

Flood Bulletin – Craigie Burn, Perth

The Council is producing bulletins aimed at keeping local communities informed of the developments and recovery work in progress following the flooding in their area.

This bulletin has been prepared specifically for residents affected by flooding on the Craigie Burn including Low Road, Balmoral Place, Queens Avenue, Queens Street and Windsor Terrace and surrounding areas.

We are sorry about the flooding that you have experienced.

We have been receiving a high volume of calls and e-mails from throughout Perth and Kinross following the flooding of 12 August. Unfortunately, it's not possible for us to respond to them all at once. This bulletin is intended to answer some of your questions.

Community Meetings and Future Updates

The Council will be holding meetings with affected residents. This is complicated by the on-going coronavirus pandemic and so these meetings may be held online. We will advise you of the details shortly.

If you are interested in attending a future meeting and wish to receive future updates, please email your contact details to flood@pkc.gov.uk

The Scottish Flood Forum

The Scottish Flood Forum is an independent organisation which supports individuals and communities at risk from flooding. If you have not already done so, we would advise you to contact the Forum – their contact details are at the end of this bulletin. The Forum were in Perth City Centre on Wednesday 26 August and will return on Friday 28 August and at weekly intervals thereafter.

Flooding on the Craigie Burn

This severe weather of 12 August resulted in widespread flooding across Tayside with approximately 160 properties affected. The Craigie Burn catchment was badly affected with approximately 25 properties being flooded and some impact to a larger number of resident's gardens and outbuildings. The main areas that were flooded include Queen Street; Low Road and Glasgow Road; South Inch Terrace and Balmoral Place. The exact flood mechanism is still under investigation.

Current Priority Work

Since the flood event on the 12 August 2020, council officers have been on site and have spoken to many residents to offer advice and support and to gain an understanding of their concerns and issues.

The Council has also undertaken significant works including clearing trash screens of trapped debris and sediment; street clearance and repair; the erection of temporary barriers in areas currently deemed unsafe. The Council and Scottish Water have undertaken cleaning/de-contamination work on South Inch following the inundation of the flood storage reservoir and children's play area by the Craigie Burn and sewage from the surcharging combined sewer system.

The Council continues to monitor the weather conditions and the burn on a daily basis. Further works are planned:

- The removal of stonework from the collapsed wall to the rear of properties on Queen Street at Windsor Terrace;
- The clearance of sediment and debris that was deposited during the flood;
- The clearance of other debris and trees currently within the channel of the burn.

This work will extend from Windsor Terrace downstream to the South Inch and will require the temporary closure of Windsor Terrace and the footpath along the Craigie Burn between Glenearn Road and the South Inch. Residents will be provided with further details shortly.

Clearance of sediment and debris will also take place along the burn adjacent to Balmoral Place.

The Perth Flood Scheme

The Perth Flood Scheme was completed in 2002. As part of the Scheme, three flood storage ponds were created in the Broxden area at the top of the catchment. These ponds already offer significant flood attenuation and reduce flows downstream. Without these features, the impact of flooding would have been even greater. As part of the same Scheme, flood walls and embankments were erected around the South Inch to create a flood storage area and manage flood risk to adjacent properties.

The flooding experienced on 12 August was mainly due to surface water flooding (also known as pluvial flooding). The significant amount of rain that fell in a short space of time generated a large fluvial response in the Craigie Burn which filled up the storage ponds at Broxden and the flood storage reservoir on the South Inch. While the Perth Flood Scheme is in place, this Scheme was primarily designed to address river (or fluvial) flooding in the area and not surface water flooding. However this will be addressed via a forthcoming flood study (see 'Future Action' below).

Clearance and Repair Work

Debris swept along by flooding can often build up and block bridges and culverts and this was a feature of the flooding on 12 August. The Council has installed trash screens at key locations to reduce the risk of blockage during floods and has installed arrangements which allow the screens to be remotely monitored 24hrs a day. This enables continuous monitoring and rapid clearance of any obvious blockages. However it seems that due to the significant nature of the storm that the

screen at Queens Avenue did become frequently blocked at times during the night and required continual clearing.

The Council carries out routine inspections of the Craigie Burn every 6 months and will carry out clearance and repair works where this will substantially reduce flood risk. We also undertake clearance work when the public alert us to any obstructions. Any works are carried out on a priority basis as budgets allow. The Council will be carrying out the priority clearance works noted earlier in this bulletin.

Future Action

The published Tay Local Flood Risk Management Plan includes a flood study for the Craigie Burn. A hydraulic model of the Craigie Burn has already been developed and consulting engineers are to be engaged to use this model to examine the potential options for manage flood risk in the future. We will engage with the community during the course of this study which will not be completed until next year.

Flooding in the Craigie Burn catchment has occurred in the past and the Council have already taken action to reduce the impact of flooding. However, we cannot eliminate the risk of flooding. Unfortunately, exceptional weather events are happening more often, and flooding is having increasing impact and effect across the whole country. There will always be limits as to what individual Council's and public sector agencies can achieve to prevent flooding.

Community Resilience

In the meantime, residents are advised to take action to reduce the risk of flooding to their property. This could include having your own supply of sandbags available and fitting flood protection products to your property such as airbrick covers or door guards. Please refer to the Council's general flood bulletin (under '*What action can I take to protect my property from flooding?*') and FAQ's provided separately. Further information can also be found at www.pkc.gov.uk/plp.

Next Steps

The Council will progress the clearance works set out above and will progress the Craigie Burn Flood Study.

The flooding situation was reported to the Council's Environment and Infrastructure Committee on 19 August and as a result the Council will be looking at what action needs to be taken to address future flood risk.

The Council has commissioned a report on the response to the flood situation on 12 August 2020. Once the report is received, we will look at how best we engage with local communities including Perth South. The report is to go to Mark Butterworth, the Head of Environmental and Consumer Services in the first instance.

In the meantime, Perth & Kinross Council continues to work in partnership with a number of agencies including Scottish Water, the Scottish Environment Protection

Agency and the Scottish Flood Forum to assist with the recovery work. The Council and its partnership agencies are committed to providing ongoing support to those who need it as the recovery work continues.

The Council will advise you of the details of forthcoming meetings with residents shortly.

Further bulletins will follow.

Further Information and Advice

In the meantime, please see the attached general Flood Bulletin and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). We hope that this may help to answer some of your questions.

Please also refer to the Council's Facebook and Twitter accounts and our online news articles:

www.pkc.gov.uk/article/21805/Scottish-Flood-Forum-returns-to-Perth-and-Kinross-on-Tuesday-25-August-

www.pkc.gov.uk/article/21794/12-August-2020-Storm-Flood-Risk-Management-Update

www.pkc.gov.uk/article/21793/Council-offers-support-to-flooded-residents

Further information and advice on flooding can be found on the Council's website at <https://www.pkc.gov.uk> and <https://www.pkc.gov.uk/frmplans>.

Contact Details

Perth and Kinross Council: Tel 01738 475000 (8.45am – 5pm)
 Tel 01738 476476 (out of hours emergencies)
 E-mail flood@pkc.gov.uk

Scottish Water: Tel 0800 077 8778 (customer helpline)

Scottish Flood Forum: Tel 01698 839021

SEPA Floodline Tel 0345 988 1188