

**River Basin Management Plan (RBMP)  
Room E2, Woodhill House  
9.30am, Friday 23 January 2009**

**Present:**

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
| Andrew Carruthers (Aberdeenshire Council)            | AEC (Chairman) |
| Alison Hogge (Aberdeenshire Council)                 | AH             |
| Linda Matheson (Aberdeenshire Council)               | LM             |
| William Murdoch (Aberdeenshire Council)              | WM             |
| Stephen McFarland (Aberdeenshire Council)            | SM             |
| Judith Cox (Aberdeenshire Council)                   | JC             |
| Mike Cheyne (Aberdeen City)                          | MC             |
| Tamsin Morris (SEPA)                                 | TM             |
| Graham Low (SEPA & Emergency Flooding Liaison Group) | GL             |
| Zoë Griffin (SEPA)                                   | ZG             |
| Jim Lister (Scottish Water)                          | JL             |
| Scott Leith (Scottish Water)                         | SL             |

**1. Apologies**

Development Management representative from Aberdeenshire Council  
Strategic Development Plan team

**2. Mechanism for Aberdeenshire Officers to input/get feedback from  
North East Area Advisory Group/Dee Catchment Management Plan**

LM has previously represented the council, but believes an officer in a senior role should be representing the council at the meetings. It was agreed that AEC would be the representative.

It was agreed that a sub-group should be set up, which would meet for an hour before a NESFLAG meeting. Members could include SM, WM (WM can liaise with Strategic), Dave Cooper from Environmental Health (due to his involvement with septic tanks) and David Robertson, development management and planning policy representatives.

TM informed the group that the NEAAGs will be splitting into key river catchment groups. As a result, there will be fewer NEAAGs.

***Action: AH to invite Dave Cooper and David Robertson to next meeting.***

**3. New SEPA Consultation – Draft River Basin Management Plan for  
Scotland’s River Basin**

Five documents have been published for consultation.

| Title          | Synopsis of the document. | Consultation period ends | Actioned by   |
|----------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| Scotland Water | Picks out what is         | 3 April 2009             | Eleanor Munro |

| Title                                | Synopsis of the document.   | Consultation period ends              | Actioned by                                 |
|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|---|
| Future Directions                    | not in the RBMP. Includes diffuse, morphology and non-native species.                             |                                       | to lead                                     |
| Restoration of the Water Environment | Looks at restoring the environment, not just protection. The planning process has a lot of input. | 3 April 2009                          | Eleanor Munro to lead                       |
| RBMP                                 | Annex 4 – Artificial and heavily modified water bodies  | 22 June 2009<br>Interim 21 March 2009 | SM and WM                                   |
|                                      | Annex 5 – Protected areas   | [LM to lead overall]                  | Environment team                            |
|                                      | Annex 8 – Links to other planning factors   |                                       | AH  |
| RBMP                                 | Area Management Plan  |                                       |   |
| RBMP                                 | Strategic Environmental Assessment  |                                       | Will only be commented on if there is time. |

A single report will be presented to the March Infrastructure Services Committee. Drafts are required by February. LM will send out the draft report for all to provide their comments on.

TM reported that the RBMP interactive map is now available. TM will provide LM with 4CD's of the RBMP.

#### **4. Buffer Strips and new Development**

This document is seeking to standardise control to improve water quality when planning applications are submitted. Comments have been received from SEPA and SNH. LM highlighted that the River Dee Catchment Pollution Group will pursue it.

#### **5. Date of next meeting**

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2009, **9.30am**, in Room G Woodhill House, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Aberdeenshire Council.

**North East Scotland Flood Liaison and Advice Group  
Room E2, Woodhill House  
10.15am, Friday 23 January 2009**

**Present:**

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
| Andrew Carruthers (Aberdeenshire Council)            | AEC (Chairman) |
| Alison Hogge (Aberdeenshire Council)                 | AH             |
| Linda Matheson (Aberdeenshire Council)               | LM             |
| William Murdoch (Aberdeenshire Council)              | WM             |
| Stephen McFarland (Aberdeenshire Council)            | SM             |
| Douglas Gray (Aberdeenshire Council)                 | DG             |
| Graham Low (SEPA & Flooding Emergency Liaison Group) | GL             |
| Zoë Griffin (SEPA)                                   | ZG             |
| Jim Lister (Scottish Water)                          | JL             |
| Scott Leith (Scottish Water)                         | SL             |
| Mike Cheyne (Aberdeen City)                          | MC             |

**1. Apologies**

Daniel Lewis (Aberdeen City Council)  
Eleanor Munro (Aberdeenshire Council)  
David Crichton (Insurance representative)  
Richard Hoggins (Aberdeen City Council)

**2. Minutes of previous meeting**

The Strategic Development Plan Team has been invited to NESFLAG. Laura Robertson will be attending future meetings from the team.

RH emailed AH a response to the query as to whether or not the Building Warrant Procedures and specifically the "Continuing Requirements" could be used to help enforce best practice for flood prevention. AH will circulate the email to the group.

DG informed that group that work on the SuDS update is still ongoing.

***Actions still outstanding:***

***AH, Item 9 (liability omission on FLAGGIS flood datasets)***

**3. Matters Arising**

Still no representative from the Cairngorms National Park Authority.

SM will be meeting Stuart Carrie (Development Management, Aberdeenshire Council) to discuss the streamlining of the major pre-application process. SM has heard that flooding and drainage matters may only be considered at the Reserved Matters stage. This is of concern to SM, as flooding is a fundamental issue. DG said he will seek clarification from his Head of Service. SEPA said that they cannot attend major pre-application meetings on Wednesdays.

***Action: DG***

With regards to the development management consultation procedure between the Shire's Flood Prevention Team and/or SEPA raised at the previous meeting, it was suggested that SEPA and the Flooding team could send their responses to each other. It was reported that SEPA and the City council already liaise with each other, but there are fewer flooding issues.

SEPA said that they do not comment on flooding issues unless they are asked to. This is stated on all their responses.

Item 4B: It was confirmed that Aberdeenshire Council is on the coastal Flood Warning system. The Flood Prevention Team would wish to be included in the Flood Warning System.

**Action: GL to liaise with WM.**

Item 8: WM wrote to the Estates Manager in Aberdeenshire Council requesting that Property should inform the Flood Prevention Team when they are considering selling off council owned land.

#### **4. SuDS update.**

WM circulated to the group a draft of the leaflet on SuDS to property owners for comment. Comments should be sent to WM by the end of March.

**Action: ALL to provide comments on the SuDS text.**

It was reported that soakaway tests are now self-certified, and this is a serious issue if there is no outflow for septic tanks. Also, Councils may end up having to pay for any repair works if the SuDS floods due to lack of maintenance.

At the previous meeting, the group discussed and concluded that access to and the maintenance of SuDS is likely to be a building standards issue, not planning. DG has yet to speak to Building Standards on this issue.

Doug Buchan is the Scottish Water representative on soakaways.

**Action: DG to seek clarification from John McIntosh (Building standards) on this matter**

It was suggested that the guide could include a preamble on when a property is extended or changes its use.

The need for plain English was highlighted, as some words will be too technical for property owners.

**Action: SL/JL to send WM some of their leaflets on septic tanks, as an example of Scottish Water's advice.**

#### **5. FLAGGIS**

AH has not received an opinion from Law and Admin regarding the need for a disclaimer/caveat like on SEPA's flooding webpage.

**Action: AH to get an opinion from Law and Admin (Gordon Davidson) on our liability if there is an omission in the datasets (SEPA or LA)**

The last 6 years of flooding in Aberdeenshire are now on FLAGGIS. More data (e.g. planning applications and flood plains) could be added.

Issue of copyright was raised. Mark Barker/Mark Wells deal with SEPA's copyright. ZG and GL to follow up.

**Actions: ZG and GL.**

Training – AH is not sure if Mark McLaughlin, SEPA's Floodmaps Manager has taken the offer of FLAGGIS training forward.

**Actions: AH liaise with Anne Buchan to disseminate FLAGGIS training to SEPA Flooding, Scottish Water and City Property and Planning teams**

It was reported at the last meeting that a wetlands dataset is now available, which could be added to FLAGGIS. It is not known if the dataset has been uploaded onto FLAGGIS.

**Action: JC to contact Anne Buchan to upload the wetlands dataset onto FLAGGIS**

## **6. Shoreline Management Plan (coastal policy)**

SMPs will look at the long-term pressures and will cover a period of up to 100 yrs. Coastal group meetings are being held and Fife and Angus will be reviewing theirs in 2009. Aberdeenshire will produce their SMP in the same format.

It was reported that Planning Policy should require the need for a Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) for developments below the 10m contour line, to take into account climate change, as the site will be deemed at risk from flooding. However, identifying a line defining the area of land at risk of flooding by the end of 2009 to feed into the local development plan would be difficult. The area at risk of flooding will have to include the water level ranges and the local wave action. The latter is harder to predict, but land below the 5m contour line is certainly at risk. A FRA may also be required if a site is below say the 10m contour line. In the meantime, targeted lines could be identified where development is allocated as an interim.

**Action: SM to liaise with AH once the lines are known.**

Coastal erosion is predicted to increase (1-7metres per year) (Foresight Report). Coastal landslip areas may also require to be identified.

Modelling work to identifying the lines on a map is expected to take some time. A policy in the local development plan will need to set out the approaches for when a development falls within a specific line and when a FRA is required.

## **7. Joint statement of flood insurance**

David Crichton was unable to attend the meeting, but everyone on the mailing list was sent a copy of the ABI statement on 22 January 2009. The statement

highlights that in 5 years time, buildings identified at risk from flooding may not be liable for insurance cover.

## **8. Development Plan update**

The finalised structure plan will be submitted to the Scottish Ministers before the new planning regulations come into effect in late February 2009. The plan does not contain anything flood related.

The Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan is progressing towards the first stage once the new regulations come out on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2009. The Development Plan Scheme will be published thereafter. A Main Issues Report (MIR) will be published in May 2009, which replaces the draft plan stage under the previous system. The MIR highlights the main policy issues and whether the direction of any of the current policies needs to be changed. The key issues identified are: enabling development, landscape, minerals, waste, design, tourism, developer contributions and housing in the countryside. Furthermore, all the developer proposals, which were submitted last year for consideration to be included in the plan, will be included. Each will be assessed for inclusion in the plan as an allocation. The MIR will also set out those policies that require minor amendments to accord with national policy. A Proposed Plan is expected in December 2009.

No one from the Aberdeen City Council planning policy department was at the meeting to give an update. However, the City is following about 3 months behind Aberdeenshire Council in preparing their plan through a similar process.

## **9. Major proposals**

None raised.

## **10. Conference and publications**

SEPA is putting on a business and flood risk seminar on 17 March 2009 in Edinburgh to provide guidance information for business at risk of flooding. It is a free event. The audience is for those not aware of flooding. Economic development, Housing and Property services may benefit from the seminar, as well as the Community Continuity Group.

SNIFFER (Scotland and Northern Ireland Forum for Environmental Research) are holding a Flood Risk Management Conference from 24-25<sup>th</sup> February 2009 in Glasgow. It is a free event, but is now fully booked. Members interested and not already registered can be placed on a reserved list.

## **11. AOCB**

GL reported that the Grampian Strategic Co-ordinating Group's *Flooding Response Plan for Grampian* has been approved and is available on the internet at <http://www.grampianepu.co.uk>.

A Scottish Flood forum has been set up with Scottish Government backing. Paul Hendy is leading it and is based in SEPA's Perth office. The Forum aims to disseminate community best practice by raising awareness at the community level. There is an opportunity to inform the Forum of Aberdeenshire Council's SuDS leaflet in their newsletter.

***Action: WM***

Presentations have been given on the Flood Watch. The project team are interviewing people affected by flooding and local authorities on SEPA's flood warning dissemination process (e.g. voice mail and email, and when they should receive warnings). GL would welcome comments from the group. It is expected to be implemented in 2011.

***Action: All***

**12. Topics and Date of next meeting**

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2009, **10.30am**, in Room G Woodhill House, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Aberdeenshire Council, after the RBMP meeting.

Topic suggested for the next meeting – buffer strips.