

Need for a new wastewater treatment works

Ballygowan Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTW) was built in the 1950s to treat domestic and industrial wastewater from the village of Ballygowan and the surrounding area.

A growing population since then has meant that the existing WwTW is now operating at full capacity, requiring more regular NI Water operative intervention. While extensive maintenance and refurbishment work has taken place over the years at the treatment works, many of the existing assets are now nearing the end of their useful life and need to be replaced.

A modern new treatment works with additional capacity will allow for development in the Ballygowan area; support economic growth and deliver environmental benefits for the local community.

Working with the community and keeping you informed

NI Water and our contract team appreciate the support of local residents, landowners and the wider community in Ballygowan as we move forward with this vital new wastewater treatment works. We will endeavour to keep stakeholders updated and advise of key milestones as this £6.4m project progresses.



Who will carry out the work?

The civil construction work at Ballygowan WwTW will be carried out by GEDA Construction while Water Solutions Ireland will undertake the mechanical and electrical fit out of the plant. Belfast-based TetraTech are providing project management and technical support to NI Water for the contract.

PROJECT PARTNERS:



If it's not
**PEE, POO
or PAPER**
it will block
the pipes

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COVID-19 and Health & Safety

Our contractors will put in place a series of health & safety measures and follow government guidelines while carrying out work on the new Ballygowan WwTW.

We would take this opportunity to remind residents that construction sites are dangerous areas for unauthorised persons, especially children and we would appreciate your cooperation in ensuring that children do not play in or around the works or machinery. Working areas will have warning signs in place to protect the public from any hazards. The public are advised to stay out of these areas for their own safety.

Ballygowan Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTW)

A £6.4m NI Water investment to provide Ballygowan with a modern new wastewater facility



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Where will the new WwTW be built?

NI Water has acquired land adjacent to the existing treatment works on which to construct a more advanced, modern facility. The existing treatment works will remain in operation until the new treatment works is built and commissioned in spring 2022.



What will the work involve?

The work on the new Ballygowan WwTW will involve both civil construction work and mechanical/electrical (M&E) engineering work. The civil construction work will include excavation/ground works; steel and concrete works to build the new tanks; extensive landscaping and road surfacing, while the M&E work will see the installation of all the new process equipment; electrical panels and fitting out of the new treatment works.

Site staff and construction vehicles will access the site via a specially-constructed haul road from Moss Road.

The new Ballygowan WwTW has been designed to include an additional (third) level of treatment known as tertiary treatment, which will provide a higher quality of treated effluent to the River Blackwater.

How will the construction of this new WwTW benefit the local community?

The new facility represents an NI Water investment of £6.4m to significantly improve wastewater services and accommodate future growth and development in the Ballygowan area. The investment will also bring environmental benefits by improving the quality of water discharged to the River Blackwater.

Our contractors, GEDA Construction and Water Solutions Ireland will source local supplies and labour where possible and the site operatives will be encouraged to 'shop locally' at all times.

Will there be any impacts from the construction work?

NI Water and its contract team have put in place measures to help reduce the impact of this project both during and after construction.

At the beginning of the contract, and with approval from the relevant authorities, an access road will be created from Moss Road into the new WwTW site to avoid construction traffic travelling through Dickson Park. Once in place, this access road will be used by all site staff and construction traffic on a daily basis. NI Water operatives, however, will continue to use the access through Dickson Park when visiting the existing WwTW.

The design of the new WwTW has been developed in such a way as to minimise the amount of soil being taken off site. The excavated soil will be stockpiled on site and used to form a bund which will be landscaped to reduce the visual impact of the newly constructed WwTW. Planting will include a mixture of indigenous low and high-level trees and shrubs, which will mature over time to hide any above-ground structures (as shown below).

To protect the public and ensure the highest levels of health & safety, the area where the new WwTW will be located will be entirely fenced off while construction work is ongoing. Residents living adjacent to the site may experience general construction noise during the day. We expect this noise to reduce over time as the project progresses and the M&E element of the build gets underway.

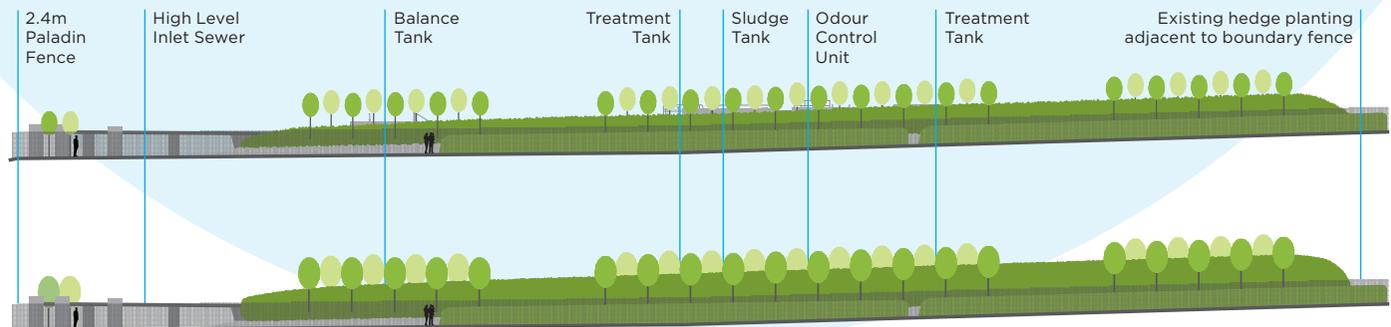
NI Water would take this opportunity to assure residents that our contractor will strive to keep disruption to a minimum and will ensure that roads into and out of the site are inspected regularly and cleaned when necessary.

What is the timescale for the project?

Construction of the access road is expected to get underway in early February 2021 with work starting on site around mid/late February 2021. Construction and M&E work will take around 15 months to complete, after which the new WwTW will go through a three-month testing and commissioning period.

Site Landscape Plan

Proposed Planting When Planted



Proposed Planting After 5 Years