

**North East Scotland Flood Liaison and Advice Group
Held – Committee Room 2, Woodhill House
1.30pm, Friday 14 May 2004**

Meeting Note

Present

Andrew Carruthers, Chair (Aberdeenshire Council)
Alison Hogge (Aberdeenshire Council)
Piers Blaxter (Aberdeenshire Council)
Hillary MacBean (Aberdeenshire Council)
Gordon Mackie (Aberdeenshire Council)
Anne Buchan (Aberdeenshire Council)
Euan Stevenson (Aberdeenshire Council)
Drew Balfour (Aberdeen – City Development)
John Wilson (Aberdeen – City Development, Roads)
David Cameron (SEPA)
Nicola Abrams (SEPA)
Jim Lister (Scottish Water)
David Crichton (Insurance Industry representative)

1) Apologies

Linda Mathieson (Aberdeenshire Council)
Norman Brockie (Cairngorms National Park Authority)
Malcolm Taberner (Aberdeenshire Council)
William Murphy (Aberdeen City Council)

Prior to the start of the meeting, there was a 30 minute demonstration of the FAGGIS project and those present were able to run through the system with assistance from Anne and Euan.

2) Minute of Previous Meeting

Item 3 is to be amended to state that David Crichton only contributed to the work currently being done by English Heritage. With regards to the soak away rule, it was agreed to delete the last sentence and to mention the issue of garages being constructed at the front of the house, which reduces the distance from the house to the boundary and effectively removes any possibility of having a soak away installed.

3) Matters Arising

Bog bursts – Malcolm Taberner was not present at the meeting. Therefore this item will be carried on to the next meeting.

A meeting between Jim Lister and Hilary MacBean was suggested, and although this issue is more of a Building Control matter there is planning interest. Therefore Gary Black (Building Control Manager) and Aberdeen City Council's equivalent should also be invited to the meeting.

Action: Jim Lister and Hilary MacBean

4) New SPP7 Planning and Flooding (information note and renaming of NESFAG).

The group will now be called North East Scotland Flood Liaison and Advice Group and the remit was amended to reflect this change in name. The following amendments were also agreed;

- Part 1 – include after data collection, monitoring
- Part 3 – include the Cairngorms National Park Authority and Perth and Kinross Council.
- Part 4 – delete 'Law and Administration Service' as the Planning and Environment Service will continue to take on the secretarial and clerking duties.
- Part 5 – delete Law and Admin and include Cairngorms National Park. Amend NOSWA to Scottish Water, include Perth and Kinross Council among the neighbouring authorities. Change 'Association of British Insurers' to 'Representative from insurance industry', and rename Scottish Landowners Association to Scottish Rural Property and Business Association.

It was suggested that we should write to all the Members of the group to state that the minutes will be available on the website.

Action: Alison Hogge

5) Western Peripheral Route (report by John Wilson)

John Wilson gave a short presentation on the latest developments of the Western Peripheral Route. The Babbie Group are to design the Western Peripheral Route, and were appointed in October 2003. Their role includes reviewing Part 1 of the Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance, preparing the 'concept design', and site supervision. The detailed line of the WPR has not been finalised, and five different alignment options are still being considered, although the proposed grade separated and half separated junctions have been agreed.

The proposed working programme:

- aerial survey and geo-technical survey (Winter 2003);
- landowner consultation (Spring 2004);
- informal public exhibitions (November 2004);
- confirm the proposed line of the Aberdeen western peripheral route (Spring 2005);
- statutory consultation on orders (Spring 2005);

- possible public open inquiry (Autumn 2005);
- invite tenders, amend contracts and start construction (2006/07); and
- construction complete and A90 opens to traffic (by 2010).

The Western Peripheral Route will cross 18 water courses, and a flood risk assessment and drainage strategy will be compiled using computer models, and information from SEPA, landowners and other environmental bodies. ISIS software will be used to assess the River Don and the River Dee in order to minimise the effect of the proposed river crossings, to ensure there will be no additional flood risk upstream or downstream, and to ensure there will be no significant changes in channel geo-morphology. Earlier in the year, they carried out aerial photography and hydrological analysis of the River Dee and Don to determine a range of return period flows (5,10,20,100 and 200 year). Proposed bridge crossings and embankments will also be incorporated into the model.

The requirements of SUDS, such as retention ponds, were considered in respect of road run-off, and any impact of additional flow and likely discharge will also be assessed.

John stated that the proposed route is likely to be known by July 2004 which will be known as the 'Consultation Route' and more detailed flood impact studies will be carried out once the route is confirmed.

Some questions were raised at the end, including whether global warming had been taken into consideration; if all the embankments had been included in the design; and whether pollutants in surface water run-off will increase if more vehicles are on the road. In response, it was stated that global warming has been taken into consideration; that embankments have been included in the design; and with regards to surface water run-off, this is still to be looked at, although petrol interceptors will be built into the retention ponds. John Wilson also highlighted that as the River Dee is a SAC, no bridge piers are allowed in the river, and any proposed bridge will be a single span.

6) National Flood Risk Maps, Presentations by Chris Fuller (Project Manager) and Claire Taylor (National Flood Warning Development Team), SEPA

Claire Taylor gave a brief presentation on SEPA's second generation flood risk maps.

There is limited coverage on existing data for flood probability and vulnerability of local communities and the drivers for the new national flood risk maps are the National Planning Framework, SPP7, recent flood events, climate change, and the Water Environment Services Act 2003. SEPA are working with Norwich Union on dataset models, and the proposed map will cover mainland Scotland and the islands, and it will include fluvial flood envelopes (100, 200, and 1000 year flood events).

Claire described the technical considerations of the project, such as identifying the minimum catchment size (3 kilometres), the coastal flood risk and flood defences, validation figures (e.g. the hydrology after a 200 year flood), and what additional

information will be needed from GIS. The only limitation of the final product will be the resolution and scale on users' computers.

A strategic map in line with SPP7 is proposed. However, such maps cannot go into too much detail as it will show houses in at risk areas. Therefore, scales greater than 1:10,000 will be proposed. The maps will be revised annually, and those maps will only have a five year lifespan. After this period, they will be remodelled.

Several questions were raised at the end including whether a statutory public register is proposed, which covers SEPA for liability. SEPA's solicitors are currently looking into this, but there is no information available at present. It was also asked if there would be any link to "Get Mapping", but SEPA said there will be no such link.

7) **FLAGGIS Project, Further Development**

Euan Stevenson from ICT gave a brief update on the latest developments of the pilot project, which is now up and running. Not all datasets have been added, but they will be in due course. Euan circulated a report called 'Future Development of the Integrated GIS' which proposes to share flood-related information in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire with other NESFLAG members. The report identified the current status of the NESFLAG web – GIS project and proposed a number of options for its future development as follows:

1. to integrate the GIS system with the Council's intranet site only; or
2. to make it available on the internet/extranet, which will require additional commitment from NESFLAG members.

The report also summarised the estimated costs for each option in phase 2 together with the estimated costs for Aberdeenshire Council and CLIFF Technologies Ltd to host the website.

A full demonstration of the NESFLAG project will be ready by August 2004, and appointments will be made with all potential stakeholders to view it either as individuals or in a group. The purpose of the demonstrations would be to allow all those who wish to be included in phase 2 to make a budget bid for the following year.

Action: Alison Hogge, Piers Blaxter, and Anne Buchan (ICT)

8) **Coastal Issues**

There was a discussion on what the issues would be if the top of the highest sea surge was 5m above ordnance datum, as predicted by 50yrs time. The discussion centred on land use planning (no new development should take place on the undeveloped coast), coastal erosion and sand dune failures.

It was noted that sites at risk from coastal flooding could initially be identified using SPP7's "Risk Framework" (annual probability of coastal flooding greater than 1:200). It was also noted that Aberdeenshire Councils' Flood and Coast Prevention team are currently preparing a Shoreline Management Plan, which will address land use and environmental issues.

It was suggested that Malcolm Taberner should be asked to give a presentation on coastal erosion and that the City should be invited to say what they are doing along the beach and at the harbour to reduce the risk of coastal erosion.

Action: Malcolm Taberner

9) FAG website update

Piers Blaxter reported that the website went live on 30 May 2004, and it is available on the Environmental section of the Council website under Flooding. There will be links to the biannual flood reports from the City and Aberdeenshire as well as minutes of previous NESFLAG meetings, but not to the City's website. The site will be monitored every year.

10) NESFLAG Flooding Issues in the North East 'Seminar'.

The Seminar will take place on Monday, 24 May in Committee Room 5 at Woodhill House. Members ran through the Agenda and it was reported that invitations have gone out to a wide range of people including Council Members, Council Employees, potential Neighbourhood Watch Group Members, Community Councils, Fisheries Boards, Emergency Planners and the Chief Executives of Highland and Islands, Moray and Angus Council. Gillian Holland and Chris Lilley will be speaking at the Seminar. Gillian Holland will be having an earlier meeting with Malcolm Taberner, Andrew, Alison and Alistair Smith, from the Flood Prevention Team to discuss how to set up a flood forum.

Action: Alison Hogge

11) Flood Risk Assessment Update

Alison Hogge has spoken to Alistair Smith who has set aside money in his budget to identify how many Flood Risk Assessments have been carried out in Aberdeenshire. Hillary McBean sent a reminder to Development Control Officers to identify flood risks in their areas and Drew Balfour is to contact their Development Control Team.

Action: Hillary McBean, Drew Balfour and Alison Hogge

12) SUDS Working Group Update

Andrew Carruthers presented the latest update on the SUDS Working Group and stated that information is still required on how to ensure that hard SUDS (SUDS involving pipes, gulleys and traditional types of kit) which are not to be taken over by the appropriate authority, will be properly installed and maintained; and what types of vegetation should be planted on soft SUDS (SUDS involving contoured open space, open water and planting). Malcolm Taberner said that both Aberdeenshire and the City Council need to discuss the ownership of hard SUDS and should contact their Development Control Teams. It was reported that the Environment team will be able to prepare guidance for soft SUDS and it was recommended that the City do the same.

It was also reported that Alistair Smith will be holding a half day Seminar for Development Control in order to bring Planning Officers up to speed on SUDS. Andrew stated that the City may like to be invited as well as Scottish Water, and Alistair Smith should be contacted in light of this. It was suggested that Alistair could do two Seminars, and charge a fee for the second Seminar.

A meeting will be arranged between T&IS's Landscape Services and P&ES's Environment Team to identify the information needed on soft SUDS guidance.

Action: Alison Hogge, Drew Balfour, Jim Lister and Malcolm Taberner

13) Development Plan Update

- Aberdeen City Local Plan.
Committee report was agreed in March to place the Local Plan on deposit, for consultation, over the Summer. The deposit period will be extended over 10 weeks as both Councils will be in summer recess.
- Aberdeenshire Local Plan.
The proposed modifications have been re-advertised with a low number of objections received so far. A number of new objections have been received on the Western Peripheral Route and it was noted that in the meantime, the Council have received no objections from SEPA. The start date for the Local Plan Inquiry is 31 August 2004.

14) Major Development Proposals

No new developments were reported at the meeting.

15) Training Course – Battleby

Andrew stated that SNH are holding a training workshop in Battleby entitled 'What is Sustainable Flood Management' on 17 June 2004. No members had stated whether they will be going on this seminar.

16) Any Other Competent Business

- Foresight Site Reports – 22 April
5 different research projects by John Chatterton. These are available on the website and are published by Office of Science and Technology. The reports state that rise in sea level will not be so high in Scotland.
- Gulf Stream ‘turning off’ Theory
There was a brief discussion on what would happen if the gulf stream stopped – would Europe be plunged into an ice age? It was reported that it only takes an increase in the temperature by five degrees to trigger an ice age and that Europe would be at the biggest risk of any change in climate.
- Blackdog
David Crichton said that he would like an update on the Blackdog project regarding roof pitch for snow. Andrew said he would report back on this.

Action: Andrew Carruthers

The date for the next meeting was set for 2nd September 2004, in Woodhill House at 2pm in Room E2 (first floor).