

April 2018



# Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant Public Consultation Phase 3 Report

A Plan for the Future of Water Services



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# 1 Introduction

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## 1.1 Project Background

Arklow is one of 44 towns identified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in their 2014 Urban Wastewater Report, where wastewater is discharged without any treatment. In the case of Arklow, untreated wastewater is discharged into the Avoca River which flows through Arklow Town.

This practice of discharging untreated wastewater to the river is no longer acceptable and Irish Water intends to fix this problem in partnership with Wicklow County Council. Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant (WwTP) will bring benefits to Arklow in terms of health, integrity of the environment and improved water quality for all.

Irish Water intends to develop the Arklow WwTP Project; which includes:

- A new wastewater treatment plant at the old Wall Board Factory site located on North Quay, Ferrybank which will treat an estimated 36,000 PE (population equivalent) and includes associated infrastructure such as pumping station(s);
- Interceptor sewer pipelines (along the North and South Quays) to bring the untreated wastewater to the WwTP; and
- A marine outfall pipe to safely discharge the treated wastewater effluent to the Irish Sea.

## 1.2 Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this Consultation Report is to document stakeholder feedback from the third phase of public consultation. This feedback along with a technical and environmental assessment will feed into the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) which will accompany the application for planning approval for the Project.

Irish Water would like to thank those who participated in providing submissions via the project information service or by attending one of the two drop-in information events held during this phase of consultation.

It is expected that Irish Water will submit a planning application to An Bord Pleanála, complete with an EIAR in 2018.

## 2 Consultation and Engagement

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### 2.1 Public Consultation to Date

Prior to the phase of Public Consultation addressed in this Report, two phases of public consultation have been undertaken. The consultation on the Arklow WwTP project to date has been non-statutory. Non-statutory consultation is not required by law but it is undertaken by the project team to provide opportunity for the public to inform the development of the project before the planning application is made to An Bord Pleanála.

#### 2.1.1 Public Consultation Phase 1 (October – December 2014)

The first stage of public consultation on the Arklow WwTP Project took place over eight weeks from 15 October 2014 to 12 December 2014. Members of the public were asked to participate by giving their views on the following:

- What do you think of the process and constraints used in identifying the three potential locations?
- What do you think of the three potential locations chosen?
- What do you think should be considered in choosing the final location?
- How would you like to be communicated with as the project progresses?

This stage of public consultation was important in the development of the Project, as it offered an opportunity for early engagement with members of the public and interested groups and organisations. It also provided the opportunity for members of the public to participate and share their knowledge of the area and local information with the Project Team. It helped the Project Team to further refine a number of Emerging Preferred Sites for the WwTP.

At the end of the consultation period, all submissions were reviewed by the Project Team in order to identify the key issues. The main issues that were identified included:

- Further investigation was required on Shelton Abbey/IFI land parcel in reference to:
  - i. Potential for the use of the site for the Project;
  - ii. Potential for a river discharge;
  - iii. Extent of flood plain at site;
  - iv. Possible soil/land contamination within the site.
- Further investigation was required on the Ferrybank/Old Wallboard land parcel in reference to:
  - i. Possible soil/land contamination within the site;
  - ii. Building materials to be used.

This feedback was taken on board by the Project Team and fed into the development of the Phase 2 Report.

The full copy of the Consultation Report is available on the Irish Water website.

### **2.1.2 Public Consultation Phase 2 (May – July 2015)**

The second stage of non-statutory public consultation on the Arklow WwTP Project took place over eight weeks from 15 May 2015 to 10 July 2015. Members of the public were asked to participate by giving their views on the following:

- What are your views on the Emerging Preferred Site at Ferrybank, (Old Wallboard Site) route pipeline and outfall location?
- What are your views on the process for selecting the Emerging Preferred Site, route pipeline and outfall location?
- Do you have any comments on the alternative sites, route pipeline and outfall locations?
- Is there any other information you believe is relevant to the selection of the Emerging Preferred Site, route pipeline and outfall location?
- How would you like to be communicated with as the project progresses?

At the end of the consultation period, all submissions were reviewed by the Project Team in order to identify the key issues. Some of the main issues identified during this second phase of public consultation included location, proximity to town, community burden, tourism, environmental impacts, odour, noise, risk and health, amongst others. New information about an existing planning permission that is still in date at the waterfront area was also brought to light.

Again, this feedback was taken on board and used in developing the project further.

The full copy of the Consultation Report is available on the Irish Water website.

## 3 Public Consultation Phase 3 (October – November 2017)

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### 3.1 Introduction

The third and final phase of non-statutory public consultation on the Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant Project took place over five weeks from 11 October 2017 to 15 November 2017.

On 18 October 2017, an EIA Scoping Report was made available on the Irish Water website. The purpose of the report was to describe the proposed development and outline the level of detail and information to be included in the EIA Report. The report described the key elements of the proposed development, baseline conditions and sensitivities, identified likely significant effects and provided an outline of the proposed EIA Report. Feedback on the topics outlined in Section 3.2 is then sought from consultees to inform the content and scope of the EIA Report.

The third consultation provided the opportunity for members of the public and interested stakeholders to participate and inform the application for planning approval for the proposed Arklow WwTP at the Old Wallboard Factory, North Quay, Ferrybank. The consultation therefore focused on the design of the plant in addition to relevant issues to be addressed in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), which will be submitted as part of the planning approval documentation to An Bord Pleanála in 2018.

### 3.2 Feedback Topics for Public Consultation 3

As part of the five-week public consultation period (11 October – 15 November 2017), the Project Team asked stakeholders to provide feedback on the following aspects of the project:

- This new plant will change how the area looks. We are currently finalising the design of the plant.
- We are currently developing the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR).

### 3.3 Consultation Guidelines

The Arklow WwTP Project Team aimed to ensure that all engagement with stakeholders:

- Was open and transparent;
- Demonstrated what stage the Project was at;
- Ensured the stakeholders were aware of the issues that were open for consultation during this phase as per the feedback topics; and

- Detailed how public participation would be facilitated and how stakeholder feedback would be managed and utilised.

### 3.4 Channels of Communication

A range of communication and information channels were utilised to facilitate public participation throughout this third phase of consultation. These are described in the following sections.

#### 3.4.1 Information Service

Since the Project commencement in 2014, members of the public and interested stakeholders had, and continue to have, the opportunity to contact the Project Communications Team online or in writing through:

- Email: [arklowtp@water.ie](mailto:arklowtp@water.ie)
- Post: Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant Project  
Irish Water  
Colvill House  
24 - 26 Talbot Street  
Dublin 1
- Phone: 089 228 5902 (9am - 5pm, Monday – Friday)

Stakeholders could sign-up to receive regular updates on the project as it developed.

This information service is operated both within and outside times of formal consultation, since the Project began in 2014 to date.

During the Public Consultation phases, this information service was utilised to capture feedback from stakeholders.

#### 3.4.2 Drop-In Information Events

In order to provide all interested parties with an opportunity to obtain information about the Project and meet with the Project Team, two drop-in information events were held during this five-week Phase 3 Consultation Period, as detailed in Table 1.

Table 1: Drop-in information event venues, dates and times

Venue	Date and Time
Arklow Municipal District Offices, Castle Park, Arklow, Co. Wicklow	Thursday, 19 October 2017, 2pm to 8pm
Arklow Municipal District Offices, Castle Park, Arklow, Co. Wicklow	Thursday, 26 October 2017, 2pm to 8pm

At each of the drop-in information events, members of the Project Team were available to engage with members of the public, listen to stakeholders' views and answer any question that arose.

Project information was made available at each drop-in information event, such as project brochures, maps showing the preferred site option, 3D model of the proposed building, large displays providing details of the preferred site option, information on public consultation, project timeline, project need, etc. Please refer to Appendix A, B and C for further details.

In addition to formal submissions received at the drop-in information events, the Project Team endeavoured to capture the views and feedback provided by stakeholders during these events as far as possible. A wide range of questions and comments were provided by stakeholders at the drop-in information events.

It is important to note that stakeholders can make submissions or provide feedback at any stage in the Project. Submissions received outside of the periods of formal consultation are reviewed and considered, even if they are not included in a formal consultation report.

## **3.5 Communication Materials**

Printed public information materials were made available as part of this phase of consultation in order to ensure that all stakeholders were aware of the project and had access to relevant project information; this is outlined below.

### **3.5.1 Project Brochure**

A community update brochure was prepared for this phase of public consultation containing information about the project. Copies of the brochure were made available in Wicklow County Council offices throughout the Public Consultation Phase 3 and were made available at each drop-in information event. Copies of the brochure were distributed to approx. 6000 homes through an insert in the Wicklow Times. A copy of the brochure was also made available on the Irish Water website.

The brochure details information on:

- Why the project is needed;
- What is involved in the project;
- What has happened since the last period of public consultation;
- What is happening now;
- Feedback topics for consultation;
- What is happening next;
- Planning Road Map;
- History of the project;
- Drop-in information event information;
- Project contact details;

A copy of the brochure can be found in Appendix A.

### **3.5.2 Posters**

Posters promoting the Public Consultation process were issued to key locations in Arklow town including Arklow Municipal District offices, Arklow Library, and Arklow Business and Enterprise Centre. The poster displayed a rendered image of the proposed WwTP and detailed information on:

- The two drop-in information events in the Arklow Municipal District Offices;
- Project contact details;
- Deadline for stakeholder feedback.

The poster can be seen in Appendix B.

### **3.5.3 Drop-in Information Event Displays**

A set of large pop-up banners were displayed at each of the drop-in information events which provided details of the project background; project timeline; project need; preferred site option; project details; project benefits; protection of the environment and human health; proposed design of WwTP; information on public consultation; as well as aerial photographs of the preferred site option and rendered images of the proposed WwTP. A copy of these banners can be found in Appendix C.

## **3.6 Publicising the Consultation**

### **3.6.1 Advertising**

An advertisement was placed in the Wicklow People on 11 October 2017 advising interested stakeholders of the consultation and included details of opportunities for engagement. A copy of the advertisement can be found in Appendix D.

### **3.6.2 Press Releases**

A press release was issued to local media in order to raise awareness of the consultation process. A copy of this press release can be found in Appendix E. The press release was issued to the following media outlets:

- Wicklow People
- Wicklow Times
- East Coast FM
- Sunshine 106.8 FM
- Press Association

### 3.6.3 Resultant Media Coverage

Details of printed media articles relating to the project and the public consultation – Phase 3 have been provided in Table 2. Copies of these media articles can be found in Appendix F.

Table 2: Print Media Coverage

Date	Publication	Page	Title
11 October 2017	Wicklow People	17	Third Consultation begins on Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant.
17 October 2017	Wicklow Times	8	Information events on Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant Project.

In addition to the information published on the Irish Water website (Section 3.6.4 below) a number of other websites published news from Arklow WwTP press releases and other materials about the project and the Phase 3 Consultation. Details of the coverage can be found in Table 3.

Table 3: Online Media Coverage

Date	Website	Title
15 July 2017	<a href="https://www.independent.ie/regionals/wicklowpeople/news/treatment-plant-plans-progressing-35919931.html">https://www.independent.ie/regionals/wicklowpeople/news/treatment-plant-plans-progressing-35919931.html</a>	Treatment plant plans progressing.
12 October 2017	<a href="http://wicklownews.net/2017/10/good-progress-made-on-arklow-wastewater-treatment-plant/">http://wicklownews.net/2017/10/good-progress-made-on-arklow-wastewater-treatment-plant/</a>	Good progress made on Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant.
12 October 2017	<a href="http://newsfeed.eastcoast.fm/2017/10/irish-water-gearing-up-to-submit.html#!/2017/10/irish-water-gearing-up-to-submit.html">http://newsfeed.eastcoast.fm/2017/10/irish-water-gearing-up-to-submit.html#!/2017/10/irish-water-gearing-up-to-submit.html</a>	Irish Water Gearing Up to Submit Planning Application for Arklow Waste Water Treatment Plant.
14 October 2017	<a href="https://www.independent.ie/regionals/wicklowpeople/news/third-consultation-begins-on-arklow-wastewater-plant-36216477.html">https://www.independent.ie/regionals/wicklowpeople/news/third-consultation-begins-on-arklow-wastewater-plant-36216477.html</a>	Third consultation begins on Arklow Wastewater plant.

### 3.6.4 Website

Information was made available on a dedicated webpage to the project on the Irish Water website (<https://www.water.ie/arklowtp/>) as part of Public Consultation Phase 3. The webpage consisted of six separate tabs containing headings as follows:

- Tab 1: Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant
  - i. Project Overview
  - ii. Project Objectives
  - iii. What does this project involve?
  - iv. What is happening now?

- v. Images of the proposed WwTP
- Tab 2: Foreshore Licence Application
  - i. Details of licence, marine site investigation works and a link to the licence application, associated maps, reports and plans.
- Tab 3: Project Benefits
  - i. The Need for the Project
  - ii. Economic Benefits
  - iii. Protecting the Environment and Health
  - iv. Images of the proposed WwTP
- Tab 4: Environment and Planning
  - i. History of the project
  - ii. Site Investigation Works
  - iii. Planning
  - iv. Publications including site assessment reports, previous consultation reports, previous consultation brochures, etc.
  - v. Aerial photograph of the site
- Tab 5: Public Participation
  - i. Public Consultation 3 Information
    - a. Drop-In Information Events
    - b. Project Brochure
  - ii. Contact details
  - iii. Option to register for updates on the project
  - iv. Public Consultation to date
- Tab 6: FAQs
  - i. Frequently Asked Questions on topics such as wastewater, project need, timeline, planning process, consultation, feedback opportunities, environmental assessments, size and location of the proposed plant, etc.

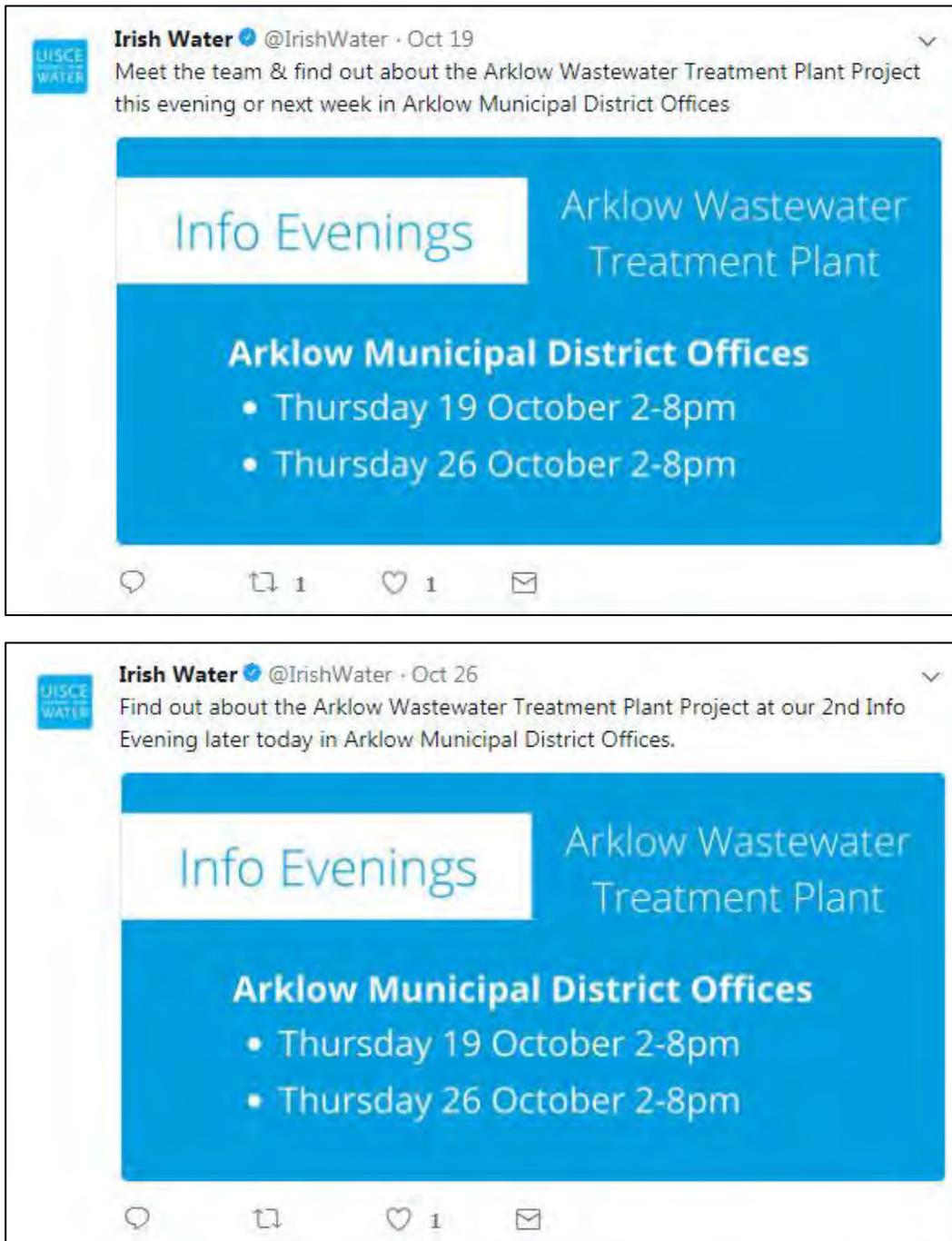
The FAQ section of the webpage was updated periodically throughout the consultation period to reflect common queries raised by stakeholders. In addition to this, all published reports and documents were made available to download from the website. The webpage also provided an opportunity for interested stakeholders to sign up online to the project electronic mailing list.

### 3.6.5 Twitter

Irish Water has a popular Twitter page with over 22,300 followers and this account has been used to promote the public consultation on Arklow WwTP.

Two ‘tweets’ were issued by the Irish Water account to promote the drop-in information events. The tweets can be seen in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Tweets to promote drop-in information events



### 3.6.6 Elected Representative Engagement

A Project Update, along with the project brochure was issued to all TDs, Ministers and Senators in Wicklow as well as all Councillors in Arklow. This Project Update detailed an introduction to the project, what has happened to date, the benefits of the project, what is happening next, details of the drop-in

information events, contact details for the Project Team as well as an offer on a specific briefing on the project.

On 17 October 2017, the Project Team provided a specific briefing within the Arklow Municipal District Offices to Elected Representatives. An Irish Water ‘Councillor Clinic’ was also held in Wicklow on 30 October 2017, which represented a further opportunity for Elected Representatives to ask questions or provide comment to the Project Team.

A copy of the Project Update issued can be seen in Appendix G.

### 3.6.7 Emails to Stakeholders

Since the commencement of the project, the Irish Water website has provided a facility whereby stakeholders have been able to subscribe to project updates. Over 80 update emails were sent to subscribed members of the public to announce the public consultation and provide details of how to participate. The text included in one of these emails can be found in Appendix H.

## 3.7 Submissions Received

Table 4 details the level of engagement that has occurred during the Phase 3 Consultation.

Table 4: Participation in Public Consultation 3

Method	Numbers
Emails	9
Letters	1
Drop-in information events (including notes taken by Project Team and written submissions handed in by stakeholders).	31

## 4 Feedback

### 4.1 Introduction

This section of the report details public participation in terms of feedback received during this public consultation period (Phase 3) which is of relevance to the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) stage of the Project. Each and every submission received has been reviewed in its entirety.

No personal data relating to individuals who made submissions is documented in this report and any such data is held in accordance with the Data Protection Act, 2003.

This report will be reviewed by the Arklow WwTP Project Team and relevant issues will be addressed (as appropriate) within the EIAR scheduled for publication in 2018. Many issues have previously been addressed in project publications, at events, meetings and in direct responses to stakeholder queries as part of this phase of public consultation.

The majority of feedback received relates to the potential impact of the proposed development on the surrounding environment, which is broadly covered by the following key aspects:

Table 5: Key Aspects

Key Aspects	
Air Quality, Odour and Climate	Population and Human Health
Aquatic Ecology and the Environment	Project Need and Benefits
Community and Socio-Economic Impacts	Proposed Development
Construction	Outfall
Consultation	Recreation and Amenity
Flooding and Storm Events	Site Selection
Health and Safety	Sludge Management
Landscape and Visual Impact	Tourism and Local Business
Noise and Vibration	Traffic and Transportation
Planning and Development	

The following sections detail stakeholder feedback; some of the issues raised are quoted directly from submissions; others are an amalgamation of similar issues raised in a number of submissions. All issues are reported alphabetically and no bias is implied by the order in which they are presented.

Some issues raised may be relevant to a number of key aspects and may therefore be addressed under a number of headings.

The following sections detail the key aspects as presented in Table 5.

## 4.2 Air Quality, Odour and Climate

Air quality and odour were raised as primary concerns by the majority of stakeholders. These concerns were raised with reference to potential odour and emission issues with the new WwTP.

One of the main queries from a number of stakeholders was whether the proposed WwTP will emit odours. Enquiries were also made about whether odour will be controlled at the site and the method by which odours will be controlled. One stakeholder expressed a concern that ‘odours will carry on wind to across the river’.

One stakeholder made reference to odour issues at Ringsend WwTP and another stakeholder pointed out that Greystones Wastewater Treatment Plant in Charlesland is having ‘terrible odour problems’.

One stakeholder expressed a concern about whether the Plant will be covered and the ‘process is open to air’.

## 4.3 Aquatic Ecology and the Environment

A number of stakeholders stated that the WwTP will have a positive impact on aquatic ecology and the fishing industry as the currently untreated wastewater reduces the water quality for marine life.

However, two stakeholders were concerned that South Beach and other beaches in the area will become more polluted due to discharged wastewater from the proposed outfall being washed back up onto beaches.

## 4.4 Community and Socio-Economic Impacts

The majority of stakeholders stated that the Project is ‘much needed’ in the area and ‘should have happened 20 years ago’. However, some stakeholders were concerned with the impacts the works will have on the community of Arklow.

Specific issues and queries are as follows:

- One stakeholder asked whether the Project would improve Blue Flag status for Wicklow.
- One stakeholder queried whether the Project would provide local jobs.
- A number of stakeholders were concerned with how the construction works will impact the residents of Arklow with regard to construction traffic, access constraints, and previously negative experiences with contractors undertaking works in the area.

## 4.5 Construction

Construction related concerns and issues primarily centred around construction timelines, disturbance to the residents in terms of traffic, safety and noise.

Concerns also centred around access constraints, and noise and vibration associated with the works.

Queries were raised about:

- How long construction will take and when will the plant be commissioned.
- How the pipes/mains/sewers will be built.
- The increase in traffic around the town due to construction.
- Ambulance access to houses on North Quay during construction.
- The possibility of houses on the corner of North Quay being ‘boxed in’ due to network construction.
- The impact of the network construction on older residents on Harbour Road.
- The impact of the road works on the safety of residents.
- Query about the extent of the road works and whether drilling will be involved.
- Whether the CPO process will slow down the commencement of construction.
- Generators on the road making noise all day.
- Whether vibration will be monitored during construction.
- Whether the outfall construction will interfere with a wind farm cable.
- Concerns about a lack of communication/sensitivity from contractors based on previous experience of contractors in the area.

## 4.6 Consultation

The majority of stakeholders were happy with the consultation process and how information was communicated through the various channels including email, online, brochures delivered to homes, posters in the community and newspaper adverts.

One stakeholder made a statement that the public consultation process is ‘ageist’ and that e-mail is ‘not a sufficient method of communication for the elderly’.

## 4.7 Flooding and Storm Events

Concerns were raised by several stakeholders in relation to the likelihood and impact of large volumes of rainfall, storm events, and flooding.

Specific queries, comments and concerns raised include:

- Concern that the proposed WwTP site is on a flood plain.
- Concern that the flooding analysis/modelling undertaken is incorrect.
- Statement that heavy snow on mountains combined with rain/development of forestry all affect the flooding in Arklow.

- Concern that the construction of the WwTP will result in the flood relief scheme not proceeding.
- Query as to whether flood waters will be entering combined sewers.
- Query about whether flooding will cause sewage to back up in sewers.
- Disagreement on flood risk design on Harbour Road.
- Concern about floor level of proposed WwTP in relation to flooding.
- Query about flood relief plan for rock armour construction.
- Concern that the ‘rock armour along the North Beach is no longer able to prevent the flooding of the duck ponds along the Burmah Road (Seaview Avenue) and running track, and Bridgewater shopping centre.’
- Fear that if the nearby caravan park is abandoned in the future, ‘the sea will enter that area and pose a threat all the way back to this new proposed treatment plant, and therefore cannot be treated in isolation.’
- Query about plans to design against flooding as town flooded previously from ‘marsh down towards the site.’

## 4.8 Health and Safety

A number of stakeholders were concerned with health and safety throughout the construction of the project and operation of the plant.

One stakeholder was concerned that the 2m raising of rock armour around the site is insufficient and that a concrete wall would be better than a rock revetment.

One stakeholder was concerned for the safety of residents during road works.

One stakeholder was happy to see sewage being removed from water as it previously caused his dog to be fatally ill.

## 4.9 Landscape and Visual Impact

Many stakeholders understood the reason behind the proposed scale of the WwTP and were positive about the design and the visual appearance. However, a number of stakeholders were concerned that the plant would be visually obtrusive due to its proposed size. Similarly, many submissions addressed the proposed landscaping for the site.

Specific issues in relation to this included:

- Concerns that the building was ‘too high’, ‘plain’, ‘not attractive’, ‘blocky looking’ and ‘very much likes old stoneware’.
- Statement that the proposed ‘smaller building is higher than lower part of existing building’.
- Statement that the WwTP should be underground where it would not be seen.
- Request that the building is visually ‘compatible with the environment’.

- Query about what is being provided in terms of soft landscaping for the site.
- Statement that a lot of landscaping will be needed to improve the view of the WwTP.
- Statement that the landscape design in relation to the building, sea and hill is ‘too clinical’.
- Request that the landscaping proposals are developed in more detail.
- One stakeholder expressed appreciation that trees will be planted on site.
- One stakeholder living across the river queried how the plant will look from his property.

#### **4.10 Noise and Vibration**

A number of submissions detail concerns regarding potential noise and vibration impacts that could result from a new WwTP and pipe network during construction and operation.

One stakeholder made reference to previous works in the area which resulted in ‘vibration and noise issues, cracks in homes, generators on the road making noise all day’ and expressed concern that this will occur again.

One stakeholder asked if noise will be controlled. One stakeholder asked if vibration will be monitored during construction.

#### **4.11 Planning and Development**

This section details issues raised by stakeholders regarding the planning process, the potential impact of the project on future developments and concerns regarding zoning around the proposed plant.

One stakeholder advised that the Arklow Marine Service have a planning application for their site, construction of which is due to commence after that of the WwTP.

One submission stated that the project will support housing and the potential for Arklow to grow. Other submissions supported this by stating they were happy the project was going ahead and will promote Arklow as a town.

One submission was concerned with the proposed height of the WwTP. According to this submission, it is intended to develop the IFI site for residential use and suggested an integrated planning approach from both sides could be of ‘mutual benefit’, and ‘provide an overall architectural and structural solution that will complement and enhance both the Arklow Quays and the environment’.

#### **4.12 Population and Human Health**

One stakeholder was concerned about the attraction of rats to the new sewer which may have a negative impact on human health in the area.

Other stakeholders were positive about the impact the new WwTP will have on population growth and human health. One stakeholder stated that, as a scout leader who could make use of the river for scout activities, ‘water quality is an asset’. Another stakeholder claims the ‘growth of the town has been stymied without the project’.

## 4.13 Project Need and Benefit

The majority of stakeholders acknowledged the need for the project in terms of how it will benefit the town with a few stating that it should have been built 20-30 years ago. One stakeholder was ‘very keen that the plant is constructed as soon as possible’.

A number of stakeholders were very positive about the project overall, particularly in relation to ‘its potential value to Arklow’ and ‘its positive contribution to the urban realm’. One stakeholder was ‘delighted to see project go ahead’ and that they can ‘only see positives for Arklow from it’. Another was happy to see it happening to ‘reduce eyesore’.

## 4.14 Proposed Development

### 4.14.1 Wastewater Treatment Plant

Many stakeholders raised concerns regarding the size, design and capacity of the proposed Treatment Plant building as follows:

- Concern about whether the building will be waterproof.
- Query as to whether the building materials will be low maintenance.
- Query raised as to whether the design of the plant is similar to that of other plants.
- Query raised as to whether the building will have solar panels.
- Query about the volume of the containment tanks and whether they are located at ground level.
- Statement made that the treatment process is ‘totally inadequate’ and ‘must be re-visited to ensure adequate and complete treatment is carried out, prior to treated waste entering the Irish Sea’.
- Requests were made for dimensions of the proposed building.
- Suggestion made that the building contain a viewing room on the top floor which could also be used as an education facility.
- Request that the existing derelict tanks on the adjacent site be removed.
- Request for information on the proposed boundary treatment amenity for the site.

#### 4.14.2 Pipeline Route

A number of stakeholders raised specific queries, comments and concerns regarding the pipeline route.

A request was made for a visual explanation of how pipework will be changing from under road to under river.

One submission stated that the pipes should be laid in the river instead of on Harbour Road in front of people's homes.

#### 4.15 Outfall

Concerns were raised by stakeholders regarding the location and extent of the proposed outfall.

One submission stated that 'the outfall pipe must extend out beyond Arklow Bank, well into the Irish Sea'.

One submission queried whether the outfall would have an impact on beaches regarding wastewater travelling back in. Another submission made a similar query asking whether tides had been taken into account when designing the outfall.

One stakeholder asked about the length of the outfall.

#### 4.16 Recreation and Amenity

Many stakeholders commented on the impact that the Arklow WwTP may have on recreation and amenities that are used by locals and tourists alike. Stakeholders raised specific queries in this regard which included:

- Queries about whether a public walkway or footpath will be provided through and around the site, particularly along the sea front.
- Queries about whether public parking will be provided on the site.

#### 4.17 Site Selection

While some stakeholders were positive about the site selected, others had queries and concerns such as:

- Query as to why the Old Wallboard site was chosen.
- Query as to whether this is the most appropriate site.
- Fears that the plant is being built on a flood plain and previous flooding events have not been taken into consideration.
- Concerns about site selection as 'people won't want to live beside a WwTP'.
- One submission informed that the site may not be suitable for the project and asked whether alternatives are being looked at including the Holfield site at Avoca River Park.

## 4.18 Sludge Management

There were some queries on the management of the solid matter that results from the wastewater treatment process (sludge).

One stakeholder asked about where the sludge will be disposed of while another made a query about how many sludge trucks will be leaving the site per day.

## 4.19 Tourism and Local Business

A number of concerns were raised regarding the impact that the proposed WwTP may have on the tourism industry and local businesses.

Many stakeholders stated that the provision of the new WwTP will have positive impacts on tourism in the area including potential for the use of the Avoca River for watersports, kayaking and fishing.

One stakeholder stated that the proposed site should be used for tourism amenities instead.

One stakeholder stated that the Sailing Club will be impacted by the construction of the WwTP as ‘no sailing clubs in the world have WwTPs near them’. This stakeholder also queried the impact the new WwTP will have on the tourism industry.

One stakeholder queried whether local businesses who want to connect to the scheme will be supported.

## 4.20 Traffic and Transportation

Increased traffic in the area surrounding the proposed plant was a concern for many stakeholders. Concerns were also raised regarding increased traffic around the town.

Issues regarding specific roads/junctions included:

- Marina Village Road: Concern over increased traffic due to construction along 20m section of road owned by residents of Marina Village.
- North Quay/Aldi entrance: Concern over current traffic and danger for pedestrians crossing at junction between North Quay and Aldi supermarket.
- Marina Corner: Concern over construction traffic inadvertently travelling to Marina Corner, which is a private road. Request made for clear signage for workers driving construction vehicles.
- South Quay: Concern over the capacity of South Quay for construction traffic.

## 5 Next Steps

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All relevant issues raised during the public consultation process and outlined in this report will be considered by the Project Team in preparing the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). Responses to the issues raised will be contained within the EIAR.

Further (statutory) consultation will be undertaken by An Bord Pleanála as part of the assessment process following lodgement of the planning application to An Bord Pleanála in 2018. This will provide an additional opportunity for interested stakeholders and members of the public to participate in the decision-making process.

## Appendix A

### Brochure

# Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant Project

Have your say as part of the 3rd public consultation

**October 2017**



## **The purpose of this brochure is to:**

- Provide updated information on the Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant Project;
- Invite you to provide feedback on the project as part of the third round of public consultation;
- Invite you to attend a drop-in information event on the project.

## **Have your say**

For further information, please visit our website or contact the project team:

Web: [www.water.ie/arklowtp](http://www.water.ie/arklowtp)

Email: [arklowtp@water.ie](mailto:arklowtp@water.ie)

Phone: 089 228 5902  
(9am – 5pm, Monday – Friday)

Post: Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant Project,  
Irish Water,  
Colvill House,  
24 – 26 Talbot Street,  
Dublin 1.

Más mian leat cóip den leabhrán seo a fháil as Gaeilge, déan teagmháil leis an linn ar an ríomhphost nó ar an uimhir thuasluaite.

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## Why do we need the Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant?

At present, untreated wastewater from homes and businesses in Arklow is discharged into the Avoca River that runs directly through Arklow Town, County Wicklow. This practice of discharging untreated wastewater to the river is no longer acceptable and Irish Water intends to fix this problem in partnership with Wicklow County Council.

The Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant will bring benefits to Arklow in terms of health, integrity of the environment and improved water quality for all.

### What does the project involve?

Irish Water intends to develop the Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant Project, which includes:

- A new Wastewater Treatment Plant (WwTP) which will treat an estimated 36,000 PE (population equivalent) that will best meet the current needs of Arklow and to allow for future expansion of the town. The preferred site for this plant is the Old Wallboard Factory, North Quay, Ferrybank;
- Pipelines along the North and South Quays to deliver untreated wastewater to the WwTP; and
- An outfall pipe to safely discharge the treated wastewater out to the Irish Sea.



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## What has happened since the last period of public consultation?

Since the close of the second phase of public consultation in 2015, Irish Water has been progressing all of the licence applications and environmental studies required to prepare a planning application for the proposed WwTP at the Old Wallboard Factory, North Quay, Ferrybank.



**Site Investigation** – Irish Water has recently completed a series of investigative surveys along the North and South Quays in Arklow. The work completed to date includes a number of ecological surveys including bat surveys as well as identification of invasive species. In addition, ground penetrating radar and intrusive site investigations have been carried out along the proposed sewer routes, as well as structural surveys of the existing old Wallboard Factory, North Quay, Ferrybank site.

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**Marine Foreshore Licence** - Irish Water has been granted a foreshore licence for the marine site investigation works and to date the following works under this licence have been completed:

- Archaeological surveys
- Ecological surveys
- Bathymetric Survey
- Non-Intrusive Ground Investigation Survey

**Architectural Design** - Irish Water has developed the architectural design of the WwTP and landscape design of the site. This will ensure that the design is to a high standard and will comply with the planning policy for the area.

Irish Water are currently liaising with Wicklow County Council regarding the final design.

**Climate Change and Coastal Erosion** – Irish Water is currently undertaking ongoing assessments of coastal erosion. Furthermore, in May 2017 amendments were made to the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations in Ireland. Significantly, there will be the requirement to assess the impact of projects on climate (for example greenhouse gas emissions) and their vulnerability to climate change. Delivery of this project will take account of the forthcoming amendments.

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## What is happening now?

Irish Water is seeking your views on the Arklow WwTP Project.

Public consultation on the Arklow WwTP is underway for four weeks weeks from 11 October to 15 November 2017. The purpose of this consultation is to ensure that all feedback from the public is considered prior to the submission of a planning application.

## How can I get involved?

Irish Water is inviting your feedback on the below aspects of the project:

This new plant will change how the area looks. We are currently finalising the design of the plant.

We are currently developing the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR).

Two drop-in information events are scheduled to take place where members of the project team will be available to provide further information and to answer any questions.

**Dates:** Thursday 19 October and Thursday 26 October 2017.

**Time:** 2pm to 8pm

**Venue:** Arklow Municipal District Offices, Castle Park, Arklow, Co. Wicklow.

**Irish Water invites you to make a submission by email or post, by 15 November 2017.**

**Email:** [arklowtp@water.ie](mailto:arklowtp@water.ie);

**Phone:** 089 228 5902 (9am – 5pm, Monday – Friday)

**Post:** Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant Project, Irish Water, Colvill House, 24 - 26 Talbot Street, Dublin 1.

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## What is happening next?

Following this consultation, the project team will review and consider feedback received with relevant feedback being incorporated into the planning application. All feedback will be reported on in a Consultation Report which will be published on the project website.

It is expected that Irish Water will submit a planning application to An Bord Pleanála, complete with an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) in 2018. A revised application for a Wastewater Discharge Licence will be made to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in parallel with the planning application. This will be followed by a statutory phase of public consultation as directed by An Bord Pleanála.



# Planning Roadmap





Subject to planning permission being granted, the project team will hold a procurement process to appoint a team to design, build and operate the project. It is anticipated that advance works to remove the existing Wallboard Factory building will be undertaken in 2018 and construction activities are expected to commence in 2019.



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## History of the proposed Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant

The process of providing a WwTP for Arklow began with the original planning permission being granted to Arklow Town Council in 1994. Due to changes in environmental policy in the following years, a new EIAR was required as part of the planning permission process and in 2005 planning permission for the Arklow WwTP was once again granted. This permission expired in early 2015.

Irish Water took responsibility for providing and managing public water services throughout Ireland in 2014. Irish Water is committed to ensuring a new Wastewater Treatment Plant for Arklow is delivered through the development of a new planning process.



## Contact us

If you would like to make a submission, please contact Irish Water by email, phone or post, by Wednesday 15 November 2017:

Email: [arklowtp@water.ie](mailto:arklowtp@water.ie)

Phone: 089 228 5902

(9am – 5pm, Monday – Friday)

Post: Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant Project,  
Irish Water,  
Colvill House,  
24 – 26 Talbot Street,  
Dublin 1.

Más mian leat cóip den leabhrán seo a fháil as Gaeilge, déan teagmháil leis an linn ar an ríomhphost nó ar an uimhir thuasluaite.

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## **Appendix B**

Drop-In Information Event  
Poster

# Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant Project

## Public Consultation



Irish Water are holding two drop-in information events on the Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant project as part of a period of public consultation. These events provide an opportunity to engage with the project team and inform the proposals ahead of the commencement of the planning process.

Representatives from the project team will be available to share information on the project.

**The drop-in information events will take place:**

**Date: Thursday 19 October & Thursday 26 October 2017**

**Time: 2pm – 8pm**

**Location: Arklow Municipal District Offices**

**All are welcome to attend and participate.**

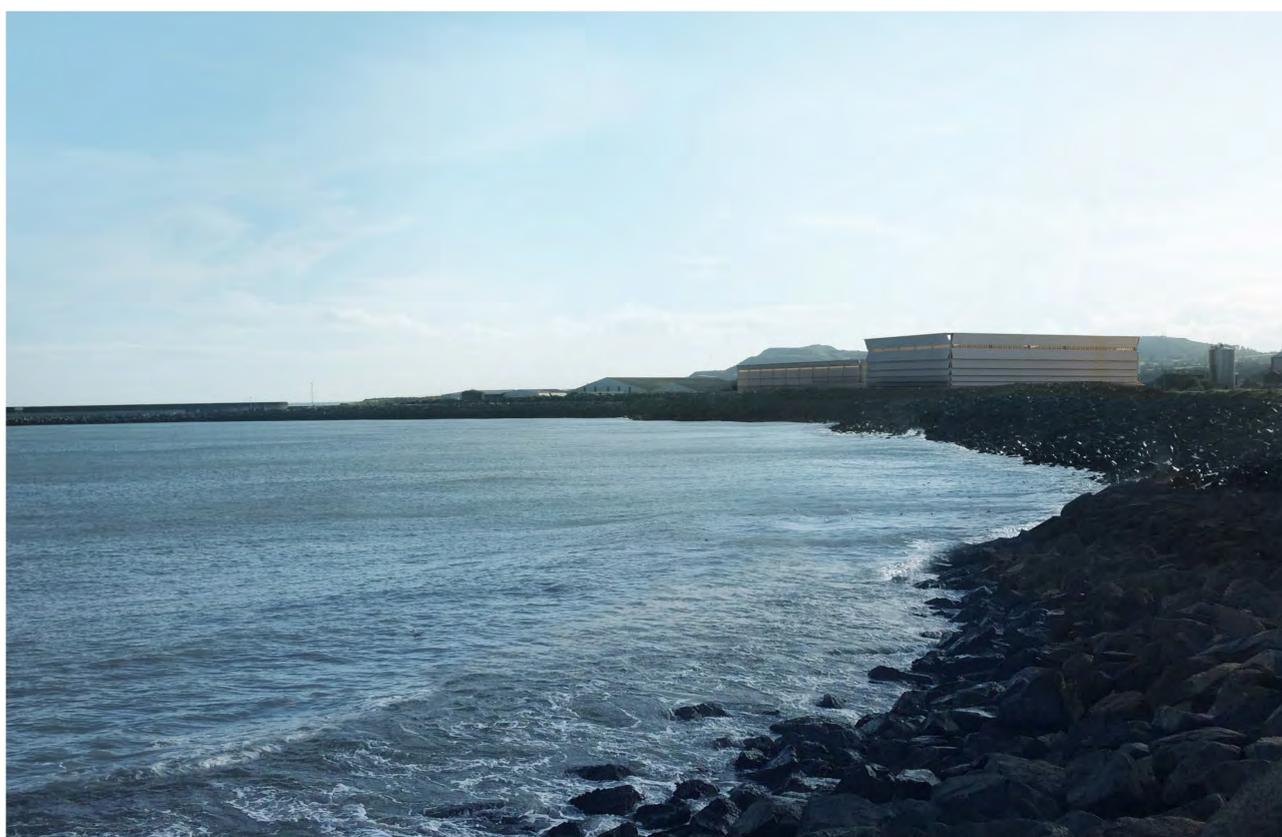
People who can't make the events can still have their voices heard. Contributions to the consultation can be made until Wednesday 15 November 2017.

Contributions can be submitted by email; [arklowtp@water.ie](mailto:arklowtp@water.ie), phone; 089 228 5902 (9am-5pm, Monday – Friday) or post; Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant Project, Irish Water, Colvill House, 24 - 26 Talbot Street, Dublin 1. For further information on the project visit the project website: [www.water.ie/arklowtp](http://www.water.ie/arklowtp)

## Appendix C

### Drop-In Information Event Display

# Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant Project



- > Arklow is one of 45 towns identified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) where wastewater is discharged without any treatment. In the case of Arklow, untreated wastewater is discharged into the Avoca River which flows through Arklow Town.
- > This practice of discharging untreated wastewater to the river is not acceptable and Irish Water intends to fix this problem in partnership with Wicklow County Council.
- > The provision of a new wastewater treatment plant in Arklow will bring benefits to the town and surrounding areas in terms of health, environmental protection and improved water quality for all.
- > Current development restrictions regarding the provision of new sewer connections are likely to be relaxed upon provision of a new wastewater treatment plant, facilitating potential future development in the area.
- > It is expected that the planning application for the Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant will be submitted to An Bord Pleanála in 2018.

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# Planning Roadmap



■ Consultation

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[www.water.ie](http://www.water.ie)

## The need for the project



The proposed Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant is needed for the following reasons:-

- > To stop the current practice of discharging untreated wastewater to the Avoca River;
- > To provide a wastewater treatment facility that will comply with all relevant legislative requirements and will service the population of Arklow over the next 20 years;
- > To improve water quality within the Arklow catchment and Avoca River.

The proposed site for the Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant is the old Wallboard Factory site located on North Quay, Ferrybank, Arklow.

## The project will involve

- > A new Wastewater Treatment Plant (WwTP) which will treat an estimated 36,000 PE (population equivalent) that will best meet the current needs of Arklow and to allow for future expansion of the town.
- > Pipelines along the North and South Quays to deliver untreated wastewater to the WwTP; and
- > An outfall pipe to safely discharge the treated wastewater to the sea.

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# Project Benefits



- > The Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant will bring benefits to Arklow in terms of health, integrity of the environment and improved water quality for all.
- > A new wastewater treatment plant will significantly improve the quality of the water in the Avoca River and will facilitate economic and social development for the town and surrounds of Arklow.
- > Irish Water is also working closely with the OPW and Wicklow County Council to integrate the flood relief scheme with the construction of the new interceptor sewers. Subject to planning and budget approval, the integration of the two projects, where feasible, will minimise impact to the local community during construction and provide synergies between both projects.



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# The Environment

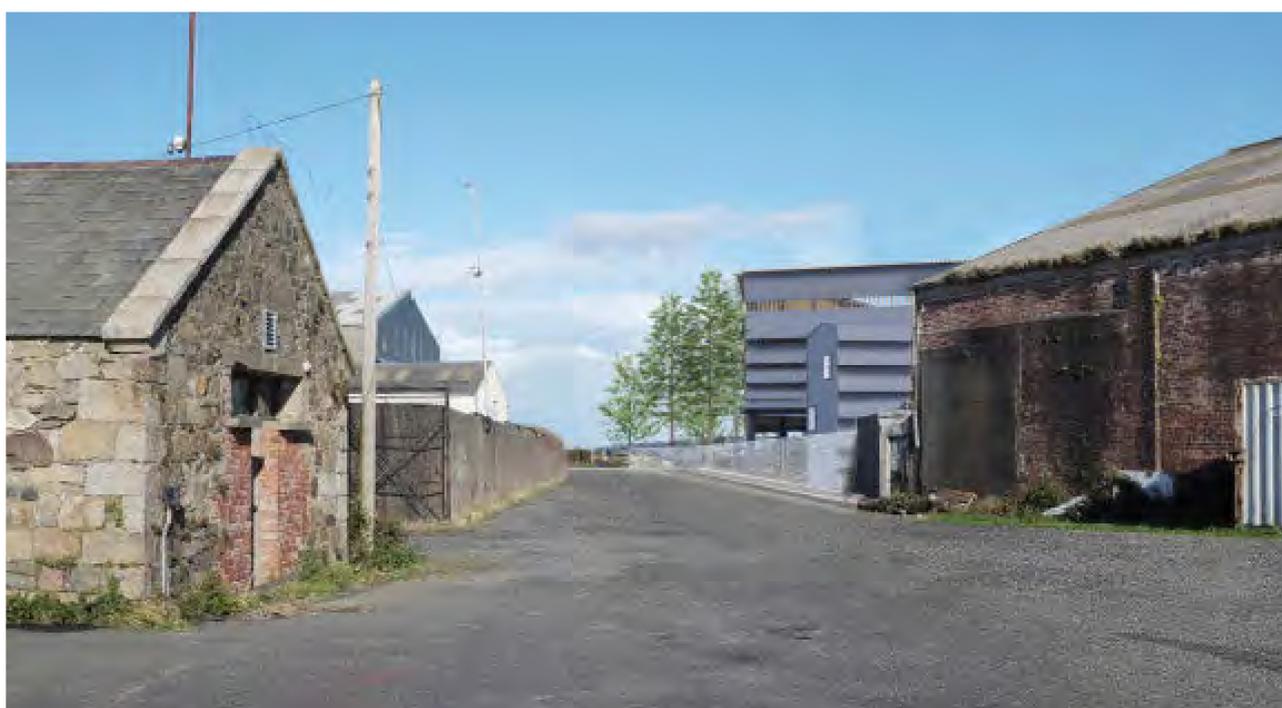


- > Large scale infrastructure projects of this nature require the completion of a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR).
- > This will be submitted to An Bord Pleanála as part of the planning process.
- > Factors to be included in an EIAR are set out in national and European legislation, but key elements include:
  - Population and human health
  - Biodiversity
  - Land, soils and geology
  - Water
  - Air
  - Climate
  - Material assets
  - Cultural heritage
  - Landscape
- > The proposed wastewater treatment plant in Arklow will substantially improve the water quality of the surrounding areas, greatly benefitting the wider community.

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# Proposed Design for Arklow WwTP



Our design for the plant acknowledges its role as an important part of Arklow's civic landscape, one with character and presence, but also appropriate to its function as a piece of enabling infrastructure.

The plant is housed in two compact structures which have a scale lower and more responsive to human scale than the existing wallboard facility. The facades to these buildings are made in overlapping planes which screen the operational aspects of the site such as loading bays, a solar farm, cranes, pipe runs and service lighting.

The design of these overlapping planes reference maritime themes such as sails, but more critically give the plant a unique silhouette and appearance - one which references the sites history as an industrial landscape, and hints at a more urban future for the surrounding lands. Held between the river and the sea the design sets an ambitious standard for the development for this part of Arklow in the decades to come.



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# Have your say



Irish Water is inviting feedback  
until 15 November 2017

## Feedback

Irish Water is inviting your feedback in the following aspects of the project:

- > The new plant will change how the area looks. We are currently finalising the design of the plant.
- > We are currently developing the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR).

## Get in touch

For more information or to tell us your views:

**E-mail:**  
[arklowtp@water.ie](mailto:arklowtp@water.ie)

**Phone:**  
089 228 5902  
(9am - 5pm, Monday – Friday)

**Post:**  
Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant Project,  
Irish Water,  
Colvill House,  
24 - 26 Talbot Street,  
Dublin 1

**Visit:**  
[www.water.ie/arklowtp](http://www.water.ie/arklowtp)

**Attend:**  
The Drop-In Information Events

**Dates:** 19 October & 26 October  
**Time:** 2pm - 8pm  
**Location:** Arklow Municipal District Offices

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## Appendix D

Newspaper Advert



## Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant Project

### Public Consultation



Irish Water are holding two drop-in information events on the Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant project as part of a period of public consultation. These events provide an opportunity to engage with the project team and inform the proposals ahead of the commencement of the planning process.

Representatives from the project team will be available to share information on the project.

**The drop-in information events will take place:**

**Date: Thursday 19 October & Thursday 26 October 2017**

**Time: 2pm – 8pm**

**Location: Arklow Municipal District Offices**

**All are welcome to attend and participate.**

People who can't make the events can still have their voices heard. Contributions to the consultation can be made until Wednesday 15 November 2017.

Contributions can be submitted by email: [arklowtp@water.ie](mailto:arklowtp@water.ie), phone: 089 228 5902 (9am-5pm, Monday – Friday) or post: Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant Project, Irish Water, Colvill House, 24 - 26 Talbot Street, Dublin 1.  
For further information on the project visit the project website: [www.water.ie/arklowtp](http://www.water.ie/arklowtp)

## **Appendix E**

### **Press Release**

# Irish Water commencing public consultation for Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant

Irish Water today announced that it will commence a non-statutory consultation for a four week period, commencing on the 12 October 2017 for the Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant project.

Irish Water is working in partnership with Wicklow County Council to deliver the Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant project which will end the current practice of discharging untreated wastewater into the Avoca River. The project will bring benefits to Arklow in terms of health, integrity of the environment and improved water quality for all.

The project includes the following:

- A new wastewater treatment plant (WwTP) to treat 36,000 population equivalent (PE).
- Two interceptor sewer pipelines (along North and South Quay) to bring untreated wastewater to the proposed WwTP.
- A marine sea outfall pipe to safely discharge the treated wastewater effluent to the Irish Sea.

The consultation period constitutes the 3rd such non-statutory consultation phase for the project. Public consultation 1 took place from October to December 2014 on the first phase of the site selection process, including feedback on the constraints and what should be considered in choosing the Emerging Preferred Site, route pipeline and outfall location. Public consultation 2 took place from May to July 2015 on the second phase for the Emerging Preferred Site at Ferrybank. Feedback from these two rounds of public consultation has been reviewed by the project team and will feed into the development of the Environmental Impact Statement which is being prepared for the planning submission.

During Consultation 3, Irish Water will seek feedback on the following:

- This new plant will change how the area looks. We are currently finalising the design in relation to the look and feel of the plant.
- We are currently developing the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and have published the EIS Scoping Report.

Two drop-in information events are scheduled to take place, as part of the forthcoming consultation phase. All interested parties are welcome to attend these events, where members of the project team will be available to provide further information and to answer any questions. The events will

be held on Thursday 12 October and Thursday 19 October 2017 from 2pm to 8pm at Arklow Municipal District Offices, Castle Park, Arklow, Co. Wicklow.

**\*\*Insert comment from Irish Water\*\***

Irish Water will continue to provide regular updates on the Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant project on the [project webpage](#) in addition to updates to local media. Irish Water will continue to liaise and consult with all relevant project stakeholders. For more information on the project please visit the [project page](#) or email [arklowtp@water.ie](mailto:arklowtp@water.ie) .

## **Appendix F**

### **Media Coverage**

# Third consultation begins on Arklow wastewater plant

IRISH WATER has announced that a four-week non-statutory consultation period for the Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant begins today, Wednesday, October 11.

As part of the public consultation, two drop-in information events will be held at the Arklow Municipal District Offices from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursday, October 19, and Thursday, October 26. Interested parties are invited to attend and speak to members of the project team, who will be available to provide further information.

During this consultation phase, Irish Water is seeking public feedback on the design of the plant and how it will change how the area looks as well as the Environmental Impact Assessment Report that is being developed for the project.

Written submissions can be emailed to Irish Water at [arklowtp@water.ie](mailto:arklowtp@water.ie) or can be sent by post to Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant Project, Irish Water, Colvill House, Talbot Street, Dublin 1. The deadline for these written submissions is Wednesday, November 15.

John Joyce from Irish Water said the body had been 'engaging with the local community at every stage of this project and will continue to keep them updated throughout the process.' He also urged all interested parties to attend the information events.



**The plant will be built on the site of the old Wallboard site.**

'It is a top priority for Irish Water to stop the discharge of untreated wastewater into the River Avoca. We have been engaging with the local community at every stage of this project and will continue to keep them updated throughout the process,' said Mr Joyce.

This is the third public consultation regarding Arklow's long-awaited wastewater treatment plant. The first took place

from October to December 2014 in relation to the first phase of the site selection process, while the second was from May to July 2015 on the second phase for the Emerging Preferred Site at Ferrybank. Feedback from both of these has been reviewed by the project team and will feed into the development of the Environmental Impact Statement which is being prepared for the planning submission, Irish Water said.

Irish Water is working in partnership with Wicklow County Council to deliver the Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant. While the plant will benefit the 15,000 people who live and work in Arklow, it will have the capability to treat a 36,000 population equivalent.

The project will also include two interceptor sewer pipelines (along North and South Quay) to bring untreated wastewater to the proposed plant and a marine sea outfall pipe to safely discharge the treated wastewater effluent to the Irish Sea.

# Information events on Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant Project

Irish Water has commenced a non-statutory consultation for a four-week period for the Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant project.

Irish Water is working in partnership with Wicklow County Council to deliver the Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant project which will end the current practice of discharging untreated wastewater into the Avoca River. The project will bring benefits to Arklow in terms of health, integrity of the environment and improved water quality for all. The new Wastewater Treatment Plant will benefit the 15,000 people who live and work in Arklow, its tourist industry and the surrounding environment.

The project includes: A new wastewater treatment plant (WwTP) to treat 36,000 population equivalent (PE); Two interceptor sewer pipelines (along North and South Quay) to bring untreated wastewater to the proposed WwTP; A marine sea outfall pipe to safely discharge the treated wastewater effluent to the Irish Sea.

This consultation period is the 3rd non-statutory consultation phase for the project. During this phase of public consultation, Irish Water is seeking your feedback on the following aspects of the project: This new plant will change how the area looks. We are currently finalising the design of the plant; The Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) that is being developed for the project.

Two drop-in information events will take place on Thursday, 19th October

and Thursday, 26th October from 2pm to 8pm at Arklow Municipal District Offices, Castle Park, Arklow. All interested parties are welcome to attend these events, where members of the project team will be available to provide further information and to answer any questions.

Submissions can be made to Irish Water by Wednesday, 15th November by Email: [arklowtp@water.ie](mailto:arklowtp@water.ie); Post: Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant Project, Irish Water, Colvill House, Talbot Street, Dublin 1; Telephone: 089 228 5902 (9am - 5pm, Monday - Friday).

Commenting on the project John Joyce, Infrastructure Programme Regional Lead at Irish Water said "We invite all interested parties to attend the public information events to share their views and ask any questions they have on the Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant project. It is a top priority for Irish Water to stop the discharge of untreated wastewater into the River Avoca. We have been engaging with the local community at every stage of this project and will continue to keep them updated throughout the process".

Irish Water will continue to provide regular updates on the Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant project on the project webpage in addition to updates to local media. Irish Water will

continue to liaise and consult with all relevant project stakeholders. For more information on the project please visit the project page or email [arklowtp@water.ie](mailto:arklowtp@water.ie).

John Brady TD has said that he is optimistic that the long awaited project is now progressing, and plans will be submitted to An Bord Pleanála soon.

Deputy Brady said "Arklow has waited decades for a waste water treatment plant. The town has been let down time and again over the years by previous governments who turned a blind eye to the crying need for such vital infrastructure in Arklow. I have met and have had continuous communications with Irish Water over the last few months and it would appear that the project is finally taking on a healthy shape. A site is confirmed at North Quay, Ferrybank and the public have been involved in consultative meetings. Numerous inspections have been completed and Irish Water has carried out a marine site investigation which will include archaeological and ecological surveys. Irish Water is current-

ly liaising with Wicklow County Council regarding the design of the Plant and will be put out for public consultation over the coming weeks.

"I encourage all interested parties to attend the drop in information events which are scheduled; Thursday 19th and Thursday 26th October at Arklow Municipal District Offices from 2pm to 8pm. We in Sinn Fein have supported and argued for the Waste Water Treatment Plant for years and we are

determined to keep the project on track. The plant could help transform Arklow in terms of housing, business investment and job creation. We all have a responsibility now to do what we can to see it through. The sewage treatment plant is key to unlocking Arklow's potential and I will continue to engage with all key stakeholders until it's delivered."

# Treatment plant plans progressing

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Deborah Coleman

July 15 2017 12:00 AM



A planning application is due to be lodged with An Bord Pleanála along with an Environment Impact Statement by the end of this year in relation to the proposed Arklow wastewater treatment plant. In a update to local elected representatives, Irish Water this week confirmed that the foreshore licence for marine investigation works at the old Wallboard factory on North Quay has been granted.

The update outlined: 'These works include archaeological surveys, ecological surveys and geotechnical surveys and will be carried out in Arklow Bay and the estuary of the Avoca River.

'To date non-intrusive site investigation works have been completed with further works to take place. Irish Water is progressing the architectural design of the WwTP and landscape design of the site.

'This will ensure that the design is to a high standard and will comply with the planning policy for the area and will reflect the marine setting of the location. Irish Water intend to make the proposed design of the WwTP public in the Autumn in advance of submitting the planning application.'

Following a site selection process the North Quay site was selected as the preferred option for the plant which, when operational, will end the discharge of untreated waste into the Avoca River.

An application for a Wastewater Discharge Licence will be made to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in parallel with the planning application.

Irish Water intends to make the proposed design of the WwTP public in the Autumn in advance of submitting the application.

Wicklow People

# Good progress made on Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant

146  
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By: [WicklowNews](#)

October 12, 2017 11:37 am



Sinn Fein TD for Wicklow John Brady has said that he is optimistic that the long awaited project is now progressing, and plans will be submitted to An Bord Pleanála soon.

Teachta Brady said:

“Arklow has waited decades for a waste water treatment plant. The town has been let down time and again over the years by previous governments who turned a blind eye to the crying need for such vital infrastructure in Arklow. I have met and have had continuous communications with Irish Water over the last few months it would appear that the project is finally taking on a healthy shape.”

“A site is confirmed at North Quay, Ferrybank and the public have been involved in consultative meetings. Numerous Inspections have been completed and Irish Water has carried out a marine site investigation which will include archaeological and ecological surveys. Irish Water is currently liaising with Wicklow County Council regarding the design of the Plant and will be put out for public consultation over the coming weeks.”

“I encourage all interested parties to attend the drop in information events which are scheduled; Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October at Arklow Municipal District Offices from 2pm to 8pm. We in Sinn Fein have supported and argued for the Waste Water Treatment Plant for years and we are determined to keep the project on track. The plant could help transform Arklow in terms of housing, business investment and job creation. We all have a responsibility now to do what we can to see it through.”

Teachta Brady concluded “The sewage treatment plant is key to unlocking Arklow’s potential and I will continue to engage with all key stakeholders until it’s delivered.”

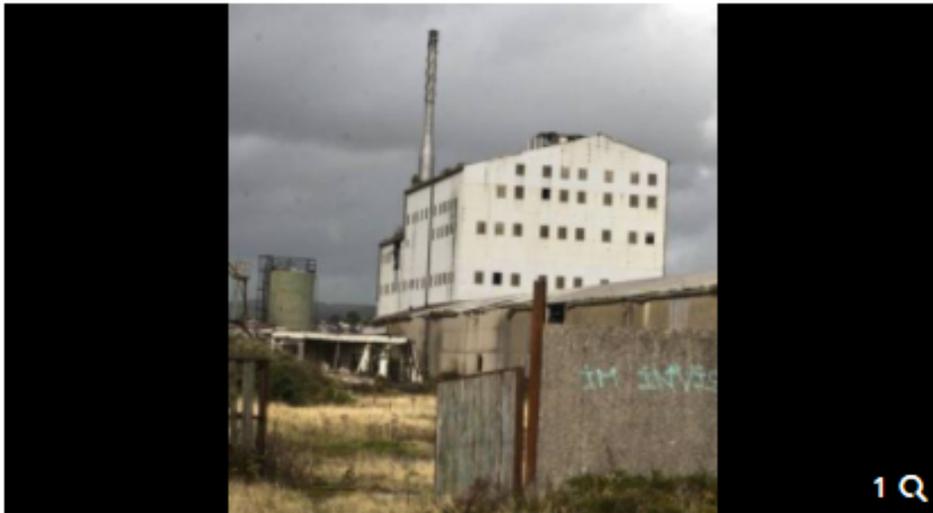
## Irish Water Gearing Up To Submit Planning Application For Arklow Waste Water Treatment Plant

Irish Water is holding its third public consultation for the Arklow Wastewater Treatment plant. As part of the process, which will run over a four week period, two information events will take place on Thursday October 19th and October 26th at Arklow Municipal District Offices. Sinn Fein Councillor Mary McDonald says Irish Water is hoping to lodge a planning application early next year with construction starting in 2019, in conjunction with the flood relief scheme planned for Arklow.

Posted 12th October 2017 by [Gareth](#)



# Third consultation begins on Arklow wastewater plant



*The plant will be built on the site of the old Wallboard site*

October 14 2017 12:00 AM



Irish Water has announced that a four-week non-statutory consultation period for the Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant begins today, Wednesday, October 11.

As part of the public consultation, two drop-in information events will be held at the Arklow Municipal District Offices from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursday, October 19, and Thursday, October 26. Interested parties are invited to attend and speak to members of the project team, who will be available to provide further information.

During this consultation phase, Irish Water is seeking public feedback on the design of the plant and how it will change how the area looks as well as the Environmental Impact Assessment Report that is being developed for the project.

Written submissions can be emailed to Irish Water at [arklowtp@water.ie](mailto:arklowtp@water.ie) or can be sent by post to Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant Project, Irish Water, Colvill House, Talbot Street, Dublin 1. The deadline for these written submissions is Wednesday, November 15.

John Joyce from Irish Water said the body had been 'engaging with the local community at every stage of this project and will continue to keep them updated throughout the process.' He also urged all interested parties to attend the information events.

'It is a top priority for Irish Water to stop the discharge of untreated wastewater into the River Avoca. We have been engaging with the local community at every stage of this project and will continue to keep them updated throughout the process,' said Mr Joyce.

This is the third public consultation regarding Arklow's long-awaited wastewater treatment plant. The first took place from October to December 2014 in relation to the first phase of the site selection process, while the second was from May to July 2015 on the second phase for the Emerging Preferred Site at Ferrybank. Feedback from both of these has been reviewed by the project team and will feed into the development of the Environmental Impact Statement which is being prepared for the planning submission, Irish Water said.

Irish Water is working in partnership with Wicklow County Council to deliver the Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant. While the plant will benefit the 15,000 people who live and work in Arklow, it will have the capability to treat a 36,000 population equivalent.

The project will also include two interceptor sewer pipelines (along North and South Quay) to bring untreated wastewater to the proposed plant and a marine sea outfall pipe to safely discharge the treated wastewater effluent to the Irish Sea.

Wicklow People

## Appendix G

### Project Update

October 2017

# Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant – Project Update

## 1. Introduction

Irish Water is working in partnership with Wicklow County Council to deliver the Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant project which will end the current practice of discharging untreated wastewater into the Avoca River. The project will bring benefits to Arklow in terms of health, integrity of the environment and improved water quality for all.

The project includes the following:

- A new wastewater treatment plant (WwTP) to treat 36,000 population equivalent (PE).
- Two interceptor sewer pipelines (along North and South Quay) to bring untreated wastewater to the proposed WwTP.
- A marine sea outfall pipe to safely discharge the treated wastewater effluent to the Irish Sea.

## 2. What has happened to date?

**Site Selection Process** - Irish Water undertook a site selection process and the Old Wallboard Factory, North Quay, Ferrybank was identified as the preferred site for the new Wastewater Treatment Plant. The preferred site has been identified following a detailed selection criteria, engagement with stakeholders and two non-statutory public consultation phases. As the design progresses the feasibility of the site is being continuously assessed. This is being done to ensure that Irish Water, regulated by the Commission for Energy Regulation now known as the Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU), delivers the most economical advantageous solution when all impacts are considered when delivering the Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant.

**Public Consultation** – The first public consultation took place from October to December 2014 on the first phase of the site selection process, including feedback on the constraints and what should be considered in choosing the Emerging Preferred Site, route pipeline and outfall location. The second consultation took place from May to July 2015 on the second phase for the Emerging Preferred Site at

Ferrybank. Feedback from these two rounds of public consultation has been reviewed by the project team and will feed into the development of the Environmental Impact Statement which is being prepared as part of the planning application.

**Site Investigation** – Irish Water has recently completed a series of investigative surveys along the North and South Quays in Arklow. The work completed to date includes a number of ecological surveys, including bat surveys, as well as identification of invasive species. In addition, ground penetrating radar and intrusive site investigations have been carried out along the proposed sewer routes, as well as structural surveys of the existing old Wallboard Factory, North Quay, Ferrybank site.

**Marine Foreshore Licence** - Irish Water has been granted a foreshore licence for the marine site investigation works and the following works under this licence have been completed:

- Archaeological surveys
- Ecological surveys
- Bathymetric survey
- Non-intrusive ground investigation survey

The contractor for the marine intrusive investigation survey has been appointed and this work has commenced.

**Architectural Design** - Irish Water has developed the architectural design of the wastewater treatment plant and landscape design of the site. This will ensure that the design is to a high standard and will comply with the planning policy for the area.

Irish Water are currently liaising with Wicklow County Council regarding the final design and following completion Irish Water will carry out a public consultation regarding the design of the WwTP and landscaping of the site later this year.

**Climate Change and Coastal Erosion** – Irish Water is currently undertaking ongoing assessments of coastal erosion. Furthermore, in May 2017, amendments were made to the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations in Ireland. Significantly, there will be the requirement to assess the impact of projects on climate (for example greenhouse gas emissions) and their vulnerability to climate change. Delivery of this project will take account of the forthcoming amendments.

**Design of the WWTP** – Irish Water has progressed with the design of the wastewater treatment plant to a stage that it is now being put out to public consultation. Following this, Irish Water will finalise the design and submit the planning application together with the Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

### **3. What are the benefits of this project?**

The Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant will bring benefits to Arklow in terms of health, integrity of the environment and improved water quality for all. A new wastewater treatment plant will significantly improve the quality of the water in the Avoca River and will facilitate economic and social development for the town and surrounds of Arklow.

Irish Water is also working closely with the OPW/Wicklow County Council to integrate the flood relief scheme with the construction of the new interceptor sewers. Subject to planning and budget approval, the integration of the two projects, where feasible, will minimise impact to the local community during construction and provide synergies between both projects.

### **4. What is happening next?**

Irish Water has recently announced that it will commence a period of non-statutory consultation for a four week period, commencing on Wednesday 11 October 2017.

During this consultation, Irish Water will seek feedback on the following:

- This new plant will change how the area looks. We are currently finalising the design in relation to the look and feel of the plant.
- The Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) that is being developed for the project. We are currently developing the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and have published the EIS Scoping Report.

Two drop-in information events are scheduled to take place, as part of the forthcoming consultation phase. All interested parties are welcome to attend these events, where members of the project team will be available to provide further information and to answer any questions. The events will be held on Thursday 19 October and Thursday 26 October 2017 from 2pm to 8pm at Arklow Municipal District Offices, Castle Park, Arklow, Co. Wicklow.

### **5. Contact Details**

For further information about this project, and to avail of a briefing on the project, you can contact the Project Team using any of the following details:

- **Email:** [arklowtp@water.ie](mailto:arklowtp@water.ie)
- **Post:** Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant Project, Irish Water, Colvill House, 24 – 26 Talbot Street, Dublin 1.

## **Appendix H**

### **Email to Stakeholders**

Good morning,

Irish Water is working in partnership with Wicklow County Council to deliver the Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant project which will end the current practice of discharging untreated wastewater into the Avoca River. The project will bring benefits to Arklow in terms of health, integrity of the environment and improved water quality for all.

The project includes the following:

- A new wastewater treatment plant (WwTP) to treat 36,000 population equivalent (PE).
- Two interceptor sewer pipelines (along North and South Quay) to bring untreated wastewater to the proposed WwTP.
- A marine sea outfall pipe to safely discharge the treated wastewater to the Irish Sea.

As part of this project, Irish Water has recently announced that it will commence a period of non-statutory consultation for a four week period, commencing on Wednesday 11 October 2017. This consultation period will be the third non-statutory consultation phase for the project.

During this consultation, Irish Water will seek feedback on the following:

- This new plant will change how the area looks. We are currently finalising the design of the plant.
- The Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) that is being developed for the project.

Two drop-in information events are scheduled to take place, as part of the 3rd non-statutory consultation phase. All interested parties are welcome to attend these events, where members of the project team will be available to provide further information and to answer any questions. The events will be held on Thursday 19 October and Thursday 26 October 2017 from 2pm to 8pm at Arklow Municipal District Offices, Castle Park, Arklow, Co. Wicklow. Further details are available from the brochure attached with this email.

If you would like to make a submission by Wednesday 15 November 2017 you can do so in the following ways:

Phone: 089 228 5902 (9am – 5pm, Monday – Friday)

Email: [arklowtp@water.ie](mailto:arklowtp@water.ie)

Post: Arklow WwTP Submissions, Irish Water, Colvill House 24-26 Talbot St, Dublin, Ireland.

Please feel free to contact the project team with feedback or questions using our contact information below. The project webpage will continue to be updated and further updates will also be communicated by email and via local media.

The first consultation phase took place from October to December 2014 as part of the site selection process. During this consultation feedback was sought on the Emerging Preferred Site, route pipeline and outfall location.

The second round of public consultation took place from May to July 2015. During this period feedback was sought on the Emerging Preferred Site at Ferrybank.

Kind regards,  
Arklow WwTP Project Team

You are receiving this email because you made a submission to Irish Water on the Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant project. If you no longer wish to receive updates on this project, you can unsubscribe at any time by emailing [arklowtp@water.ie](mailto:arklowtp@water.ie) with 'Unsubscribe' in the subject line. Otherwise we will continue to update you on the project.