme Consultation

As reported in the Poddle Options Report, Options 2 and 3 from the Eastern CFRAM Study were brought forward for further modelling and testing in the proposed River Poddle FAS in a joint project of South Dublin County Council (SDCC), Dublin City Council (DCC) and the Office of Public Works (OPW). A Project Manager was appointed by the lead authority, South Dublin County Council, to oversee the project, including the consultations. Consultations were also carried out by Dublin City Council's Engineers who were serving on the Steering Group for the Poddle FAS.

Extensive engagement with property owners and stakeholders has been undertaken, including one-to-one meetings, to ensure that those who are directly impacted by the project remain informed and are provided the opportunity to provide feedback.

2.3.1 Engagement with Property Owners and Affected Communities

Beginning in March 2018, the Project Manager engaged with individual residents and local groups whose lives were greatly affected during the floods of October 2011 including Harold's Cross Flood Committee, Mount Jerome Cemetery, and Records Residents Association in the Whitehall Road area. Individual meetings were held as part of an information gathering process to establish the extent of flooding experienced at various locations so that any issues could be addressed during the project design stages. These meetings were not private and had to be held at houses so that accurate information could be gathered from residents, businesses and organisations who were directly affected by flooding of the River Poddle and could offer records of past flooding events, including photographs, copies of correspondence, personal observations.

In March 2019, threshold surveys were carried out by Murphy Surveys Ltd. Letters notifying the relevant residents were sent in advance of these surveys (**Appendix 2-2**). Emails to local councillors were also circulated to keep them informed of the upcoming surveys.

Throughout the project design and preparation of the EIAR, every effort has been made to engage with and respond to queries from local communities, either representatives of residents' groups or individuals who have made contact through the project website. Where available, proposed plans were shared with members of the public or residents' associations to answer queries.

Additional consultations were held in October 2019 with the owner of the laneway at the rear of Fortfield Road. The Project Manager further met with residents of Wainsfort Manor Green and Whitehall Road, and Dublin City engineers attended St. Martin's Drive Residents Association EGM on the 29th January 2020. Details of all meetings held as part of the information gathering/data collection for the Scheme are presented in **Appendix 2-3**.

2.3.2 Public Information Events

In the early design stages, four public information sessions on the River Poddle FAS were held at local venues in each Council area on two dates, Monday 3rd and Tuesday 4th December 2018, one each in the day and evening. Two further sessions were held on 16th and 20th January 2020. Interested stakeholders, elected representatives and the general public were invited to attend via a memorandum which was circulated which described the project, along with maps and plans showing the location of proposed flood alleviation works and providing illustrations on the earthen berms planned for the ponds in Tymon Park. At the consultation events, a presentation was made, maps and plans were on display and members of the Project Team were on hand to answer questions and receive further information on the project. There were a number of attendees at each of the meetings and the number of attendees is provided in **Table 2-2**.

All of the public consultation and information events were widely advertised to the public in advance through advertisements on the project website, leaflet drops, poster campaigns, media posts, emails and social media accounts as outlined in this Report.

2.3.3 Public Information Events Following Submission of the Application

Two further public events were held after the submission of the planning application to An Bord Pleanála. These meetings were held on the 10th and 12th of March 2020, approximately 47 people in attendance over the course of the two days. As was the case

at the previous public information events, the overall sentiment was positive for the Scheme with the majority of individuals raising queries about their property and works in their local area. Each of the meetings were attended by the scheme's Project Manager and the consultants Nicholas O'Dwyer Ltd. (NOD) Project Manager who were on hand to answer any questions or to clarify any issues. The project Ecologist also in attendance on the 10th of March 2020 to answer any questions in relation to impacts on biodiversity or ecology.

The scheme's Project Manager attended a follow up meeting with residents of St. Martin's Drive at their request on the 18th June 2020. This meeting was also attended by residents of Poddle Park. There were approximately 15 people in attendance at this event.

2.3.4 Recorded Attendances

Below find **Table 3-2** from **EIAR Chapter 3, Section 3.4.2.1** updated to include the Council's public information events that were held after submission of the planning application.

Table 2-2. Updated Table for Consultation Event Attendances

Event	Date	Number of Attendees
Stage 1 Public Information events		
<i>Dublin City Council Civic Offices</i>	03/12/18	12
<i>Mt. Argus Parish Centre</i>	03/12/18	17
<i>South Dublin County Council Offices</i>	04/12/18	2
<i>Pavillion, Tymon Park</i>	04/12/18	8
Stage 2 Public Information events		
<i>Mt. Argus Parish Centre</i>	16/01/20	52
<i>Pavillion, Tymon Park</i>	20/01/20	19
Public Information events – post planning application submission		
<i>TASC Pavilion</i>	10/03/20	16
<i>South Dublin County Council Offices</i>	10/03/20	4
<i>Harold's Cross National School</i>	12/03/20	18
<i>Dublin City Council SE Area Office</i>	12/03/20	9
Councillors/TDs attending public events	Joan Collins TD Mary Freehill (DCC) Tara Deacy (DCC) Pamela Kearns (SDCC) Carly Bailey (SDCC) Carolyn Moore (DCC)	

Event	Date	Number of Attendees
	Senator Catherine Ardagh Cllr Pat Dunne (DCC) Senator Mary Seery Kearney (SDCC Cllr at the time)	

2.3.5 Issues Raised

At the Public Information events held after submission to An Bord Pleanála, the overall sentiment was positive for the Scheme. Concerns similar to those mentioned in the **EIAR Chapter 3, Section 3.4.2.2** were raised and were addressed by the scheme's Project Manager and NOD's Project Manager. Topics of concern centered on current development (Mount Argus), planned development (Templeogue Badminton Club), maintenance of channels, weir control at Tymon, and surface water drainage issues (Mount Argus Road), defense extents at Grosvenor/Wainsfort Manor, changes in access, antisocial behaviour, loss of trees and impact on habitats. Some individuals had questions specific to their own properties and related to reinstatement works in their own areas.

Through the consultation phase, amendments were made to the design of Scheme following feedback from the public as well as key stakeholders. Examples of this include:

- Inclusion of a meander on channel re-alignment at Whitehall from discussions with Inland Fisheries Ireland.
- Not running a footpath from Whitehall through to Wainsfort Manor as a number of residents did not want this.
- Inclusion of an angled concrete cap on the reinforcing walls at Wainsfort to prevent people being able to climb the wall (Planning Drawing No. RPFS-NOD-01-XX-DR-CC-08152).
- Change in original proposal for Ravensdale Park as described in EIAR Chapter 4 from consultations with DCC Parks and Realm.
- Wall alignment at St Martin's in the preferred option following discussions with residents as described in EIAR Chapter 4 and response to RFI No. 6.
- Change in wall finish at Ravensdale following planning submission from feedback received during statutory PID's.

2.3.6 Attendance at Information Events held by others

In early November 2019, the Project Manager met with members of the Crumlin Clean Up Group to discuss concerns and to answer questions they had in relation to the Scheme. A public information event was held on the 28th November 2019 in The Four Provinces, Kimmage, hosted by Cllr. Tara Deacy. The Scheme's Project Manager and the consultants (NOD) Project Manager gave a presentation of the proposals at this event, which was attended by approximately 40 local residents/Councillors and a Senator.

A follow up information event was organised by the SDCC and DCC in conjunction with Cllr. Deacy in the Mount Argus Parish Centre from 2pm until 6pm on 18th December 2019. The scheme's Project Manager, NOD's Project Manager, a Senior Engineer from DCC and

engineers from the OPW Flood Risk Management Section were to answer any questions from the public. Over 25 people attended this event over the course of the afternoon.

Another public information event was organised by Crumlin Clean Up Group on the 26th January 2020 where approximately 60 people and 3 Dublin Councillors attended over the course of the event. A Senior Engineer from DCC gave a presentation on the Scheme design and was on hand to answer any questions.

2.3.7 Engagement with Council Officials and Elected Members

As outlined in **EIAR Chapter 3, Section 3.5** and **3.6**, the project team worked collaboratively with the Steering Group and elected members throughout the course of the project design, preparation of the EIAR and following submission of the EIAR. In addition to the updates provided at each of the SDCC/DCC area committee meetings (see **EIAR Chapter 3, Section 3.5.1.1**), the Scheme's Project Manager communicated with local councillors and elected members and local T.Ds via email, providing details of upcoming information events and updates to the scheme.

Over the course of the scheme, the Poddle FAS Project Manager and individual Steering Group members facilitated discussions with officers from planning, engineering, roads, drainage sections, public realm and heritage sections in the two Councils. Further engagement with council officials has been undertaken since submission to ABP.

A meeting was held with SDCC Public realm on the 28th August 2020 to discuss SDCC's tree replacement, biodiversity and landscape enhancements with the SDCC Senior Parks Superintendent in attendance. Meetings were also held with DCC Parks in Ravensdale Park/St Martins Drive on the 3rd September 2020 to start discussions on landscaping. Another meeting was held on 14th September 2020 with members of the DCC public realm, CSR, OPW, NOD and the scheme's Project Manager attending to discuss construction methods, tree replacements, reinstatement works and biodiversity enhancements in Ravensdale Park and St Martin's Drive. Further meetings were held with SDCC's and DCC's biodiversity officers, NM Ecology and NOD on 22nd September 2020 to further discuss biodiversity enhancements. A workshop was held with SDCC Public Realm and the Dublin Urban Rivers Life Project Manager in Tymon Park on 27th August 2020 on the ICW. A further virtual workshop was held on 7th October 2020.

3 COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

Further to **Chapter 3 of the EIAR**, this section provides further evidence and records of the communication strategy that was implemented to inform the public of the various aspects of the Poddle FAS.

3.1 Project Launch and Early Stages

Early information on the Poddle FAS was published in local newspapers, on social media, on the Poddle FAS website (after its launch in October 2018 by the then Minister of State for the OPW and Flood Relief, Kevin 'Boxer' Moran) and on the SDCC website. Newspaper articles were published on 31st May 2018 in the Dublin Gazette and The Echo newspapers which gave introductory details and explained the need for the scheme. The Poddle FAS website was launched in October 2018. This event was advertised through media posts on the SDCC website and on various social media platforms (**Appendix 2-2**).

3.2 Project Website and SDCC Consultation Portal

A project website was launched on 24th October 2018, www.poddlefas.ie. This website contains project information and provides updates as they become available. This website has been a means of communicating with the public since the application has been submitted to the Board and will continue to do so as the project progresses through planning and during the construction phase. A project email address has been set up (info@poddlefas.ie) where interested parties can send submissions and request information. In all cases emails are responded to or directed to relevant persons in SDCC or DCC for response. Queries were responded to by direct email, phone calls or at meetings. The SDCC Consultation Portal has also been a means of communicating with the public during the statutory consultation period. As of September 2020, a database of approximately 160 emails has been compiled by the Poddle FAS and this database has been used as a means of contacting the public, local TDs, Senators and SDCC and DCC Councillors who have attended previous public information meetings or who have requested to be contacted about future information related to the Poddle FAS. SDCC's Consultation Portal also contained project information on public consultation events and provided updates to notify the public of extensions to the public consultation period that was caused as a result of COVID-19 emergency measures.

All documents including project reports, drawings and photomontages that were on display at the public information days are available on the project website (<http://www.poddlefas.ie/>).

3.2.1 Response to Online Queries made through the Poddle FAS Website

Any questions or queries made through the Poddle FAS website were addressed directly by the scheme's Project Manager or by the NOD Project Manager. A total of 46 queries were sent through the Poddle FAS website between October 2018 and August 2020. **Table 3-1** provides details of the queries made to the Poddle FAS website:

Table 3-1. Topic of Queries Made to the Poddle FAS website.

Topic of Query	No.
Request for Information on Plans	11
Request to be added to contact list	8
Public Consultation Enquiries	8
General Queries*	6
Flooding Extent and Property	4
Trees	4
Information of submission deadline/submission extension	2
Expression of Support	1
Anti-Social Behaviour	1

Topic of Query	No.
Expression of Objection	1

* General queries such as request for access to gated areas and some clarification on different aspects

A majority of the queries made via the project website were in relation to requests for information on certain aspects of the Scheme and requests to be added to the mailing list for future correspondence. Queries were responded to by direct email, phone calls or at meetings arranged on foot of a query. Emails containing technical questions were directed to NOD's Project Manager and any general questions were directed to the Project Manager directly and were responded to accordingly.

3.2.2 Response to Direct Emails

Between November 2018 and July 2020, numerous queries were made by local residents, business owners, councillors, residents' groups and community groups to the Scheme's Project Manager via direct email. Most queries were related to requests for information on how the project would affect certain properties, requests to be added to mailing lists, meeting requests and information on consultation days. Emails were also sent directly from the Project Manager to local Councillors with project updates and details of information days.

A register of all emails sent to the project website and to the Project Manager directly is maintained by SDCC and can be provided upon request. Due to the volume of communications and the size of the file they have not been appended to this RFI response.

3.3 Information About Public Information Events

3.3.1 Leaflet Drops

The councils' public information events were advertised by leaflet drops to businesses and households, on social media platforms, the Poddle FAS website, SDCC's website and direct emails were sent to approximately 160 no. email addresses of persons who requested to be informed of future project updates. Flyers for the public consultation events were placed in approximately 90 businesses from Templeogue to Harold's Cross. The leaflet distribution numbers for the statutory meetings held in March 2020 were:

- Castle Park/ Tymon – 545
- Perrystown/Templeogue – 1,883
- Harold's Cross/Kimmage – 8,806

Public information events were advertised by localised leaflet drops, on social media platforms, the SDCC website, emails to councilors, and by email where a request had been made to do so or where people had attended previous information sessions. A leaflet drop was carried out on the 10th and 11th of January 2020 to advertise the public information events that were held on the 16th and 20th of January 2020. These leaflets were dropped in the letter boxes of approximately 1,500 homes and businesses in the areas Castle Park / Tymon Park, Perrystown / Templeogue and Harold's Cross / Kimmage/Osprey Lawn.

3.3.2 Social Media Campaign

From November 2018 to June 2020, SDCC engaged in a social media campaign on the Council's Twitter, Facebook and Instagram pages which have approximately 14,800, 20,000 and 3,000 followers respectively. All social media posts would have appeared on the news section of SDCC's website. This information was also shared across DCC and OPW social media platforms informing an even wider audience.

Social media advertising included information on statutory consultation events, extensions to the consultation period and general information on the project. Details of social media posts are summarised in **Table 3-2** and further details can be found in **Appendix 2-2**, which also contains details of how the public information events were advertised including leaflet drops, posters, newspaper articles and social media posts.

Table 3-2. Summary of Social Media Posts - October 2018 to August 2020

Twitter	Facebook	Instagram
24/10/2018*	27/10/2018*	24/10/2018*
26/10/2018*	29/11/2018**	
29/11/2018**	26/01/2019*	
04/12/2018**	13/03/2019*	
26/01/2019*	26/03/2019*	
13/03/2019*	01/04/2019*	
19/03/2019*	10/04/2019*	
01/04/2019*	16/10/2019*	
10/04/2019*	16/12/2019**	
16/10/2019*	19/12/2019**	
16/12/2019**	11/01/2020**	
19/12/2019**	13/01/2020**	
11/01/2020**	15/01/2020*	
13/01/2020**	16/01/2020**	
15/01/2020*	18/01/2020**	
16/01/2020**	20/01/2020**	
18/01/2020**	17/02/2020*	
20/01/2020**	27/02/2020*	

Twitter	Facebook	Instagram
17/02/2020*	03/03/2020^	
27/02/2020*	06/03/2020^	
03/03/2020^	09/03/2020^	
06/03/2020^	10/03/2020^^	
09/03/2020^	11/03/2020^	
10/03/2020**	06/04/2020^^	
11/03/2020^	28/04/2020^^	
06/04/2020^^	19/05/2020^^	
22/04/2020^^		
28/04/2020^^		
07/05/2020^^		
18/05/2020^^		
19/05/2020^^		
24/05/2020^^		
29/05/2020^^		
05/06/2020^^		

Key:

* General Information

** Details for Public Information Events

^ Details for Statutory Consultation Events

^^ Details on extension to the Statutory Consultation Period

4 EXTENSIONS TO STATUTORY CONSULTATION PERIOD

As a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency, the government ordered a number of measures under Section 251A(5) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended. Among these measures was an Order to extend the consultation period for planning applications for which the public consultation period was still open.

The original consultation period for the planning application for the proposed River Poddle FAS was due to expire on the 16th April 2020. The Order, which was extended and then further extended, meant that deadline for statutory consultation on the River Poddle FAS concluded on the 11th June 2020.

Efforts to inform the public of the extended consultation period, and on how to view the application documentation, were made through letter drops, social media platforms,

SDCC’s website, the Poddle FAS website, emails and newspaper notices. Samples of the notifications made are provided in **Appendix 2-4**.

- A notification email was sent to each email address on the Poddle FAS database (approximately 160 no.) informing them each time the consultation process had been extended.
- Notifications were posted on the Poddle FAS website, the SDCC consultation portal, the DCC website and on social media platforms.
- Letters were distributed to local residents and businesses notifying them of the extension to the public consultation period deadline. These letter drops were distributed to the Castle Park / Tymon, Perrystown / Templeogue and Harold’s Cross / Kimmage areas.
- Newspaper advertisement in The Echo and the Irish Independent on 21st May 2020 on the further extended deadline. The extension was not advertised in the Dublin Gazette as it had suspended circulation at the time of the re-advertisement and was only available on-line.
- New site notices were erected at all locations on two occasions: on 28th April 2020 to notify the public of the extension to the 28th of May 2020, and again on the 11th May 2020 to show the extension to 11th June 2020.

5 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

EIAR Chapter 3 and this Consultations Report outline the efforts that were made by SDCC and DCC to inform the public, local residents, local TDs, Senators and elected members of both councils of the Poddle FAS. Public consultation events relating to the Eastern CFRAM Study and the Poddle FAS have been held since 2012. A series of public information events and consultation days were held by SDCC and DCC where members of the public and local residents were welcome to come and voice their concerns or ask questions relating to the proposals. Information on the Poddle FAS and events relating to the Scheme were widely circulated by a series of leaflet drops, social media posts, media posts, emails, posters, local area committee meetings, SDCC website posts, DCC website posts and Poddle FAS website posts.

This Consultations Report, and the Appendices contained herein, provide an abundance of evidence of proactive engagement, communication and consultation with the public from the early days of the CFRAM Study, continuing throughout 2018 to the present day in relation to the proposed Poddle FAS.