Welcome to the third newsletter for the Shannon CFRAM Study.

A lot has been happening over the last few months since our previous update in the summer and is contained in this newsletter.

A Flood Risk Review has been carried out using historic data, the findings of the national Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA) and in consultation with Local Authorities, to agree the final list of Areas for Further Assessment (AFAs). The confirmed list of AFAs is presented in this newsletter. These locations will now form the basis for all future activities for the Shannon CFRAM Study.

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is progressing well. We have gathered large amounts of environmental data from our research and site visits, as well as useful stakeholder knowledge from our two SEA workshops. Our first workshop in July was for statutory Environmental Authorities; the second workshop in October was for Local Authority representatives and key environmental stakeholders. Between now and spring 2012 the team will be producing the SEA Scoping Reports, and we want to gather wider views on the environmental issues. Details about how we want you to get involved are included in this newsletter.

A number of topographic surveys by specialist teams have started. These non-intrusive surveys are to assist in our understanding of the varying river profile, floodplain and bridge crossings within or near AFAs. You may see these survey teams out and about in the study area collecting this much needed data.
The Areas for Further Assessment (AFAs) are centred around properties, both residential and industrial, where the existing or future risk of flooding is considered to be sufficiently significant to be assessed in detail by this national flood risk study. They cover a range of areas such as:

- Towns and villages (including large settlements and smaller communities).
- Areas where significant development is likely to occur.
- Individual sites or structures (such as Shannon Airport and power stations).

As the study is a catchment wide assessment of flood risk throughout the Shannon basin, we are also considering the risk in areas surrounding the designated AFAs. The risk of flooding from rivers and the sea will be determined not only for each AFA, but also for the river lengths flowing downstream from these areas. This is to help us understand any downstream impacts of the flood risk management measures we will consider later in the study.

Getting Involved

There will be many stages throughout the life of the project where we will involve stakeholders and local people, e.g. via exhibition days, workshops, newsletters, media and online.

We will be holding a series of public exhibition days in the New Year once the SEA Scoping Reports have been developed. But if you want to give us your views in the meantime, you can comment on our Environmental Issues Paper which can be downloaded from our website.

Look out for further details of our upcoming public exhibitions and other activities on our website and in the local press.