

# North East Flood Appraisal Group

## 18 June 2003

### Meeting Note

#### Present

Andrew Carruthers, Chair (Aberdeenshire Council)  
Emma Parkes (Aberdeenshire Council)  
Euan Stevenson (Aberdeenshire Council)  
Malcolm Taberner (Aberdeenshire Council)  
David Cameron (SEPA)  
Clare Pritchett (SEPA)  
Hilary MacBean (Aberdeenshire Council)  
Alison Hogge (Aberdeenshire Council)  
Drew Balfour (Aberdeen – City Development)  
David Crichton (Insurance Industry representative)

#### 1) Apologies

Jim Lister (Scottish Water)  
Piers Blaxter (Aberdeenshire Council)  
David Duncan (Moray Council)  
Bill Murphy (Aberdeen – Property and Technical)

#### 2) Minute of Previous Meeting

The minute of the previous meeting was agreed as being accurate.

#### 3) Matters Arising

David Cameron reported back on the issue of confidence in the calculation of flood risk. He said that he had done a few pages and provided a summary and recommendations of what was to be done. He highlighted that there are limitations in the software currently used for flood estimation. As a result it is not possible to generate confidence limits for flood estimates derived from certain methods of flood estimation (e.g. pooling group analysis).

A useful discussion followed, where it was recognised that Aberdeenshire Council's FPU and SEPA already provide guidance to third parties (such as consultants) on flood risk assessment issues, including on sensitivity analysis, and that this would continue.

It was noted in the last meeting note that Aberdeenshire Council was required to compile a register of flood impact assessments undertaken through policy in the Local Plan. This has not been done yet, but will be soon. David Cameron offered to send a copy of SEPA's list of flood risk assessments to Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City Council planners.

#### ***ACTION: Alison Hogge***

Hilary MacBean said that flood impact assessments are not being registered on a list if SEPA have dealt with them. Drew Balfour noted that he would wish any flood impact assessment would cover the city too. David Cameron said that it would be difficult to identify planing application reference numbers, although their grid reference could be used, if it were available. Hilary said it would be possible to identify the reference numbers of planning applications.

#### ***ACTION: Hilary MacBean, Alison Hogge***

Clare Pritchett said that due to a late amendment in the legislation, Scottish Water will carry out the maintenance of SUDS schemes above ground, if they comply with the

Design Manual. For example ponds and swales, but not filter drains under ground. Scottish Water are acting as consultants to the Scottish Executive. However, it will be another 2 years before the design manual is completed.

Andrew Carruthers raised a few questions he was concerned with. Clare Pritchett answered some of Andrew's questions, however, others will need to be checked, such as SUDS that are built before the completion of the Design Manual. Clare discussed the issues relating to land access, and that any SUDS scheme must be on public land, to allow Scottish Water access to the site at any time. Claire mentioned that Scottish Water are carrying out a study on the cost of maintaining SUDS schemes.

***ACTION: Clare Pritchett***

Andrew Carruthers asked for reconfirmation whether it would still be a good idea to get a group together on SUDS. Jim Lister's name from Scottish Water was mentioned as a useful contact. Andrew Carruthers was asked to circulate Clare Pritchett's briefing note.

***ACTION: Andrew Carruthers***

David Crichton briefly discussed a report being commissioned by Scottish Water on SUDS. He said that the report should be completed in a week.

It was noted by the group that Dundee City Council hold fortnightly SUDS meetings for planning applications, which are our version of the Drainage Impact Assessments.

Andrew Carruthers discussed the date for the next public meeting or seminar. He suggested that September or October would be an ideal time, and that the event should only be held once a year. David Cameron supported the date suggested, saying that the final version of SPP 7 is due out in the autumn, and that Flood Awareness Week is in October. Andrew suggested three general topics for the meeting / seminar: the mechanics of water management (cause and effect e.g. forestry and agriculture) and how SUDS work; emergencies and how they should be dealt with, with input from David Macintosh; and the impact of flooding in the water framework.

***ACTION: Andrew Carruthers***

Andrew Carruthers said that the subgroup would meet next week to discuss the NESFAG website. David Crichton mentioned Highland Council's website, and that they put their minutes on the web, and also have links with schools, and with the BBC website. Andrew said that he would think about what links could be added.

***ACTION: Andrew Carruthers***

**4) Scottish Planning Policy 7 "Planning and Flooding", report by Aberdeenshire Council**

The report had been distributed before the meeting. Several concerns were raised. These were climate change influences not being used in the calculations of the 100/200 year floods in draft SPP7, even though it is common practice in Local Authorities not to consider cross boundary issues, i.e. flooding down stream. It was suggested that Local Authorities should talk to their own insurers. Drew Balfour is to pass Aberdeen City's response to Andrew Carruthers via email.

***ACTION: Drew Balfour***

**5) COSLA Flooding Task Group Final Report by Aberdeenshire Council**

Andrew Carruthers referred to this report, which had been to the Infrastructure Services Committee on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2003. No further comments were made on the report, although David Crichton noted that the summary was very useful. Malcolm Taberner will be

reporting to committee on implementing the policy within 6 months and will state at the committee if funding is required.

***ACTION: Malcolm Taberner***

**6) FAGGIS project, further development**

Andrew Carruthers said that the subgroup will meet on 25<sup>th</sup> June. Therefore he will report back at the next meeting.

***ACTION: Andrew Carruthers***

It was suggested that as the Scottish Executive have £400,000 for flooding, we could send them a copy of the Cliff report. Andrew Carruthers said that he is having a meeting with Roger Kelly on 19<sup>th</sup> June, and could bring it up then.

***ACTION: Andrew Carruthers***

**7) Future NESFAG “Flooding issues in the North East” seminars**

As discussed earlier – Andrew Carruthers suggested 3 general topic ideas. David Cameron had also mentioned earlier that people will not attend any seminar if there are no flood situations. The use of a leaflet to advertise any seminar was suggested.

**8) Development Plan Update**

Drew Balfour said that the new local plan for the city is currently being prepared, and the proposed new work programme for the local plan has gone to the City’s Strategy Committee. Drew said that they hope to have it on deposit by the first quarter of 2004, and have it adopted by 2005. Two other reports also went to Committee – Interim Planning Guidance, where the committee agreed on the interim policy guidelines, and the Interim Housing Land Allocations, which considered relaxing NEST housing allocations to ensure the city have 5 years of housing land supply. Drew also mentioned that any new proposals will have to go through the departure process.

Andrew Carruthers stated the provisional start-date for the Aberdeenshire local plan inquiry will be the 19<sup>th</sup> November, and they hope to have the Aberdeenshire Local Plan adopted by the end of 2004.

Andrew also mentioned that the Uryside housing development in Inverurie had been upheld and approved, while the Cala development on Blackhall Road was dismissed.

It was also mentioned by SEPA that a steading conversion into several houses at Banchory-Devonick had been refused, as the steading is sited near a river, which flooded close to the application site.

**9) Major Development Proposals**

Only one development proposal was raised at the meeting, and this was the western peripheral route, which is due to be completed in 2010. Drew Balfour suggested that this should be considered by the group, and the potential issues addressed. He also suggested that we should invite the design engineers to our meetings. Andrew Carruthers and Drew Balfour will identify suitable contacts. Ewan Wallace, from Transport and Infrastructure was mentioned as the most suitable representative from Aberdeenshire Council.

***ACTION: Andrew Carruthers and Drew Balfour***

**10) Any Other Competent Business**

David Cameron said that the GIS now has the October 2002 floodlines of the River Don and Ury. The April 2000 floodlines are also on GIS, and this has been supplied to Alisdair Smith and the City. Emma Parkes questioned the possibility of having this data on GGP. Euan Stevenson said yes. However, David Cameron said that as there are different event dates, therefore, a flood date will have to be selected. It will not be possible to find out whether the flood 'event' data will be stored on GGP as single or multi layers until Bobby Knorr has had a look at the data.

***ACTION: Euan Stevenson***

Malcolm Taberner said that he has had a meeting with the Scottish Executive on the problems of last autumn, and wanted the Flood Prevention Reports, which are used to inform local people, changed, as they contain more information than necessary. David Crichton contrasted Fife Council's report with Stirling's. Fife Council's is a thick document, as there are many water courses, so few people are actually given a copy due to the high costs of producing it. Stirling Council has its flood prevention report on a single A4 leaflet, and many people are able to get a hold of it. He also suggested the benefits of producing leaflets, which are available in the library and having the internet address on it for further advice.

David Crichton also presented the group with a Norwich Union product titled 'Home and Dry', which informs local people on how to lobby their local authority to improve flood defences etc. He also mentioned work he is doing with English Heritage, and the restoration of flood damaged historic buildings, which may be available on the internet now.

**11) Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting was provisionally set for 2pm on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2003, at Woodhill House.