



**PUBLIC MEETING
STONEHAVEN FLOOD
A PARTNERSHIP RESPONSE**

15 June 2010

Question 1

The rise in water levels at the Carron was reported to SEPA several months before 1 November event and again twice on the day of the flood. Was this actioned?

Response
Mark Becker
SEPA

It is necessary for me to have the dates and times of the call in order to follow this up.

Action

To speak after meeting and follow up.



Question 2

Called the Police Non-Emergency Call Centre for information about where to park a car. They had no information to give out so the question was asked at the cordon. Request that the police update the Call Centre with information for disseminating should a similar emergency situation occur.

Response

Sgt Tanya Leiper
Grampian Police

The gentleman concerned did phone the non emergency line on the night of the floods, and although he did not get the information from them he was able to obtain a satisfactory answer on speaking to emergency staff on the ground.

Action

Police to follow up. (There needs to be a realistic expectation about what is reasonable in such a situation and what initiative an individual can take for themselves).



Question 3

Timeline on Page 15 of the presentation does not mention the Maritime Rescue Institute (MRI) who were contacted by the Coastguard at 7.10 on 1 November 2009. Why therefore are MRI not involved in the debrief tonight.

Response

William Munro
Area Manager, Aberdeenshire Council

Had explained earlier that the Timeline was only a summary and not a detailed account of events, which would have taken far too many slides and time. He had also previously that evening thanked MRI for all their input, and reiterated that he had had discussions with MRI prior to the event and they were not of the opinion that they were being excluded.

Action

Question 4

If the capacity of the Green Bridge is increased will the Carron Estuary cope when leasing water out onto the beach?

Response

Steve Mcfarland
Principal Engineer, Aberdeenshire Council

The Consultants have looked the capacity of the river including modelling based on high tide. The section along the beach is shown to have capacity in excess of what can be generated by short term improved flow at the green bridge. Flow of water through the beach section was checked on the night of the flood and there was no indication of any restriction to flow at the beach.

Action

Further modelling will be required to assess combined effects of high tides and high river flows but the initial results suggest that the tidal effects are limited to an area well downstream of the white bridge.

Question 5

The water gate by the Dolphin sculpture is now kept locked since it has gone into private ownership. It was opened by a member of the public on the night and water flowed out.

Response

Steve Mcfarland
Principal Engineer, Aberdeenshire Council

Will need more details and will investigate.

Action

This will be included in the emergency flood response plan for future use and discussion with the private owner will take place as part of this.



Question 6

The area near the old Lawson Yard used to slope away from the High Street and when the traditional drains were operational this enabled the water to run out to sea. The build up on the beach has also worsened the issue.

Response

Philip McKay
Head of Roads & Landscape Services, Aberdeenshire Council

We are looking at a number of issues in the Old Town area, as the area is low lying there are difficulties. In the first instance we are dealing with areas that are within the control of the Council but longer term solutions are also required and will be put in place when we have full knowledge. The area is not easy and there are other issues that may require more medium / long term work.

Action

Question 7

Concern that the Carron Den flood plains will be compromised with the potential new housing development, children's play area and access road all being affected.

Response

Steve Mcfarland
Principal Engineer, Aberdeenshire Council

Understand that the housing proposal is off the flood plain and on the slope. The planning application process involves consultation with agencies, Scottish Water, SEPA, and Council's Transportation & Infrastructure who will consider the proposals and make assessment based on the policy.

Action

The engineer for the developer has been made aware of the need to consider the flooding extents on 1st November and update the calculations for compensatory storage (for the proposed access road) will be update if the proposal is to proceed further

Question 8

Difficulty finding the report on flooding, which was presented to the Kincardine & Mearns Area Committee, on the web site. Also have not seen the 50/60 questions posed at the Stonehaven and District Community Council public flood meeting.

Response

William Munro
Area Manager, Aberdeenshire Council

Will certainly look at a more user friendly aspect of the flooding information on the Aberdeenshire website. The 50/60 question response document has been fed back to the Community Council for dissemination as that is where the questions were asked and is available on the website.

Action

To action a Stonehaven Flood page on the Aberdeenshire website which will contain all relevant documents relating to flood information specific to Stonehaven, This will include the 50/60 question/ response document. To produce a ring binder with all the flood reports and associated flood information for display in the Stonehaven Library.

Question 9

Encouraged to hear that there will be some tree maintenance. Please note that there are some Sycamore trees just above the White Bridge that also need to be dealt with.

Response

Noted

Action

Will be included in the works due to be carried out late summer. Note that landowners are responsible for ensuring that trees or other items do not restrict the flow of water in the river and should undertake maintenance regularly with regard to flood events

Question 10

The Old Mill lade runs from the Weir at the bottom of Low Wood Road and eventually behind properties at Bridgefield, when there was development at Stevenson Court the lade was blocked and needs to be reopened.

Response

Steve Mcfarland

Principal Engineer, Aberdeenshire Council

In discussion with Scottish Water at the moment regarding the water courses around that area. A tanker has removed the sediment and a camera will be used to see what issues there are in that area.

Action

Culvert has been cleared and further investigations are taking place to replace the terminal soakaway with an outlet pipe. Note that the main sources of water no longer exist but there are flows from the Bervie braes and a lesser amount from other connections along the route. The lades are in private ownership and land owners have the primary responsibility for maintenance and repair.

Question 11

Property at 44 Adler Drive, Portlethen flooded when the burn behind the house burst its banks. No emergency services came out. Can the Council put up flood defences to stop this happening again?

Response

Steve Mcfarland
Principal Engineer, Aberdeenshire Council

Understand that a neighbour built a dam which might have had some impact. Also there was a collection of debris at the bridge which is privately owned. The landowner has responsibilities to keep this clear.

Graeme Goonan
Station Manager GFRS

The call log has been checked and the resident was advised to call SEPA flood watch. The reasoning that the Emergency Services did not attend was that there was no life risk and water was not in her home. As was said at the meeting we are a rescue service and on the day/night of the flooding our priority was to save lives and rescue people who were in danger of losing lives.

Action

Will contact landowner and request that this is kept clear in the future. The bridge itself (which predates the property), has a limited capacity and water will continue to spill out during extreme events.

A meeting has taken place on site and further actions agreed including homeowner to consider options to protect the property itself

Question 12

Applauded SEPA for putting in gauges. Need to be sure that it is a 1/70 year event.
Concerned that further developments at Braehead, for example a supermarket, would impact negatively on Stonehaven Town.

Response

Cllr Melling

Any planning application would be dealt with in the usual manner and appropriate services consulted with, this would include, SEPA, Scottish Water, Council's Transportation and Infrastructure. The Council has refused planning permission for a supermarket and no further development is proposed here in the draft Local Development Plan.

Action

Question 13

Properties at Bridgefield have the Old Mill Lade running under them and the water came up through the floor boards to just above the joists. Would it be possible to block part of the Old Mill Lade.

Response

Steve Mcfarland

Principal Engineer, Aberdeenshire Council

This perhaps should have been filled in when it became obsolete although further information would be required.

Philip McKay

Head of Roads & Landscape Services, Aberdeenshire Council

Caution against closing off, it is the landowner who has responsibilities but perhaps we could offer advice on maintenance.

Action

Attempts are being made to trace assess points to the old lades. Will be difficult to locate all possible private connections to the old lade system



Question 14

House next to the Old Mill, neighbour said that the Council had redesigned the Lade.

Response

Steve Mcfarland
Principal Engineer, Aberdeenshire Council

In discussion with Scottish Water at the moment regarding the water courses around that area. A tanker has removed the sediment and a camera will be used to see what issues there are in that area.

Action

The only changes made were at the outlet to the sea where a soakaway replaced the previous open "burn". Downstream extent of the culvert has been cleared and further investigations are taking place to replace the terminal soakaway with an outlet pipe. Note that the main sources of water no longer exist but there are flows from the Bervie braes and a lesser amount from other connections along the route. The lades are in private ownership and land owners have the primary responsibility for maintenance and repair.

Question 15

Is there a comprehensive survey of the network of drains below Stonehaven?

Response
Ian Burnett
Scottish Water

We as yet do not have all the historic information but are working at building up a picture, although Scottish Water has comprehensive records of the public sewers within Stonehaven for which it is responsible.

Action



Question 16

Resident in the High Street asked for sandbags but there were none available.

Response

Philip McKay

Head of Roads & Landscape Services, Aberdeenshire Council

The Council's primary statutory obligation is to keep the road network safe, provision of sandbags for private properties is a non statutory function. Acknowledge there were not enough sandbags to meet expectations. The Council is using its buying power to buy flood defences at discounted prices and pass the discount onto residents. Community must also accept that there were a high number of people in Aberdeenshire at that time requiring assistance as many communities were dealing with flooding.

Paul Hendry

Scottish Flood Forum

Aberdeenshire Council have been unique in the UK by offering subsidies to purchase flood defence equipment to protect properties. We have had an exhibition showing and demonstrating various flood defence equipment. If you visit the Flood Recovery Centre at MRI we can demonstrate the equipment. Home owners have personal responsibility to protect their own homes. We will come to your home, do a flood survey and leave you with recommendations. You can then, if you so wish, complete the order form and send it to the Council who will sell you the necessary defences at the discounted price.

Action

The Council has looked at operations and considered how to deploy staff and sandbags more effectively, even though it is outwith the Council's statutory obligation. Sandbags will be placed at three locations in the town and also at Spurryhillock Depot. The Council is using its buying power to buy flood defences at discounted prices and pass the discount onto residents. In order to more effectively deal with similar situations an early warning would be helpful and measures to achieve this are being looked at. It is important that property owners do what they can to protect their own properties and the discount scheme is designed to assist with this process.

Question 17

A property in Victoria Street has a silt trap in the back garden which needs cleaning regularly. The silt comes down from the Braes, it was considered not to be the property owners silt and therefore not their duty to clear it.

Response

Steve Mcfarland

Principal Engineer, Aberdeenshire Council

This is a private property but we are trying to find a way of catching the coarse material before it gets to the property.

Action

A silt trap will be designed and included in the list of possible works to be undertaken. There is however a heavy demand across Aberdeenshire on the small improvements and as yet funding has not been found to progress this.

Question 18

In the late 60/70s the Lade at Dunnottar Avenue was backed filled completely, even though the digger operative advised not to do this. Consequently there is no outlet now.

Response

Steve Mcfarland

Principal Engineer, Aberdeenshire Council

In discussion with Scottish Water at the moment regarding the water courses around that area. A tanker has removed the sediment and a camera will be used to see what issues there are in that area.

Action

See responses to questions 11, 14, 15



Question 19

Thank you to all who had worked so hard during the flooding.
Thank you to Mr Munro for acknowledging the work done by the community.

A general observation is that there is not enough dialogue between agencies and communities. What have the agencies present actually done to ensure that the public know and understand what is being done, how do you communicate?

Response

William Munro

Area Manager, Aberdeenshire Council

Regular newsletters have been posted out to all residents affected by the flooding. In addition these newsletters are widely available in shops etc throughout the town.

Regular updates, in addition to the 50/60 question/response document, have been given to Stonehaven and District Community Council and flooding has been a standing item at the Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee and in turn reported in the local press. The Stonehaven and District Community Council have had more attention over the last months than all the other Community Councils put together in the Kincardine and Mearns Area.

Action

Will look again at communications and develop the website with a Stonehaven Flood page on the Aberdeenshire website which will contain all relevant documents relating to flood information specific to Stonehaven, this will include the 50/60 question/ response document.



Question 20

The Stonehaven Flood Report states that development is not an issue. Concern regarding new developments.

Also residents of privately owned properties can and do concrete paths to create additional car parking and this in turn can disrupt drainage.

Response

Steve Mcfarland

Principal Engineer, Aberdeenshire Council

Again each planning application is passed to the relevant agencies to comment on. It was acknowledged that concreting paths and drives can perhaps cause problems but the Council have limited powers for these works. It has been concluded that the flood of 1 November was caused by unprecedented rainfall, and run off from rural areas. The developed part of the catchment is very small in comparison to the rural catchment where the vast majority of the water comes from.

William Munro

Area Manager, Aberdeenshire Council

The Glaslaw Burn was not considered to be a contributing factor to the flood on 1 November as the Carron had burst its bank above the area where the Glaslaw Burn would access the Carron.

I can assure you that the Councillors on the Kincardine & Mearns Area Committee scrutinise planning applications that come before them carefully paying particular attention to issues that might arise from flooding.

Action



Question 21

Do Scottish Water have a say in planning applications

Response

William Munro

Area Manager, Aberdeenshire Council

Yes they are a statutory Consultee.

Action

Question 22

Why don't the relevant agencies meet with residents who have a great deal of local knowledge regarding the drain network etc in Stonehaven?

Response

Cllr Melling

We do listen, engage and actively seek local information. This has been going on and the knowledge used in assessments. This was confirmed by local residents present at the meeting.

Action



Question 23

Resident in the High Street asked for sandbags but there were none available and he had to go to the beach and fill his own. He approached the Fire Service who advised that they could not get hold of anybody in the Council to assist.

Response

Philip McKay

Head of Roads & Landscape Services, Aberdeenshire Council

Do not intend to bulk store sandbags due to deterioration, the procedure regarding future distribution has already been discussed. Disappointing to hear that partner agencies did not manage to contact the Council and will take this back to colleagues.

Colin Gray

Strategic Coordinating Group

We are all aware of the traumatic event that took place and can acknowledge that communication needs to be improved for the public so that they know who to contact and when.

Councillor Melling.

An exercise has been planned for October over three Local Authorities to include all agencies to simulate a severe weather emergency event. This will enable us to test what lessons we have learned and continue to improve policies and procedures.

Action

Look at procedure re agencies contacting the Council out of hours.



Question 24

What capacity does the River Carron actually have?

Response

Steve Mcfarland
Principal Engineer, Aberdeenshire Council

The capacity along the river from Walker bridge to the sea has been determined. At the most restricted point which is upstream of the green bridge, the capacity is around 20 cubic metres per second compared with an estimated peak flow of just over 30 cubic metres per second on 1st November.

Action

Question 25

Has consideration been given to removing, raising or replacing the Green Bridge, to remove the risk of debris causing back-up of water flow.

Response

Steve Mcfarland
Principal Engineer, Aberdeenshire Council

The short answer is yes - but it only achieved a small increase in capacity at the critical location.

A more detailed answer is below: The table below is taken from the draft report by the Consultant. It is the result of the assessment of removing the trellis (or raising the bridge by 540mm).

It concludes that the raising of the bridge would have only a small increase in capacity at the **critical** river sections. More effective options have been identified which we are working on at the moment.

The option of modifying the bridge will be examined again along with the other medium / long term options if / when we are looking to gain even more capacity and assuming similar gains can be achieved downstream. This will be done with a full computer model (which allows out of bank flows and is therefore more representative) rather than the quicker capacity check model used to date.

Table 3-5: Scenario 2 - Channel Capacities following the modelling of the Green Bridge without the trellis framework

Node	Left Threshold Level (m AD)	Right Threshold Level (m AD)	Min flow at which threshold level reached (m ³ /s)	Difference in Capacity - Scenario 2 minus Base (m ³ /s)
768	9.34	10.09	40.7	6.8
763	9.34	9.92	41.2	7.2
Red Bridge				
757	9.49	9.51	45.6	8.5
734	9.36	8.92	36.8	6.3
710	8.66	8.66	32.5	5.0
671	8.40	8.17	23.3	1.4
637	8.49	8.01	21.3	1.3
635	8.54	8.00	21.3	0.9
Green Bridge				
631	8.49	8.09	24.1	-0.5
627	8.23	8.10	25.2	-0.6
Log weir				

nb Base is the current situation, threshold is bank level and Node is the distance upstream from the sea in metres

Action

The option of modifying the bridge will be examined again along with the other medium / long term options if / when we are looking to gain even more capacity and assuming similar gains can be achieved downstream. This will be done with a full computer model (which allows out of bank flows and is therefore more representative) rather than the quicker capacity check model used to date.

Question 26

The flood risk assessment done for Carron Den is based on out of date information as it was drawn before the flood. When will a fresh assessment be done? Has there been a flood risk assessment done on the burn to the south of the proposed site?

Response

Sarah MacRitchie/Stephen McFarland/Neil Stewart emailed 18/06/10

From a Draft Local Development Plan point of view a detailed Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) has not been considered at this stage. The settlement statement advises that a FRA will be required for the proposal. However, there is a live planning application on the site. With regards to this application the proposed development at Carron Den. The application is for planning permission in principle (outline planning permission). The proposal is a significant departure from the development plan though the site would appear to be supported for residential development in the emerging local development plan. It may be some time yet before a departure hearing takes place.

As the Flooding and Coast Protection team have pointed out, it has been demonstrated that the site itself is not at risk of flooding, however, because the submitted model has been shown to underestimate the extent of flooding. It would be correct to ask for the modelling to be reviewed.

Stephen McFarland

There was a model built to assess the impact of the access road on the natural floodplain. Based on this information it was noted that some compensatory flood storage would be required and that this would be recommended to be included as a planning condition if the site was to be given approval.



Based on the flood outlines from 1st November 2009, (and although the peak flows assumed by the developer are similar to new studies undertaken on behalf of the Council at a site further downstream), the extent of flooding in Carron Den itself is clearly underestimated by the model. Therefore, whilst the development itself is not at risk of flooding, it is certain that the compensatory storage requirements are underestimated and will need to be revisited.

As regards the whole question of flood alleviation on the Carron, the Den is one area where we would consider upstream storage to reduce risk of flooding in Stonehaven itself from the peak of the flows. We would hope to be in a position later this year to resolve whether such an option is viable and would therefore be in a better position to comment on the future flooding implications of the application at that time.

Action

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