

# Blanchardstown Regional Drainage Scheme

## What is involved as part of this project?

This project will involve the upgrade of the existing wastewater network serving Blanchardstown, Mulhuddart and Castleknock as well as a number of towns in Meath including Dunboyne, Clonee, Ashbourne and Ratoath.

## Why is this project needed?

The existing wastewater network (9C sewer) was originally constructed in the Tolka Valley in the 1970s to serve Blanchardstown, Mulhuddart and Castleknock. Since its construction the catchment area has undergone significant growth and as a result the wastewater network now serves Blanchardstown and a number of additional towns in County Meath including Dunboyne, Clonee, Ashbourne and Ratoath. The existing wastewater network is now regularly subject to flows in excess of its original capacity and as a result untreated wastewater over flows from the wastewater network into the River Tolka.

## What are the benefits of this project?

The project will:

- ✓ Increase the capacity of the wastewater network and support existing/future residential and commercial development.
- ✓ Enable the long term social and economic development of the greater Blanchardstown region and surrounding areas.
- ✓ Control and reduce the frequency and volume of untreated wastewater overflows into the River Tolka.
- ✓ Reduce flood risk from the wastewater network impacting the public and the environment.

## When the project was granted planning permission?

The project was granted planning permission by Fingal County Council in July 2017 subject to 14 planning conditions.

### **Where will the works take place and what is the timescale for the works?**

It is expected that works will commence in July 2019 and will take approximately 36 months to complete.

### **Who will carry out the works?**

The works will be completed by Ward & Burke Construction Limited working on behalf of Irish Water. All works will be overseen by Irish Water.

### **Will access to the park be maintained during the works?**

Access to the park will be maintained throughout the duration of the project, however access to working areas will be restricted and hoarding will be erected around the working areas to ensure the safety of staff and park users.

Signage will also be provided at Waterville Park entrances to advise park users of the pedestrian access routes which will be closed temporarily.

The working areas have been developed to minimise the footprint of any construction work in the park and in order to maintain access to the park. Over approximately 3.2km there will be 10 working areas in total plus haul roads between some of these areas for the movement of the Project Team, materials and construction vehicles.

Please find attached a map highlighting the individual working areas.

### **Can residents expect much disruption, traffic diversions, delays, etc.?**

During the works a traffic management plan will be in place. In order to minimise traffic disruption, construction vehicle movements will only take place outside of peak morning and evening traffic times.

### **Will the works impact the wildlife or biodiversity in the Park and surrounding areas?**

As part of this project an Ecological Expert will be on hand. To minimise any impacts to wildlife:

- Tunnelling methods will be used to minimise the impact along the Tolka River Valley, habitat loss and disturbance. Following the completion of works habitats will be restored to their previous state.
- Wetland habitats will be allowed to naturally regenerate. Planting of native tree species will replace those removed and amenity grasslands will be reseeded. 73 trees are to be removed and replaced throughout the park as part of the project.

- Disturbance to species will be minimised by restricting works and construction related activity to within the working areas and access routes as much as possible.
- Trees, along with hedgerows and scrub, that are to be felled between March 1st and August 31st will be inspected for the presence of nesting birds.
- A pre-construction mammal survey will be completed in order to ensure no holts or setts have been created since the original survey.
- Any trees that are removed will be replaced with semi mature trees of the same specimen.

### Once complete, what will the Tolka Valley Pumping Station look like?

The following image provides a visual graphic of what the pumping station will look like once works are complete in the Park.



The landscape reinstatement will include the following:

- Development of a Landscape Reinstatement Plan.
- Appointment of a qualified arborist/landscape professional.
- Vegetation will be reinstatement to match pre-construction conditions.
- Any trees that are removed will be replaced with semi mature trees of the same specimen.
- In the vicinity of the storm water management tanks and pumping station, the grassland and topography will be re-established and returned for public use.
- Each area will be reinstated as the works is completed.

### How will construction impact the area?

All potential impacts resulting from construction works were subject to Environmental Impact Assessment by Fingal County Council. All mitigation measures contained in

the assessment will be strictly complied with. As part of this the parklands will be returned to their previous condition and use, and Irish Water will ensure that Ward and Burke Construction Limited comply with this. Furthermore, the Project Team will liaise closely with the community before and during construction to ensure a constant flow of information and will ensure local considerations are taken into account.

### **What will be the construction site hours?**

To minimise disruption heavy construction equipment/machinery will only be operated during the following hours:

- Monday to Friday 8.00am to 7.00pm.
- Saturday 8:00am to 1:00pm.
- No operation on Sundays or Bank Holidays.
- Note that these limits exclude the tunnelling machine and directly associated activities which are low noise emitting activities.

### **Will the construction works generate dust?**

In order to minimise the generation of dust the Project Team will undertake the following:

- Spraying of exposed earthworks activities and site haul roads during dry weather.
- Provision of wheel washes at site exit points.
- Control of vehicle speeds, speed restrictions and vehicle access.
- Sweeping of hard surface roads.
- Provision of a 2.4m high hoarding around the site.

### **Will the project and operation of the pumping station generate noise?**

In order to minimise the generation of noise the Project Team will ensure the following measures are in place:

- The provision of hoarding around the construction works.
- Continuous noise monitoring will be undertaken to ensure it does not exceed limits.
- Continuous vibration monitoring will be undertaken to ensure it does not exceed limits.

### **Will the project construction and operation generate odour?**

To prevent any potential odour issues, the pumping station and main storm water management tank will include odour control and a ventilation system. This will ensure that all air vented from the pumping station and tanks do not cause any nuisance.

### **Will you communicate with residents so they are aware of upcoming works in their area?**

The Project Team will notify the local community in advance of works commencing and will provide contact details should they have any questions regarding the works. As part of this project Ward and Burke Construction Ltd have a full time Community Liaison Officer who will communicate with all stakeholders as the project progresses and will be available to address any queries or concerns in relation to the works.

### **Where can I find out more about this project?**

Members of the public are welcome to contact the Project Team with any questions on the project and can do so in the following ways:

**Email:** [BRDS9CSewer@water.ie](mailto:BRDS9CSewer@water.ie)

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