

FREUCHIE



**Minutes of the Follow-up meeting
on Flooding in Freuchie at 7.30pm
8 October 08
In The Lumsden Memorial Hall**

1. **Welcome:** Chairman, Patrick Laughlin welcomed a good turnout of approximately 30 residents to this Follow-up Meeting organised by Freuchie Community Council. The first meeting took place on 27 August two weeks after the floods of the evening of Saturday 9 and the early morning of Wednesday 13 August.
2. **Panel:** Cllrs D Lothian and D MacDiarmid, Jim Moodie and Harry Byers (Transportation Services, Fife Council), Gordon Bayne (engineer from Scott Bennett Associates) and Alan Simpson (Property Services Manager, Kingdom Housing Association).
3. **Apologies:** Mark Wootton, Betty Lindsay, John Thomson, Dehra Orme, Chris Sweet and Rose Duncan
4. **Meeting:** Patrick Laughlin noted the setting up of The Freuchie Flood Action Group and looked forward to cooperating with them. Jim Mullen, vice chair would be making a presentation later in the meeting.

Jim Moodie outlined work done by Fife Council since the last meeting. Discussions had been held with Kingdom Housing Association's consultants and Transportation Services has agreed to contribute towards the clear up at the bridge and culvert, the use of a consultant, reinstatement of the exit to the culvert and reducing the flood risk at the entrance to the culvert. Freuchie Mill is to be added to the list of watercourses that require a condition assessment and a routine maintenance regime will be established for the culvert inlet (which requires landowner permission). A flood risk scoping study would be carried out in the future, subject to priority and availability of funding. He did point out that there are other flood risk areas such as Cupar, Strathmiglo, Ceres, Kirkcaldy and Falkland competing for funding.

Gordon Bayne referred to the meeting with Freuchie Mill residents on 7 October at which options were put forward. He noted that the reinstatement of structures that had collapsed might not be good value for money. There is a need to take a global look to reduce the risk of further flooding. He anticipated costs of £50,000 for basic reinstatement works to £300,000 for a more ambitious scheme of works. He noted funding contribution from Fife Council to help with investigations and basic reinstatement works along with options to improve the culvert inlet.

The main causes of the flooding had been the intensity of the rainfall and the saturation of the ground beforehand. He noted that pumping on the roads and the new aqueduct at New Inn would not have had a substantial impact. It was noted that the attenuation pond built by Campion at Walter Lumsden Court had worked.

The Chair welcomed the good progress made at Freuchie Mill, which had a high profile. The Community Council was also interested in learning about progress in other areas.

Jim Moodie stated that the principal other area was Green Tree Brae, where Jim Mullen had been involved. The bridge at Green Tree Brae had been inspected by Fife Council engineers and had been condemned and is to be removed. This is in the hands of Legal Services. Transportation Services under the provisions of the Flood Prevention Act will contribute to the cost of walling, which protects Mr Mullen's property and an adjacent property. Similarly, Transportation Services can also contribute to the cost of reinstating a wall further downstream at Waterside House, where further properties will be protected by the reinstated wall.

He noted that other areas, which have not been addressed, were flooded by overland flow or ditches in agricultural use. This is a matter for the landowner and is not within the remit of the Council under the Flood Prevention Act.

Jim Mullen made a presentation with rainfall statistics from the SEPA measuring station in Newton of Falkland. The rainfall in recent years has been increasing. He looked at the catchment area for Freuchie and the prominent position of the A912 between Freuchie and the slopes of East Lomond where it might be possible to control the flow of water before the village. He also looked at the role of new housing in the area. He stressed the need for supporting immediate defence projects, maintenance of the watercourses, an early warning system and co-operation between all interested parties. In the longer term a full hydrological study and action to implement findings is required to protect properties in Freuchie from flooding. He estimated that a funding target of £1,000,000 might be needed.

Patrick Laughlin welcomed the presentation and noted the need for short term tactics and longer term strategies. The Flood Study of nearby Dunshalt, which has just been shown to the Auchtermuchty and Strathmiglo Community Council, could provide an indicator of the type of study required. He noted that, although perhaps premature, the sub-committee of the Community Council were recommending to the Community Council meeting next week that some of the funding for environmental improvements go towards funding a flood study.

Cllr David MacDiarmid said he had had very helpful discussions with Network Rail. Network Rail has said it is prepared to contribute to a scoping study. Planning permission was not required for the new aqueduct, which was to keep water off the rail line. SEPA was consulted in retrospect.

Neil Duff mentioned that the flood risk had been raised in the joint application of Kingdom Housing Association and Fraser Gray in 1994, which planners approved. It was noted that planners had to include flood risk only in later planning applications. It was also stated that there were problems with ownership when the builder goes out of business.

Chair, Patrick Laughlin, commended the Freuchie Flood Action Group for their effective lobbying and good web site <<http://www.floodaction.org.uk/blog/>> and gave the Community Council's support to what they are doing. A first step to cooperation might be representatives attending each other's meetings. He thanked the representatives from Fife Council and Kingdom Housing Association for their efforts. A fair bit has been done, but there is still a lot to do. Flooding is now on the political agenda as never before and it is important to keep it there. Flooding will be an agenda item in forthcoming Community Council meetings.

Next Meeting of the Community Council is on Wednesday 15th October 2008

Attendance

Betty Gilchrist
Betty Jenkins
John and Betty Jenkins
Terry Hartshorne
Brian Hay
Nancy Hay
Mrs Stevens
Mr and Mrs Mullen
Mr and Mrs Porter
Steven Lawson
Ewen Jardine
Patrick Laughlin
Colin Gilbert (Locality Manager, Fife Council)
Neil Duff
Audrey Duff
Margaret Parker
Stella Turner
Libby Welsh
Pamela Ross
Duncan Buchanan
Shirley Cameron
Jennifer Allan
Paul
Cllr Andrew Arbuckle
Cllr Donald Lothian
Cllr David MacDiarmid
Jim Moodie (Transportation Services, Fife Council)
Harry Byers (Transportation Services, Fife Council)
Gordon Bayne (Scott Bennett Associates)
Alan Simpson (Kingdom Housing Association)