

NOTICE OF AN APPLICATION TO AN BORD PLEANÁLA PURSUANT TO SECTION 226 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 (AS AMENDED)

Wicklow County Council proposes to apply for approval from An Bord Pleanála pursuant to Section 226 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) for the following proposed development:

Arklow Flood Relief Scheme

The proposed works will be located in Arklow Town north and south of the Avoca River. To the south of the Avoca River, works will take place from just west of St. Mary's (Main Street) Car Park along River Walk, to Arklow Bridge (a protected structure: RPS A26), along South Quay and around Arklow Dock in the Harbour area. To the north of the Avoca River, works will take place along the eastern side of Arklow Town Marsh adjacent to the Avoca River and to the rear of properties fronting onto Ferrybank and the Dublin Road. Works will take place at Arklow Bridge (a protected structure: RPS A26), and in the Avoca River. Associated ancillary works will take place on adjacent streets. The proposed works are located in the townlands of Arklow, Tinahask Lower, Marsh, Ferrybank and Tiknock.

The proposed development will comprise of the following elements:

- Works at Arklow Bridge, a protected structure (RPS A26), including the underpinning of the piers and southern abutment, removal of existing concrete scour protection slab and lowering the floor of Arklow Bridge by approximately 1m, construction of new concrete scour protection slab and remedial works to bridge masonry;
- River dredging works to improve channel capacity comprising dredging of the river channel from approximately 320m upstream of Arklow Bridge to approximately 520m downstream of Arklow Bridge including removal of in- river sandbanks and vegetated islands north of Arklow Bridge and trimming of vegetation along the north bank between the debris trap and Arklow Bridge; and occasional future maintenance as required of the river channel by dredging, estimated to be at 10-year intervals.
- Extension into the river channel by circa 12m along an approximate 75m length of the northern river bank upstream of Arklow Bridge.
- Construction of debris and gravel traps in the river channel upstream of Arklow Bridge, and a permanent river access ramp for their maintenance on the south bank of the Avoca River adjacent to the junction of River Lane and River Walk. Annual maintenance of the debris trap and gravel trap using a temporary in-river haul road.
- Flood Defences on the south bank of the Avoca River including:
 - Demolition of existing walls and river access and provision of approximately 325m of flood defence concrete finish wall founded on sheet piles and concrete foundations with intermittent glass panels upstream on River Walk from just west of St. Mary's (Main Street) Car Park to Arklow Bridge;
 - Demolition of some existing walls, provision of approximately 655m of flood defence concrete finish wall founded on sheet piles and concrete foundations with a glass panel at the former Tyrells yard slipway, and modifications to approximately 20m of existing wall downstream of Arklow Bridge, on South Quay and on the western and southern sides of the Dock); *and*
 - At the Dock, in the Harbour area, installation of demountable flood barriers at two locations to allow access to the shipyard and the public slipway, which will normally be maintained in a closed position.
- Flood Defences on the north bank of the Avoca River including approximately 545m flood defence earthen embankment with adjoining maintenance track in Arklow Town Marsh close to its eastern boundary and approximately 60m sheet-piled wall with concrete cap to be constructed upstream of Arklow Bridge's north western abutment, and realignment and reforming/reinforcing both banks of the existing channel where it enters the Avoca River to the west of the Avoca Bridge. Permanent access road from Dublin Road to maintenance track.
- Removal of existing public realm at River Walk and South Quay including demolition of the river access at the junction of River Lane and River Walk and a disused slipway (referred to as Coal Quay) on South Quay, existing footpaths, lighting, parking spaces and seating. Provision of new public realm at River Walk and South Quay including parking spaces, footpaths, amenity/viewing area, lighting, planters and floating pontoon. Provision of additional urban space extending approximately 6m into the river on South Quay immediately south of the Arklow Bridge for a length of approximately 260m. Provision of additional urban space extending between approximately 0m and 6m into the river on River Walk for a length of approximately 100m.
- Temporary works including establishing six site compounds: northeast edge of Arklow Town Marsh with access from the Dublin Road; on lands between the running track and Mill Road; on land between the River and the roundabout located at the junction of Arklow Bridge, Ferrybank and North Quay; on part of the St Marys (Main Street) Car Park; on lands between the eastern end of North Quay and North Pier: and on lands between Arklow Golf Club and South Beach. These six site compounds will operate over the duration of the works and will facilitate the construction of the scheme and archaeological examination and temporary stockpiling of excavated and dredged material. River access for construction will take place at North Quay, South Quay, River Walk and north-west of Arklow Bridge.
- The proposed works includes for road reconstruction, road regrading, traffic calming, alterations and additions to the surface water drainage network including three pump stations and non-return valves at the river discharge points on River Walk/South Quay, provision of a section of sewer for others in River Walk/South Quay, diversion of utilities including electricity cables in Arklow Town Marsh, tree felling, tree trimming, tree planting, landscaping, local riverbed raising, installation of floating roosting platforms for birds upstream of Arklow Bridge and all associated and ancillary works.

The proposed development is subject to a separate application to the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage for a foreshore lease and licence.

Both an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) have been prepared in respect of the proposed development.

A copy of application for approval, the EIAR and the NIS may be inspected free of charge, or may be purchased on payment of a specified fee (which fee shall not exceed the reasonable cost of making such a copy) during public opening hours for a period of no less than 6 weeks from 4th June 2021 to 23rd July 2021 (inclusive of both dates), at the following locations:

- The Offices of An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, D01 V902
- Arklow Library, Main Street, Arklow, Co Wicklow, Y14 PY61
- Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Whitegates, Wicklow Town, A67 FW96

The application plans and particulars, the EIAR and the NIS may also be viewed or downloaded from the following website:
<https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Your-Council/Municipal-Districts/Arklow/FRS>.

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage EIA portal:

<http://housinggovie.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=d7d5a3d48f104ecbb206e7e5f84b71f1> provides a link to the application.

Submissions or observations may be made in writing only to An Bord Pleanála ('the Board') 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, D01 V902 in respect of:

- (i) The implications of the proposed development for proper planning and sustainable development,
- (ii) The likely effects on the environment of the proposed development, and
- (iii) The likely significant effects of the proposed development on a European site, if carried out.

Any submissions / observations must be accompanied by a fee of **€50** (except for certain prescribed bodies) and must be received in writing by the Board not later than 5.30 p.m. on **23rd July 2021**. Such submissions or observations must include the following information:

1. The name of the person, authority or body making the submission or observation, the name of the person, if any, acting on behalf of that person, authority or body, and the address to which any correspondence relating to the application should be sent,
2. The subject matter of the submission or observation, and
3. The reasons, considerations and arguments on which the submission or observation is based in full.

An Bord Pleanála may approve, approve subject to conditions, or refuse the proposed development.

Any person may question the validity of any such decision of the Board made in respect of the application for permission by way of an application for judicial review, under Order 84 of the Rule of the Superior Courts (S.I. No. 15 of 1986, as amended by S.I. No. 691 of 2011), in accordance with Section 175(4)(a) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended. Practical information on the review mechanism can be accessed under the heading Publications – Judicial Review Notice on the Board's website www.pleanala.ie or on the Citizens Information Service website www.citizensinformation.ie.

Any enquiries relating to the application process should be directed to An Bord Pleanála (Telephone: 01 8588100).

Breege Kilkenny, Director of Services, Wicklow County Council.