

**Stonehaven Flood Protection Scheme** (*River Carron, not Coastal Study*)

**Information Evening – 19<sup>th</sup> November 2019 from 7 – 9 p.m.**

**@ The Invercarron Resource Centre, Low Wood Rd, Stonehaven AB39 2LJ**



The evening was hosted by Stonehaven Flood Action Group and organised by the Flood Protection Project Team.

The objective of the event was to enable the community to receive an update on the Project, ask questions and meet the team.

Welcome and introductions were given by Mark Irvine, Chairman of the Flood Action Group followed by a Project presentation by Sheila Tolmie, Community Liaison Officer with question and answer session involving Rachel Kennedy from Aberdeenshire Council and Martin Curran, Contracts Manager from McLaughlin & Harvey. Those who attended also took the opportunity to meet and discuss with the project management team and Engineers about the works.

Over 100 people attended on the night and it was a great community engagement event and successful based on the feedback received and a few suggestions to take forward including making it a quarterly event and possibly a bigger venue.

Key points to action:

1. A commitment was made to provide an update for each work area on what is happening next and circulated.
2. Arrange to meet with Emergency Services prior to festive holidays and ensure communication links area in case access is required
3. Check that the website is up-to-date and correct completion dates (December 2020 and not September 2020 as stated in press)
4. Review site security, traffic and pedestrian management arrangements prior to festive break
5. Beach area clear up to be organised especially before Fireball event as Community Benefit
6. Status of traffic management at A957 to be clarified by Aberdeenshire Council
7. Bridgefield area flooding concerns to be taken forward by Aberdeenshire Council

*“Just a note to thank you for the very informative meeting you presented at the Invercarron Resource Centre on Tuesday evening on the ongoing works in the River Carron. I have attended many similar meetings over the past ten years on the subject of the river and flooding and have to say it was the most well-presented and informative meeting I have ever attended. Audience inclusion was very much encouraged and I'm sure a lot of information was shared because of it.*

*I hope you and the Contractors were reassured by the positive comments made with regard to the scheme overall and the input by the workmen as to how much the community is behind this scheme and look forward to seeing it completed. I was saddened to learn in the course of the evening that the workmen have been subjected to abuse in the course of their work as this reflects badly on our community and is not acceptable.*

*Thank you again for your role in bringing information to the community on the works planned for the various zones in the near future. It is much appreciated.”*

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*“Well done last night. I thought it was a very useful meeting to have and although there was some negativity, I would have said that this was a minority. Most people around me were listening, and quite a few were shaking heads at some (not all) of the negativity.*

*It will have helped people to work out what is happening and why.”*

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*“Just a quick note to say well done to you and the team for last night's presentation at the Resource Centre. I thought it was a comprehensive, fair and honest review of what has happened to date and a good insight into the plans through to completion. I think the vast majority of people would appreciate that a project of this scale will not go completely as planned, without some glitches and alterations as it plays out. To think otherwise is frankly naïve. I have been impressed with the Community engagement and also with the conduct of the workforce. On that note, it was upsetting to hear that some of your staff have received abuse from members of the public. I think you know that this is no way representative of the Stonehaven community – again I'm sure the majority of Stonehaven residents would be appalled by this behaviour. Thanks again.”*

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*“Well done for your presentation and question answering last night. It showed great professionalism and knowledge.”*

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*“I was there on Tuesday evening and may I say you did an excellent job on the night under the circumstances. I think you'll need a bigger venue the next time and maybe the representatives up with you to answer the questions as I'm sure it's only going to get livelier.”*

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**The Stonehaven Flood Protection Project team would like to thank the community for coming along and sharing their views and concerns. It was especially nice to hear the positive comment about the workforce and progress.**

**Finally, a big thanks to Mark Irvine, Chairman of the Flood Action Group and his members for hosting the evening.**