

**North East Scotland Flood Liaison and Advice Group  
Held – Room E2, Woodhill House  
2pm, Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2008**

**Present:**

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

**1. Apologies**

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

**2. Minutes of previous meeting**

A correction is required to first action which should state WM and GC are to produce wording for “leaflets for householders on SuDS.”

**3. Matters arising**

The group was informed that Tamsin Morris had had a meeting with farmers and other interested parties relating to the River Basin Management Plan. A major issue identified is how to achieve the plan’s aims through non-regulatory means. TM will produce a summary, which AC will circulate.

***Action: JC to contact Linda Matheson regarding flooding being included in Draft consultation on water issues.***

**4. SuDS**

The maintenance issue of SuDS was discussed as one of the actions from the last meeting. This focused on how to ensure that info on SuDS sent to householders would be relevant to them. A number of options were put forward:

- The possibility was suggested of putting advice for householders on the Council website regarding responsibility for SuDS. Perhaps we could get assistance from our colleagues in Publicity on how best to advertise this information to householders.
- Make developers provide the guidance for householders.
- Get home owners to sign a legal agreement to maintain the scheme – though this would require the original owners to pass on knowledge of the obligation to subsequent owners.
- Include the info in a “Householder Pack”.
- Information on SuDS and soakaways can be included in leaflets on environment (Biodiversity and Development).

The group also considered attaching planning conditions for SuDS maintenance. However, this and some of the other alternatives would involve the promotion of supplementary planning guidance: this is a cumbersome process (particularly as it now includes the requirement for SEA), and it is unlikely that the Council will promote any further policy changes this way before the next local development plan is produced.

The group concluded that the best option to promote is the use of a proforma with a 'questionnaire' that would have to be answered prior to granting of planning permission. This might allow the Planning Authority to incorporate the answers given in a condition.

**Action: AC to consult with David Crichton on possibility of getting mortgage lenders to make the maintenance of SuDS a condition on mortgages.**

**Action: WM to ask Scottish Water, what kind of flexibility we can expect through Section 7 agreements.**

**Action: AC to keep Peter Argyle, new chairman of ISC, informed on progress of SuDS guidance.**

#### **5. FLAGGIS project (mapping)**

MS had spoken to Piers Blaxter regarding the licensing issue for SEPA maps.

**Action: MS to contact Nicola Abrams to establish the license situation with using SEPA maps; and to get an opinion from Law and Admin on our legal standing.**

**Action: AEC to invite MW to the next Scottish Water liaison meeting.**

#### **6. Development of coastal management policy**

MS outlined situation on the SEA for the proposed policy for a coastal flooding framework. The scoping report is partly completed, and has been advertised. However, it will not now take the form of supplementary planning guidance, but will be expected to become part of the next local development plan. It will also continue to be developed as part of the Coastal Management Plan. The Flood Prevention Unit is currently gathering information for the Coastal Management Plan: it is anticipated that it will take around a year to complete for the whole coast.

#### **7. Guideline on doing work on watercourses.**

At its previous meeting the Group agreed that the best approach is to create a 'nested set of documents' to address work on all watercourses. Thus, for instance, areas like SuDS would have a separate but related document to watercourses in countryside etc, so that the information would be immediately relevant to different interest groups. None of this would be expected to gain the status of supplementary planning guidance in the meantime.

**Action: JC to begin work to update and design a new nested format**

***for Works on Watercourses and other associated documents on water and flooding***

**8. Development plan updates**

A provisional draft strategy for the Structure Plan was agreed last September. This is currently being further developed and a draft plan is due in March 2008. On the other hand, any new Local Development Plan will have to be produced in accordance with the new regulations, which are only expected to be published this autumn. However, a draft of these regulations is already available, enabling the two Councils' policy teams to begin preparations before the actual publication of regulations.

**9. Major development**

Laurencekirk has a proposal for 210 houses. Aboyne has a proposal on a designated housing site which is at risk of a 1metre flood.

**10. Conferences and publications**

New Flooding Bill out this year (Scotland). 6<sup>th</sup> Biennial Flooding Report Review is on website.

**11. Any other competent business**

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

Graeme Craig is now working part-time and has been replaced by Steve McFarland on the Flood Prevention Unit.

***Action: Contact Tamsin Morris and ask if she can come to next meeting.***

**12. Topics and date for next meeting**

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2008 in Conference Room E2, Woodhill House, Aberdeen at 2pm.