

Clontarf Flood Protection Project

This project is about protecting people – their lives, homes and livelihoods.

At present, Clontarf is one of the most vulnerable areas of the City and is at risk of severe flooding. This risk is present **all of the time**. The defences proposed by Dublin City Council are designed to protect the people of Clontarf when the area is flooded by the sea.

Many possible solutions were examined to provide this protection. The option selected involves landscaped gentle grass mounding and some sea walls where mounding is not possible (at 4 locations only, where existing car parks make grassed mounding not possible). This strikes the best balance between providing essential protection for the people of Clontarf ,while at the same time retaining much of the existing nature of the promenade as an open grassed area. It is **not** a continuous high wall for 3km along the promenade as some media outlets have reported.

Serious concerns have been raised by the local community and local public representatives in relation to the loss of views of the sea and Dublin Bay and also concerns in relation to the potential safety and security of people walking on the sea side walkway and their ability to enjoy the amenity.

In response to those concerns, an intensive review of the project has taken place. As a result of this review, Dublin City Council is proposing to reduce the heights of the defences. The consequence of this is that many of the views that that would have been impeded are largely restored and the concerns regarding safety and the amenity value of the promenade have been addressed to a significant degree. Dublin City Council has been assured by it's Consultants that such a reduction is possible, while retaining an effective flood defence for Clontarf.

We all agree that flood defences in coastal areas are essential. However, there is little point in investing in such defences if they are so low that they are not going to prevent the sea from flooding houses and properties.

Determining a solution to flooding is about striking a balance between these two competing priorities and in adjusting the scheme, Dublin City Council has rebalanced the proposal to take better account of the amenity value of the area, while at the same time providing essential flood defence.

We hope that you will get the opportunity to come and see the revised proposal which will be on display at Clontarf Castle from 16th to 23rd November 2011.

Signed
Seamus Lyons
Assistant City Manager
11th November 2011