

Fermoy Weir and Fish Bypass Channel

April 2021

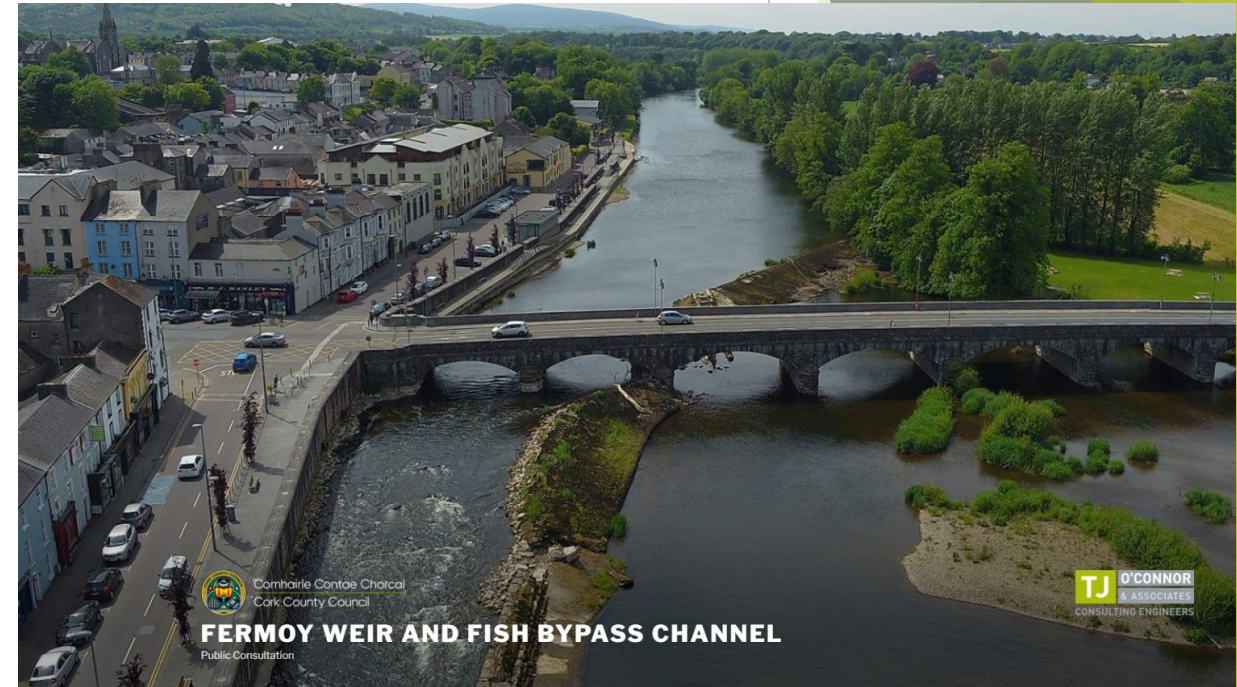
Overview of Presentation

- ▶ Overview of Public Consultation Process
- ▶ What the Process Comprised
- ▶ Submissions Received
- ▶ Recurring Issues / Themes Raised
- ▶ Outcome / Recommended Option
- ▶ Next Steps



Overview of Public Consultation Process

- ▶ Commenced on Friday, November 6th 2020.
- ▶ Concluded on Friday 18th December 2020.
- ▶ Included a 2 week extension as requested by stakeholder group representatives due to Covid-19 restrictions.
- ▶ Project website (www.fermoyweir.ie) was set up to help facilitate the public consultation process.



What the Process Comprised

- ▶ Overview of the options was presented on the website.
 - ▶ 2 No. options for weir remediation.
 - ▶ 9 No. options for fish passage.
- ▶ Preliminary Options Report uploaded to project website with further details on options.
- ▶ Presentation to MD in September 2020 also uploaded.
- ▶ Public and relevant stakeholders feedback on options considered was encouraged by Cork Co Co.
- ▶ Purpose was to elicit the views and opinions of the public, concerned parties and prescribed bodies on options considered before commencing planning application and environmental studies.



Submissions Received

- ▶ 106 No. submissions received through combination of project website and hardcopy submissions to Cork Co Co.
- ▶ 35 No. expressed a preference for a particular option.
- ▶ 68 No. of the submissions expressed no preference for a particular option.
- ▶ Summary of preferred options identified in submissions in table below;

No Preference	OPTION No						Additional Option*
	1	3	4	5	7	9	10
	Do Nothing	Remediate Existing Fish Pass	Complete Removal of Weir	In-River Rock Ramp	Near Natural Bypass Channel	Rough Channel pool Bypass	Chester Weir type
68	1	21	2	1	2	6	3

* Chester Weir type solution

Recurring Themes / Issues Raised

- ▶ Number of recurring themes/issues were raised;
 1. Weir remediation.
 2. Mill Race (water flowing down this section).
 3. Remediate existing fish ladder.
 4. Restore upstream water levels.
 5. Safety - desire that any new fish pass does not create danger for leisure and amenity users.
 6. Visual impact - minimised.
 7. Habitat and ecology.



Outcome / Recommended Option

- ▶ Process generated significant interest.
- ▶ Large No. of submissions expressed a preference for particular option, highlighted particular issues of concern or suggested additions or alternatives for consideration.
- ▶ Submissions were reviewed in detail with main concerns, issues and proposals addressed in the Public Consultation Summary Report.
- ▶ Having reviewed submissions, the recommended option is remediation of the weir, mill race and original fish pass and construction of a Rough Channel Pool Bypass (Option 9).
- ▶ Option 9 best satisfies the project objectives of providing fish passage to comply with requirements of Habitats Directive.
- ▶ Concerns raised by public re upstream water levels, safety, etc. can be assessed in detail through Computational Fluid Dynamic modelling during detailed design stage.

Next Steps

- ▶ Public Consultation Summary Report will be uploaded to project website for public information/viewing.
- ▶ Development of the preliminary design proposal for the rough channel pool pass (Option 9).
- ▶ Commence environmental reports (AA & NIS) due to proposed works in River Blackwater SAC.
- ▶ Commence CFD modelling for recommended rough channel pool pass option.
- ▶ Prepare planning drawings and documentation for planning submission to An Bord Pleanála.

Thank You