

Dear Ms Dalton

I would like to acknowledge receipt of your Observation in relation to the above Scheme and thank you for same.

I have passed your comments on to our consultants for their consideration and they will revert in due course.

Kind regards,

Claire

On 07/04/2017 17:44, Marcia D'Alton wrote:

Dear Ms Anderson,

I wish to express my concern at the apparent ethos behind the Flood Relief Scheme proposed by the OPW/Arup for Cork City.

The River Lee was at the genesis of the Cork City and it must remain its life-giving artery. Every aspect of the river needs to be celebrated; its historical walls and railings cherished as steps of history that brought our city and its inhabitants to where they are now. These elements of irreplaceable heritage ground us as residents in a world that is bigger than ourselves and our time. We must live with the river; it must join, not divide us.

Such concepts are critical to the wellbeing of Cork as a city and of its residents.

It is my grave concern that the consultants tasked with engineering a solution to a flooding river may indeed have set out to service that brief. But in doing so, they may have limited their investigations to issues which relate solely to overflowing water. The river has so many other aspects, none of which are part of the flood relief remit. Although there are many who are very negatively impacted by the river's flooding, this is part of what rivers do. So if we want to celebrate our river, we cannot destroy centuries of heritage and confine it within walls to protect ourselves against something which is natural to it.

Surely far more beneficial to look at solutions to flooding being incorporated into the lifestyle of cities such as Cologne, Germany where, whilst the river is embraced for most of the year, ferries and mobile flood defence systems are prepared to protect against its occasional excesses.

We do construction well in Ireland. We boast of the projects we complete and the jobs delivered through construction. Flood relief is not just about construction. It involves social engineering and we do not do that equally well in Ireland at all. I ask sincerely that we search outside the realm of our construction and domestic expertise to re-examine the River Lee in the context of its intrinsic value to Cork City so that we may devise solutions to its occasional containment that celebrate the river, cherish and reinvigorate our river-related heritage, optimise river recreational use and expose its magnificent landscape.

Yours sincerely,

Marcia D'Alton.

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