

**North East Scotland Flood Liaison and Advice Group
Held – Room E2, Woodhill House
2pm, Thursday 13th September 2007**

Present:

Andrew Carruthers (Aberdeenshire Council)	AC (Chairman)
Maurice Stack (Aberdeenshire Council)	MS
Alison Hogge	AH
Martin Boshoff (SEPA)	MB
William Murdoch (Aberdeenshire Council)	WM
Judith Cox	JC
Douglas Gray	DG

1. Apologies

Nicola Abrams (SEPA)
Mike Cheyne (Aberdeen City)
Graeme Craig (Aberdeenshire Council)
David Crichton (Insurance Industry Representative)
Richard Hoggins (Aberdeen City)
Jim Lister (Scottish Water)
David McIntosh (Emergency Planning Unit)
Tamsin Morris (SEPA)

2. Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes were deemed correct.

3. Matters Arising

Maintainance issue of SUDS was discussed as one of actions from last meeting. Possibility of putting advice for householders on Council website regarding responsibility for SUDS was suggested. Perhaps we could get assistance from our colleagues in Publicity on how best to advertise this information to householders.

Action: WM and GC to produce wording for leaflet on Works for Watercourses.

Action: Reminder for GC and NA to discuss best practice regards Flood Risk Assessment with DG.

Action: AC to contact Gordon Lym of Corporate Communications to discuss methods of publicity / maintainance issues.

4. SUDS

Group was reminded of 2 consultations which WM and GC replied to. Basically Scottish Water is taking over some SUDS and leaving others. AC attended Member Officer Working Group and reported that MOWG felt that Aberdeenshire Council should not have to stand in and pay for maintenance of SUDS.

NESFLAG group considered attaching planning conditions for SUDS maintainance. Group also considered the practicality of having builders provide capitalised payments but this solution was seen as difficult to implement during climate of lower interest rates which result in higher capitalised payments.

Group concluded that we have to keep trying to apply standards and investigate political pressure being applied.

Action: WM to check whether COSLA had been contacted.

Action: AC to talk to chair of ISC to see what political action could be taken.

5. FLAGGIS project (Mapping)

Action: MS to get together with Piers Blaxter and take on overall responsibility of what is happening with GIS.

6. Development of Coastal Management Policy.

AC Attended Planning School where a talk was held on flooding by Ronan Uhel, who addressed likelihood of Greenland and polar ice caps melting.

Group expressed concern at element of inertia towards planning for this scenario and indicated that we are duty bound to raise this subject.

MS outlined progress to date on SEA for Coastal Flooding Framework Policy. Scoping Report part done. Next stage is advertising which will be done in conjunction with other supplementary planning guidance currently in preparation.

Issue of SEPA maps was discussed – they have not been updated with flood specific data yet but will be next year. In addition SEPA would welcome any flood studies or any info on the most recent flood which may have been put on GIS system.

Action: AC to pass on contacts from Planning School flood lecture.

7. Guideline on doing work on watercourses.

Works on Watercourses guidance is 4-5 years old and needs updating as it is behind in legislation terms (ie recent Water Framework Directive). Guidance is also relevant to work being done by Planning Policy team on watercourses - Natura guidelines.

Group thought creating a 'nested set of documents' to address work on all watercourses would be best approach. By nested we mean that areas like SUDS would have a separate document to watercourses in countryside etc so that the information would be immediately relevant to different interest groups.

Action: JC to begin to update and design a new nested format for Works on Watercourses and other associated documents on water and flooding.

8. Development Plan Updates.

Group was told that technical appraisal of the 8 strategic options has been carried out. The SEA is in process of being written and an Equality Impact Assessment is required. The next Joint Strategic Meeting is on 28th

September by which time a provisional Strategic Option will be proposed. City and Shire are bringing together recommendations and the aim is for a Provisional guide on the Strategic Option. Meanwhile Aberdeen City have got

their Local Plan back with the Reporters recommendations following their Local Plan Inquiry. As they have only got an extra 500 houses out of their local plan group was told this is going to result in continued growth pressure on Aberdeenshire. This would be of particular concern within the Dee catchment. In addition, the river Dee is the principal source of water for Aberdeen.

Aberdeenshire are waiting on Scottish Executive regulations before beginning next Development Plan.

Action: NA to raise issue increased housing growth on River Dee Abstraction with area advisory group.

9. Major Development

Blairs College is likely to get positive recommendation if it stacks up in terms of enabling policy and transportation and sustainability.

10. Conferences and Publications

Ken Morrison was at Flooding conference in Perth which took in the wider picture and lessons learnt from England. Also considered SUDS policy.

11. Any Other Competent Business

Grampian Fire and Rescue letter was discussed – in effect the concerns raised are being addressed by the Emergency Flood Group.
Regarding subgroup meetings – dates will be circulated by Linda Mathieson in due course.

It was suggested that TM should update group on River Basin Management Plan.

Action: Contact Tamsin Morris - others within Council outside NESFLAG group also to be included)

12. Topics and Date for Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting will be Thursday 24th January 2008 in Conference Room E2 Woodhill House, Aberdeen at 2pm.