

Porthmadog Flood Risk Management Project

Long-listing consultation event

Summary feedback

May 2023

Background

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) is exploring options to sustainably manage the long-term flood risk to Porthmadog and surrounding communities more effectively. This sheet provides an overview of the consultation outcomes carried out to support the long-list of options for the Porthmadog Flood Risk Management Scheme.

Events

NRW organised two public consultation events on:

1. Thursday, 26 January 2023, between 1.30pm and 6.30pm at Y Ganolfan Community Centre
2. Friday, 27 January 2023, between 9.30am and 2pm, at Y Ganolfan Community Centre

There were also two informal consultation follow-up sessions:

3. Monday, 6 February 2023 at Byw'n Iach Glaslyn (Leisure Centre), Porthmadog
4. Tuesday, 7 January 2023, visiting local businesses along Snowdon Street

The consultation event was advertised by a postal newsletter that was delivered to 2476 addresses. The project webpage was updated. a press release was issued, and social media posts placed. A direct email was sent to 182 of identified stakeholders.

Consultation materials

The consultation events included the following elements: -

- Welcome desk with bilingual registration forms and paper feedback forms.
- A map of the area which attendees could mark the location of their homes.
- Historical photographs of flood management structures in the area.
- Bilingual exhibition materials consisting of an introduction to the scheme, NRW's work in the study area, the wider context, flood risk from rivers, flood defence structures and a long list of options for consideration.
- Projector screens showing animations of the flood modelling.
- A variety of plans and leaflets, including a leaflet giving advice on how to prepare for a flood event and an information sheet on dredging.
- Plans to stick on post-it notes with comments relating to specific areas.
- NRW had several team members available to chat with attendees and to answer questions, along with representatives from Gwynedd Council and Welsh Water.

Attendance

The events were well attended with a mix of key stakeholders, and local residents. There was a registered total of 67 attending on Thursday 26 January and 59 attending on Friday 27 January. A further 13 people were counted on the clicker across both days but did not register on arrival. Making a total of **139 attendees**. There was a low response from businesses, local landowners, and from farmers.

Feedback

A feedback form was available to everyone on the NRW consultation hub webpage and also via Virtual Engage. Hard copies were also handed out during the event with self-addressed freepost envelopes. A total of 27 forms were returned – **23 English and 4 Welsh**. Of the 23 English responses, nine were postal, 14 were online. For the four Welsh responses, two were postal and two were submitted online.

The feedback received during the event, is summarised as follows:-

1. All long list options received votes, with many respondents selecting all options in their responses. The three options that received the *greatest amount of support* (59%) were: **'Upgrade River Defences'**, **'Watercourse Improvements'**, and **'Pumping Solutions'**, followed closely by: **'Upgrade Coastal Defences'** and **'Property Level Protection'** at 52%. The ones that received the *least support* were to **'Reconfigure Coastal Defences'** and **'New Flood Warning Area'**, which were at 26% and 22% respectively.
2. When asked 'what do you value most about the environment in Porthmadog?' **'Wildlife and Nature'** was the most popular answer with 67%. This was followed by **'Landscape and Scenery'** and **'History and Culture'** which were both selected by 59% of respondents, compared to 37% who chose **'Recreational Opportunities'**.
3. When asked 'How does flooding affect you in the Porthmadog Study Area?' the majority were concerned with flooding to homes (14), and the impact on businesses and wider socio economics (7). There were 4 comments concerning house and business insurance.
4. When asked 'why they had selected the longlist options', there were mixed responses as to the number of options being proposed. Some thought it was important that all options are considered. Others thought that the number of options suggested a lack of viable solutions. Comments under the 'other options' section showed a lack of confidence that NRW could deliver the project, and that sufficient funds would not be made available.
5. When asked 'if you have any concerns with the longlist options', some respondents suggested alternative options be proposed. This included dredging of the harbour, constructing additional outfalls to increase capacity and the facilitation of tidal energy. The main concern was cost and lack of funding (5). There was also some scepticism regarding the maps illustrating flood risk cover.

Next steps

The feedback responses, along with those received during the March 2021 letter drop on experiences of flooding, will be used to inform the next project stage. This will involve the assessment of the options long list, taking into consideration set criteria which includes value for money, sustainability, and technical viability. Using an evidence-based approach, we will recommend a short list of options and present these to the community in late summer 2023. Afterwards we envisage that on site surveys and investigations will take place to further inform our understanding and to seek to identify a single preferred option later this year.

Contact Us

Thank you for sharing your views. We will continue to provide regular project updates via our webpage:

<https://naturalresources.wales/porthmadogfloodrisk>

Please get in touch if you'd like to find out more and to share your views if you haven't done so already. You can also register for future progress updates:-

Email: porthmadog.floodrisk@grasshopper-comms.co.uk

Tel: Andrew Basford, Project Manager (Welsh Learner) on 03000 65 3846 or Sharon Parry, Project Team Support Officer (Welsh Speaker) on 03000 65 5264.

You can also write to us at:-

Sharon Parry
Natural Resource Wales
Bangor Office,
Maes y Ffynnon,
Gwynedd,
LL57 2DW