



C86/3/18/2

Mr Tim Lucey
Chief Executive Officer
Cork County Council
County Hall
Carrigrohane Road
Cork

River Bride (Blackpool) Certified Drainage Scheme
Arterial Drainage Acts 1945 and 1995

Dear Mr Lucey,

A drainage scheme has been prepared by the Commissioners of Public Works and Cork County Council under the Arterial Drainage Act, 1945, as amended by the Arterial Drainage (Amendment) Act, 1995 for the River Bride (Blackpool) Drainage Scheme and the Scheme will be on Public Exhibition from 24th November to 22nd December, 2015 at the Blackpool Public Library. This scheme is being undertaken for the purpose of preventing or substantially reducing the periodical localised flooding of lands, properties and roads in and around Blackpool, Cork.

The Scheme measures are mainly conveyance improvements and direct defences which include the following:

- New walls
- New embankments
- New culverts
- Replacement of three bridges
- Channel clearance and maintenance
- Infilling of some open sections of channels
- Associated drainage works

The scheme as proposed comes within the thresholds specified in the European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations, 1999 (S.I. No. 93 of 1999), which require that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIS) be carried out and an EIS has been published as part of the scheme documentation.

The public exhibition process for localised flood relief schemes is, by statute, required to last a minimum of 14 days. However, in the public interest in Blackpool, OPW decided to put the scheme on public exhibition for a period of four weeks.

Members of the design team along with our environmental consultants will be available on specific dates in the Blackpool Community Centre, 90 Great William O'Brien Street, Blackpool during the exhibition to meet with and explain the schemes proposals to members of the public. Separate notices of the actual attendance dates and times are being published in the local newspapers and will be broadcast on an ongoing basis on Local Radio during the course of the Exhibition period.

I enclose a copy of Section 5 of the 1945 Act and Section 5 of the 1995 Act for reference, from which you will note that the Councils will be required to examine and consider the drainage scheme as a reserved function of the Council and to submit any observations to this Office within one month of the publication of the notice of the exhibition details in the *Iris Óifigiúil*, on the 17th November, 2015. However, we will accept observations up to the 2nd February 2016.

We forward herewith a copy of the statutory scheme documentation to you for examination and scrutiny by your Council as part of the formal exhibition process. This scheme documentation should be made available for the public to view by the Council in your Offices. We shall be glad if you will furnish any observations you may wish to make on the scheme as quickly as possible.

For your information, copies of the EIS and the Non-Technical Summary will be available to download from the project website www.lowerleefrs.ie, or in CD format from the Office of Public Works, Flood Projects Management Services, 52 St. Stephen's Green, Dublin 2.

Yours sincerely



John Kelly
Flood Projects Management Services
23rd November 2015