

Finbarr Keaney

From: Ursula Creegan
Sent: 30 April 2024 10:19
To: planning
Subject: Part 8 flood defence works at Drumhierny and Leitrim Townlands, Leitrim Village, Co Leitrim

FAO Senior Executive Planner

Re: Part 8 Flood defense works at Drumhierny and Leitrim Townlands, Leitrim Village, Co Leitrim. The provision of flood defense works involving the construction of a flood defense berm, the creation of a controlled drainage culvert and ancillary works at lands adjacent to the R284 Regional road (Keadue Road).

I would like to submit my objection to the above works due to the potential impact that this will have on my own property which is located at 10 Drumhierney Manor, behind the flood berm. During high rainfall I already have floods to the edge of my back garden. In 2009 the waters and overflowing sewerage were 2/3 up the driveway at No.12, at the side that house and in their back garden, the road at the end of the estate was completely flooded in front of no 11 and 12 Drumhierney.

There was no consultation with the adjacent residents during the application stage of these works nor was there any correspondence prior to works commencing. We, the residents of Drumhierney, Woodville and Keadue Road only found out about said works once they had commenced and were at sandbag stage as we all just assumed that the County Council were doing essential, overdue drain Maintenance as they did not advise us otherwise.

Numerous residents contacted Shay O'Connor in January outlining their concerns once the builders advised us of the plans. We also contacted local TDs'/Councilors. We were told on numerous occasions that the work would be paused and Shay also advised same at a municiple meeting and yet continued with works even though the valid concerns were raised and there was no planning permission.

We were advised by Shay O'Connnor in person at a residential meeting regarding concerns in January that the covert would only be closed once the houses in Cluian Oir were at risk (ie the water was up to their paths). On many occasions Shay O'Connor and John Mulvihill stated that their roles are to "protect houses not gardens" also they both confirmed that our foundations are not their responsibility yet our houses are all pile driven so clearly this is a major concern for all adjacent properties in the flood area.

Our concerns include and remain at this time:

- FOI – shows that the field behind Cluain Oir will be dry and no longer flood - Shay originally told us that covert would only be closed when houses are at risk.
- This means that rather than a small amount of water being kept behind the berm it will actually be an entire fields worth.
- Why was this planning started in 2022 based on 2009 flood levels – FOI also states 12 houses flooded where it was actually only 2.

- If the flood berm is completed our sewerage system/pump will be flooded based on the water levels taken and furnished by yourselves under FOI which means that this is a health and safety risk as raw sewerage will spill out again into our estate, through the overflow pipe into the field behind 12 Drumhierney Manor and also into the Shannon waterway. With the completion of this berm this could become a yearly event for us rather than a once off.
- We also note that on your planning application form “that the proposed development does not require an environmental impact assessment and will not be likely to have a significant effect on the environment, how can sewerage leaks due to flooding not have an impact?
- Noise of pump – is it going to be on all of the time during high water levels as we believe that the water in the field is a combination of Fluvial and pluvial waters rather than just fluvial as per the original engineers report for the application of works. I can’t understand how the covert will work to release water as the fluvial water will push the opening closed if it is on our side but if it is on the other side (towards the keadue road) then the fluvial water would push it to remain open as the water naturally flows towards the field behind Cluain Oir which suggests that the pump will have to be permanently on during hightened levels.
- I note from FOI that this berm will remain for up to 7 years with a view to extending so this is 7 years of additional risk to properties in Drumhierney manor. We have said all along that the berm would be better situated in the field behind Drumhierney Manor as would protect all of us instead of just a few.
- Will these flood works mean that the remaining 3 houses can be finshed in Cluain Oir as are no longer at risk of flooding?
- Due to works commencing my neighbours house has devalued by 100K and they have been advised by 2 independent estate agents that they will only be able to get cash buyers for their property at the reduced rates. There is a risk of my house being under valued also due to these works.
- The county council are renting the entire field as per FOI but Shay O’Connor advised that they are only renting the front part where the berm is being built – when the field was being cleared the entire boundary fence came down and to date there has been no offer of fixing this issue and the land is very dangerous as now comprises of quick mud which when stepping on can sink you up to the level of your knees and also there are exposed drains/waterways that children can now easily access, again this is clearly a health and safety risk.
- When the engineering firm took levels in 2023 It is noted from FOI that the level of the back of the property 11 Drumhierney Manor only sits at 43.12/43.25/43.26 which is only marginally above the flood berm height of 43M.
- The flood levels taken in 2009 I believe were 42.7 but I feel these to be incorrect as the house on the keadue road (next to the flood berm) flooded that year and according to the levels taken this house sits at an elevation of 43.193.
- Shay had advised that he will raise our manholes but will not raise the electrics or the one in the middle of the road – unless this is done our sewerage will not pump and obviously would be broken if was flooded.
- Why is the boundary for works including our sewerage when this should be taken in charge and amended regardless of approval of planning for the flood works.

Thank you for taking the time to read my concerns. Please can you reply to all bullet points via reply to this email address at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely

Ursula Moore
 Drumhierney manor
 Leitrim village

