Tolka Valley Flood Defence Works commence

Following a condition report, the Office of Public Works has recommended the removal of vegetation growing on two locations of the Tolka Valley flood defences embankment.

Engineers from the OPW are concerned that the growth on the embankment could have a significant effect on the structural strength and integrity of the earth embankment and they have recommended the removal of all vegetation. The work will consist of the removal of all vegetation on the embankment at two locations.

The work will take place on two sites. The compound for Site one is the Fingal County Council car park, located along the flyover road over the N3. Work commenced here on Thursday 7 February and is expected to finish by Monday 18 February. It is located close to the tree felling operations and will allow the securing of the site, making it safe for both the public and tree operatives. A small section of the earth bank running down the footpath will be excavated to allow a temporary roadway to be installed.
Due to the topography, volume of material and limited access the contractor proposes to use a timber harvester and timber forwarder to carry out the site clearance. Once the work is complete the earth bank will be reinstated and seeded. The contractor has a contract with Bord na Mona to provide woodchip from the debris for the biomass power plant in Edenderry, reducing the carbon footprint of the tree felling operation.

The removal of all trees and vegetation material along the N3 will be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and FreeFlow Traffic Management Company. This work will have to be undertaken at night under lights and over the course of two weekends.

Due to the dangerous nature of the works being carried out the extent and amount of large machinery being used in a public park, the work site will be secured from the public at the below locations:

R843 (Snugborough Rd) edge of bridge set inside crash barrier. 110 metres fence along crash barrier, and then run fencing down to the river. It will terminate at the bridge or walkway.

- Fencing to be located across footpath at bridge located down from car park area.
- Fencing located at the R121 end of the park. It will be located where the river path bends towards the N3 and set up across the grass. This will not impede the public access as they can still move freely across the river further upstream.
- Fencing around the car park area also thus ensuring that the worksite is as secure as it can possibly be.

Site two is a 450 metre earth embankment enclosing Westpoint Business Park. Work will commence on February 8 and is expected to take two weeks. When all tree works are complete, the soil will be replaced to recreate the earth bank as it was. An earth ramp will be created to allow the creation of a temporary roadway and a large work area.

Fencing will be installed across the entrance and exit. Security fencing will also be installed at the far end of the earth embankment. A security guard will be located on site working the same hours as in site one. The felling, chipping and removal process will be the same as in site one.

Fingal County Council's Director of Operations, David Storey said: “The removal of vegetation located at both work sites are essential works to ensure the embankment prevents flooding of the N3. Fingal County Council is working with the OPW to ensure the works are carried out in accordance with TII and FreeFlow Traffic Management Company requirements to minimise traffic disruptions.”
For further information, please contact press@fingal.ie

Photo caption: Site one of the Tolka Valley work