

Almondbank Flood Mitigation Scheme

Public Consultation Community Report



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Produced for

Perth & Kinross Council

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1 Introduction

1.1 Previous Consultation

During January 2008, Perth & Kinross Council and Mouchel carried out a public consultation on the Almondbank Flood Mitigation Scheme. The consultation generated a good deal of interest with more than 100 residents attending a public exhibition held in the Bowling Club at Almondbank.

Significant feedback was received from the local community at the event and a consultation report was circulated shortly after the exhibition¹.

The local community recognised the need for a flood scheme and were generally in favour of the proposals. A number of concerns were raised by the community and these concerns prompted a further review of the scheme by Perth & Kinross Council and Mouchel.

Further to the consultation feedback received from the local community, the proposed scheme has been fully reviewed and developed, including extensive computer modelling work and a review of the scheme hydrology (including the re-assessment of river flows and the impacts of climate change).

Relevant individual parties have been consulted as various elements of the scheme have been developed.

The developed scheme proposals comprise of a single flood storage area and a combination of flood walls and embankments, with associated erosion protection along the River Almond and the East Pow Burn. These proposals are in conjunction with the raising of three bridge structures to allow greater conveyance of flow beneath them and also a number of solutions to address the impact of the scheme on adjacent surface water drainage.

1.2 Further Consultation

On completion of the work to develop the scheme, it was appropriate to carry out another full consultation exercise as the views of the local community are very important to Perth & Kinross Council and will inform the scheme as it moves forward.

A further public consultation exercise was therefore carried out during June and July 2011, details of which can be found in the following sections of this report.

¹ Almondbank Flood Mitigation Scheme, Public Consultation Report, May 2008 (Prepared by Mouchel)

2 Public Consultation Exercise (2011)

2.1 Consultation Process

The local community were personally invited to attend a public exhibition, with the distribution of approximately 250 newsletters to residents, business interests, statutory consultees and other parties. A number of personal letters and emails were also sent to interested parties and posters advertising the exhibition were displayed locally. Perth & Kinross Council prepared a press release and articles appeared in The Courier and Perthshire Advertiser. Details of the exhibition and copies of the display material were also available on Perth & Kinross Council's website with the opportunity for consultees to electronically submit any feedback.

The public exhibition was held in the Bowling Club in Almondbank on Wednesday 22nd June and Thursday 23rd June between 2pm and 8pm. The exhibition allowed the local community to view the developed scheme and gave further opportunity to discuss and provide feedback on the current proposals.

Following the exhibition, the exhibition display material remained available for viewing at the Almondbank Bowling Club for a period of 28 days. The exhibition material was also available to view, during this time, on the Perth & Kinross Council website (www.pkc.gov.uk/almondbankfloodscheme), with the opportunity to electronically submit any feedback. The display materials have since remained on the Council's website and will shortly be replaced with the updated scheme drawings.

As well as consulting with the local community, other key stakeholders were also notified of the developed scheme and given the opportunity to attend the Public Exhibition and / or provide feedback.

2.2 Public Exhibition

The public exhibition, held in the Bowling Club in Almondbank on Wednesday 22nd June and Thursday 23rd June between 2pm and 8pm, was attended by representatives from Perth & Kinross Council's Environment Service and Mouchel and comprised (Photograph 1):

- A central display with a series of information posters detailing the work done to date
- An annotated plan showing the key features of the proposed scheme
- Flood maps showing the river modelling results for the current situation and also with the proposed scheme in place (for the scheme design event)
- A full set of the proposed scheme outline design drawings



Photograph 1: Consultation day notice boards in 2011

Representatives from the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and the Scottish Flood Forum were also in attendance to provide information about SEPA's new direct Floodline warning service and general advice on tackling flooding.

As with the 2008 exhibition, the 2011 exhibition was very well attended and Perth & Kinross Council would like to thank those residents who took the time to attend and provide feedback. 69 members of the local community attended the exhibition over the two days. The attendance by the local community demonstrated a continued high level of interest in the scheme.

Representatives from Perth & Kinross Council's Environment Service and Mouchel were available for questions and discussion during the exhibition, and recorded any key points raised. A number of sets of the proposed scheme outline design drawings were also available to allow those attending to mark on any comments or information.

During the public exhibition, feedback forms were provided to allow the local community to formally record their comments. These were completed on the day and handed in or completed after the exhibition and returned to Perth & Kinross Council. 21 members of the community provided written feedback via feedback forms, comments in writing and electronic submissions, during the consultation process.

A summary of the feedback received from the local community can be found in Section 3 of this report (names and details of those submitting this feedback have been omitted for confidentiality reasons).

3 Local Community Feedback

In general, the impression received from the public consultation was that the local community remain in favour of the scheme, with a greater appreciation and understanding of the developed scheme as a result of the work progressed since the last consultation. The public exhibition provided an increased level of detail than was previously available, paying particular attention to the previously recorded concerns.

There still remain a number of concerns in relation to specific aspects of the scheme proposals, although these are fewer than previously recorded and lesser in magnitude.

3.1 Feedback Responses

As a result of the consultation exercise, feedback was received by Perth & Kinross Council in a number of ways, comprising:

- 16 completed feedback forms from community members (some accompanied by letters)
- 1 letter
- 3 electronic mails
- 1 electronic feedback form via the PKC website

Perth & Kinross Council and Mouchel also made notes on any key points raised in discussions with consultees during the exhibition.

3.2 Feedback Summary

The feedback comments were primarily focused on a small number of key issues; these are identified in Table 1, Section 3.3, which includes a summary response from Perth & Kinross Council.

The feedback comments have also been collated by location and are identified in Table 2, Section 3.4 and referenced to highlight where changes have been made to current scheme proposals.

In addition, a summary graph has been included at the end of Section 3.

3.3 Table 1 - Summary of Community Feedback (By Key Issues)

Ref.	Local Community Feedback	Perth & Kinross Council Response
3.30	Positive Feedback	
	A large number of residents found the public exhibition very useful and welcomed the opportunity to further discuss elements of the scheme with the representatives on hand. The level of detail had improved and the exhibition was more informative than the previous exercise. The general opinion was positive, i.e. that the scheme was perceived to be necessary and the community was generally in favour of the proposals.	The Council wish to thank all those who attended the public exhibition and provided feedback during or following the event.
3.31	Areas not Defended from Flooding Could be Worse Affected.	
	There were some concerns that areas beyond the extents of the scheme may be at greater risk of flooding, e.g. due to 'backing up' of the flood waters, once the proposed scheme is constructed.	An extensive hydraulic modelling review of the scheme has been undertaken. This has confirmed that upstream and downstream areas beyond the extents of the proposed scheme will not be put at increased risk of flooding as a result of the scheme proposals.
3.32	Preservation of Vegetation	
	There were some concerns regarding the permanent loss of vegetation to accommodate the scheme and the direct impact of this on individual properties.	Efforts have been made to minimise any loss of trees and vegetation in the scheme design. A replacement landscaping scheme will also be developed during the detailed design phase. Concerns regarding these issues will be reviewed and addressed in further consultation with individuals and, where necessary, revisions will be incorporated into the final scheme proposals.
3.33	Permanent and Temporary Access	
	There were some concerns that access routes may be compromised during the construction of the scheme, with particular reference to the bridge structures. Some concerns were raised with regards to proposals for continued access to	It is proposed to minimise disruption, where possible, by maintaining both vehicle and pedestrian access at these key bridge locations and public areas. However, residents must appreciate that there will be times when access is restricted and their co-operation would be appreciated. Residents and the local community will continue to be consulted

Ref.	Local Community Feedback	Perth & Kinross Council Response
	public areas on completion of the scheme.	regarding these proposals as work progresses.
3.34	Erosion	
	There were some concerns with regard to control of the existing erosion and the possible future erosion of the watercourses as a result of the scheme proposals.	<p>The Council has taken action to address erosion in recent years and will continue to monitor the situation. The primary responsibility for river bank erosion rests with the riparian landowner but the Council will, however, be happy to provide advice in this regard.</p> <p>An extensive review of the scheme has been undertaken and where necessary, erosion protection has been incorporated into the proposals to protect the proposed flood defence structures as well as the adjacent river bed and banks.</p>
3.35	Maintenance responsibilities	
	There were some concerns with regards to maintenance access and responsibilities on completion of the proposed scheme.	<p>In developing the proposals, we have considered longer term issues such as maintenance of the completed scheme. The scheme design includes a number of access points for future maintenance.</p> <p>Responsibility for access to and maintenance of the proposed flood defence structures will remain with the Council.</p>
3.36	Impact on Property	
	There were some concerns with regards to the impact of the proposed scheme on individual properties.	
3.37	Funding	
	There were some enquiries regarding the cost of the flood scheme and how it would be funded.	Up until recently, Local Authorities have been expected to fund flood schemes from their block finance settlements as augmented by the Scottish Government, when appropriate. However under relatively new

Ref.	Local Community Feedback	Perth & Kinross Council Response
		<p>arrangements, the Scottish Government may fund up to 80% of the cost of larger flood schemes, although the Council will have to formally apply for this funding after statutory consent for the scheme has been secured under the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009. The Government will assess the applications received from local authorities across Scotland and will distribute the available capital grant accordingly.</p>

Table 1: Summary of Community Feedback (By Key Issues)

3.4 Table 2 - Summary of Community Feedback (By Location)

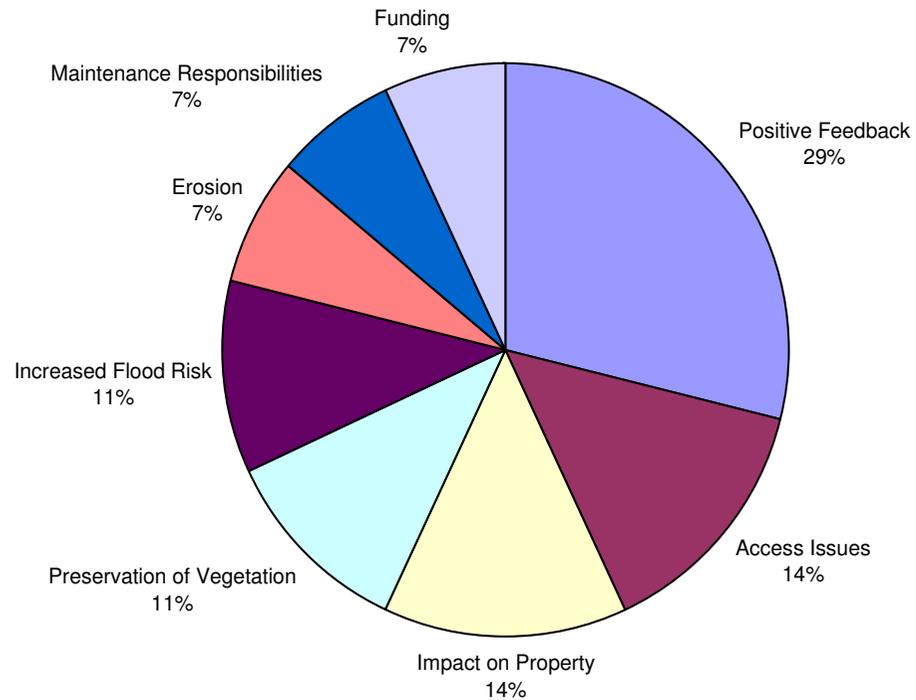
Ref.	Local Community Feedback	Perth & Kinross Council Response
3.40	Upstream of the Proposed Scheme (River Almond)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive feedback received. • Concerns regarding increased risk of flooding upstream, further to completion of the proposed scheme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed hydraulic modelling has confirmed that this area is not at an increased risk of flooding as a result of the proposed scheme.
3.41	Main Street	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive feedback received. • Concerns regarding the impact to residential property as a result of the proposed re-location of the sports pavilion. • Concerns regarding increased risk of flooding and increased rates of erosion further to the construction of the proposed scheme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed location of the sports pavilion has been reviewed and revised. It is proposed that the new sports pavilion will now be located as close to its existing location as possible. • Detailed hydraulic modelling and geomorphology (river behaviour) study has shown that this area is not at an increased risk of flooding or erosion as a result of the proposed scheme.
3.42	College Mill Trout Farm, Rhencullen, Rourkton & Druid's House	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions held with regard to maintenance of the operation of the trout farm both during construction and on completion of the proposed scheme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular liaison with the Trout Farm during outline design of the scheme has enabled their requirements to be incorporated into the proposed scheme. Following the public exhibition, a site visit was undertaken and a number of further small changes have been made to the scheme drawings. These include the re-alignment of the reinforced concrete flood wall adjacent to most northern pond, raising of the hatchery tanks and new drainage, allowing them to drain during flood conditions.

Ref.	Local Community Feedback	Perth & Kinross Council Response
3.43	Almondbank Bowling Club & Playing Fields	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns regarding impact to existing access to community facilities as a result of the scheme proposals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to the Bowling Club has been reviewed and amended further to discussions with representatives of the Bowling Club. The proposed pedestrian gated access into the Bowling Club has been revised and is now proposed in the north east corner of the northern perimeter wall, with a graded pedestrian access proposed along the northern perimeter wall towards the area of land used for car parking. Proposals for vehicle access over the earth embankment that will form the proposed flood storage area have also been revised. The gate will be designed so that it is able to be locked when required, to prevent vehicle access. The proposed location of the sports pavilion has been reviewed and revised. It is proposed that the new sports pavilion will now be located as close to its existing location as possible.
3.44	Deer Park	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns regarding access for cyclists using the re-located pedestrian bridge and access ramps. Concerns regarding maintenance of pedestrian access across the footbridge during the works. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposals have been reviewed in line with current cycle access standards and the revised detail has been incorporated into the scheme drawings. The proposed bridge structure remains as existing and the new access ramps to either side have been widened and their parapet heights increased slightly to provide minimum access standards. Pedestrian access across the footbridge will be maintained whilst the new abutments are constructed upstream. The removal of the footbridge to its new location upstream will take the footbridge out of commission for a very short time.

Ref.	Local Community Feedback	Perth & Kinross Council Response
3.45	Vector Aerospace Site	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions held with regard to surface water flooding issues and the maintenance of the operation of the site on completion of the proposed scheme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular liaison with Vector Aerospace during outline design of the scheme has enabled their operational requirements to be incorporated into the proposed scheme. Proposals for mitigation of surface water on site have been revised further to additional site survey data and discussions with site personnel. The originally proposed flood storage solution has been replaced with a surface water pumping station.
3.46	Brockhill, Puddledub (Greenacres) & Low's Work Cottages	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns regarding parking and increased vehicle movements, visual impacts of the scheme and impacts of the constructed scheme close to residential property. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposals at this location have been reviewed and some changes have been made to the scheme drawings as a result. Further discussions have been held with the consultees to demonstrate the benefits of the finished scheme and allay their concerns. Proposed vehicle access routes to individual properties have been revised and allowances for parking at these properties have been incorporated.
3.47	Craigneuk East & West	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Positive feedback received. Concerns regarding impact to residential property and preservation of vegetation as a result of the proposed scheme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposals have been reviewed and discussions have been held with the consultees. The scheme drawings have been revised in line with these discussions. The proposed flood defence along the length of the property boundary has been revised to a reinforced concrete flood wall, reducing the footprint of the proposed flood defence. This reduces the direct impact of the proposed scheme on the property and will also ensure minimal loss of trees and vegetation along this

Ref.	Local Community Feedback	Perth & Kinross Council Response
		length.
3.48	Huntingtower	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive feedback received. • Concerns regarding increased risk of erosion further to the construction of the proposed scheme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed hydraulic modelling and a geomorphology (river behaviour) study have shown that this area is not at an increased risk of erosion as a result of the proposed scheme.
3.49	Lochty Estate & Upstream of the Proposed Scheme (East Pow Burn)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive feedback received. • Concerns regarding access to and protection of existing septic tanks. • Concerns regarding access to the estate during works to replace the existing bridge. • Concerns regarding maintenance of the finished works and watercourse. • Concerns regarding increased risk of flooding upstream further to the construction of the proposed scheme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A site visit to confirm locations and access requirements of the septic tanks for these properties has been undertaken and this have been identified on the scheme drawings. A small change to the flood defence alignment has been made at each location to ensure that access to the existing septic tanks remains on the dry side of the defences. • It is proposed to maintain vehicle and pedestrian access to the estate during the works. Residents will continue to be consulted regarding these proposals. • A review of the maintenance access points along the scheme has been completed and the access points marked clearly on the scheme drawings. Responsibility for access to and maintenance of the proposed flood defence structures will remain with the Council. • Detailed hydraulic modelling has confirmed that this area is not at an increased risk of flooding as a result of the proposed scheme.

Summary of Local Community Feedback (June / July 2011)



* Please note some responses received from the public consultation included more than one comment

4 Conclusion

Further to feedback received during previous consultation in 2008, Perth & Kinross Council and Mouchel have fully reviewed and developed the Almondbank Flood Mitigation scheme.

The 2011 Public Consultation presented this developed scheme to the local community and key stakeholders. Perth & Kinross Council is pleased with the outcome of the consultation and has concluded that, in general, the local community remain in favour of the Flood Mitigation Scheme.

Some concerns were raised, although these were fewer than previously received and of lesser magnitude. Perth & Kinross Council and Mouchel have consulted with the local community to ensure that where possible, individual concerns are addressed. The Council and Mouchel have responded in writing to any concerns that have been raised and where necessary, small changes have been made to the developed scheme.

The proposed Almondbank Flood Mitigation Scheme is therefore to be published under the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009, in order to secure the necessary statutory consent and funding. Once these elements are in place, the detailed design of the scheme can proceed.

If anyone wishes to discuss further any aspects of the proposed scheme, then please contact either of the following:

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We have used our reasonable endeavours to provide information that is correct and accurate and have discussed above the reasonable conclusions that can be reached on the basis of the information available.