

## **Flood Bulletin – Alyth**

The Council is producing further bulletins aimed at keeping local communities informed following the severe flooding of 11/12 August 2020.

This bulletin has been prepared specifically for residents affected by flooding in Alyth, primarily from the Alyth Burn.

### **Post Flood Response Work & Community Meetings**

Following the flooding of 11 and 12 August 2020, Council officers were deployed to investigate, initially undertaking door to door visits, engaging with affected residents and businesses and offering advice and support. This work was supported by our Customer Contact Centre, Health & Social Care Partnership and other agencies, including the Scottish Flood Forum.

The Council held online public meetings with the main affected communities. A specific meeting was held on 1 October 2020 for Alyth residents. For those that were unable to attend, the meeting was recorded and can still be accessed via:

[www.pkc.gov.uk/August2020flooding](http://www.pkc.gov.uk/August2020flooding)

Although the flood event lasted just a matter of hours, the impact was felt for much longer and the Council continued to receive a high volume of calls and e-mails from residents for some months. By the end of December 2020, the Council had logged, and was still responding to, over 650 enquiries.

### **SEPA Report**

SEPA published a report on the storm in December 2020 which can be viewed at <https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/536333/the-flash-floods-of-11-and-12-august-2020.pdf>. The report confirms that the nearest rain gauge to Alyth (at Forter) recorded 18.4mm in an hour; 31mm in a 3 hour period and 50mm over a 12 hour period. The average monthly rainfall for August is 102.2mm so roughly half a month's rain fell in a 12 hour period. SEPA's report therefore notes that the rainfall was an extreme event compared to historical records and can be considered rare.

### **Committee Report**

A report on the flooding was considered by the Council's Environment and Infrastructure Committee on 18 August 2021. The report describes the extent of the severe flooding and includes the findings of the review of the Council's response to the flooding and actions taken in response to the previous emergency motion approved by Committee on 19 August 2020. The report also makes recommendations for short, medium and long-term actions.

The committee documents can be viewed on the Council's website at:

<https://perth-and-kinross.cmis.uk.com/perth-and-kinross/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/3116/Committee/11/Default.aspx>

## **Public Consultation - Draft Flood Risk Management Strategies and Local Flood Risk Management Plans**

The current, and future, Tay Local Flood Risk Management Plan includes the following key actions for your area:

- A Natural Flood Management Study for the Alyth Burn.

Consulting engineers are to be engaged to carry out this study and examine the potential natural means of managing flood risk in the future. We will engage with the community during this study. Unfortunately, due to the recent flood events and the on-going COVID-19 Pandemic, the study will not commence until late in 2021.

The Flood Risk Management Plans also include other actions including awareness raising, self-help, flood forecasting, maintenance, planning policies and emergency response.

The Council has written to local residents to highlight the current public consultation on the second cycle of flood risk management plans which is open until 31 October 2021. You can respond to the consultation via the following link:

<https://consultation.sepa.org.uk/evidence-and-flooding/frmplans/>

If you have any enquiries regarding the consultation, please contact [frmplanning@sepa.org.uk](mailto:frmplanning@sepa.org.uk). Please enter 'FRM Consultation' in the subject line.

You can also access the consultation via the Council's consultation hub at <https://consult.pkc.gov.uk/communities/floodriskconsultation2021/> and webpage at <https://www.pkc.gov.uk/frmplans>.

## **Community Resilience**

Residents are encouraged 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 previous flood bulletin (under 'What action can I take to protect my property from flooding?') and Frequently Asked Questions at [www.pkc.gov.uk/August2020flooding](http://www.pkc.gov.uk/August2020flooding). Further information can also be found at [www.pkc.gov.uk/plp](http://www.pkc.gov.uk/plp).

## **Alyth Community Support Group**

The Alyth Community Support Group (ACSG) continue to build on the good work they have carried out to date. They, along with the Alyth Development Trust (ADT), have been supported by the Council and the Scottish Flood Forum in developing an emergency resilience plan. This involves the use of the recently installed 'Rivertrack' community alerting system as a trigger for activating the plan. This system can be accessed via:

<https://map.rivertrack.org/location/alyth-burn-alyth>

The group has worked with the Council to establish a central store of emergency flood products, which can be deployed as part of the community's emergency resilience plan. The ACSG has also located smaller flood pods around the town to help support residents.

The Alyth Riverkeepers have also formed and are working with The Conservation Volunteers to establish a community monitoring scheme along the Alyth Burn, with specific focus in the Den of Alyth.

## **Scottish Flood Forum**

The Scottish Flood Forum is an independent organisation which supports individuals and communities at risk from flooding. If you were affected by the flooding and 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 continues to work with the Alyth Community Support Group and have been in Alyth carrying out a number of property flood protection assessments. We would advise that residents in flood risk areas get these assessments carried out in order to best understand how to make their properties as resilient as possible to flooding.

## **Out of Hours Emergency Service**

Some residents had struggled to contact the Council for assistance during the night of 11/12 August 2020. This was a key issue examined in the above noted report to the Environment and Infrastructure Committee on 18 August 2021.

The Council will establish arrangements with Aberdeen City Council call centre to provide additional dedicated staff to answer calls during severe weather events. Such an arrangement will be based on the availability of staff, and at the request of the Council. It is therefore intended to introduce this arrangement in the event of an amber weather warning. It would, however, require an advance warning to be in place to enable call handlers to be sought.

## **Emergency Work in Alyth Following 12 August 2020**

### Alyth Burn Sediment Clearance Work

A considerable volume of sediment was brought down during the August 2020 flood event and deposited along the channel of the Alyth Burn within the town centre. The Council carried out work to remove this sediment immediately following the flood event. This work extended from the weir in the Den O' Alyth (the old swimming pool) down to the Springbank Road area of the Town. Additional work was carried out along the reach of the Alyth Burn at Pitnacree Street and Commercial Street to remove material brought down from previous high flows.

Further deposition of sediment is noticeable at some locations following subsequent high flows in the Alyth Burn (on 3 and 22 October 2020), and this is an expected natural response.

The long-term sediment regime will be considered as part of the Council's upcoming natural flood management study of the Alyth Burn catchment.

### Alyth Burn Tree Works

Following the flooding in August 2020, the Council also undertook works to remove woody debris brought down by the storm event. Residents are encouraged to continue to report any blockages in local watercourses to the Council by calling 01738 475000 or e-mailing [flood@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:flood@pkc.gov.uk).

### Structures Work

Following the flood event of 11/12 August 2020, the bridge structures in the catchment area were inspected to ascertain whether damage had occurred as a result of the high water flows in the watercourses. The inspections confirmed that the Tullyfergus Bridge and Tullymurdoch Bridge had suffered scour damage to the abutments. The footbridges in Alyth on David Street, James Street and Mart Street had also suffered damage to the abutments and the parapets. The Council has carried out temporary and permanent repairs following the flood event to ensure these structures remain safe for the public.

It was noted that local opinion was in favour of the footbridge parapet mesh infill being removed permanently. We considered the feasibility of this, but in doing so would introduce a hazard to the public. An alternative detail utilising removable mesh panels has been installed. Some members of the community have already been updated regarding this.

## **Further Work in Alyth**

### Johnshill Burn

The Johnshill Burn enters a culvert under Johnshill Road where it flows to an outfall in private ground before meeting the Alyth Burn. The culvert had surcharged during

the heavy rainfall events in August and October 2020. This resulted in flooding along Bamff Road and into Market Square, and a potential flood risk to adjacent property. Following investigation, the Council carried out the following works:

- Work was completed in December 2020 to repair a collapsed section of culvert which had caused a significant blockage.
- The channel of the Johnshill Burn (between the downstream end of the culverted section and the confluence with the Alyth Burn) was also cleared of sediment down to the original bed level, allowing the culvert to discharge freely towards the Alyth Burn.
- The Council's Roads Maintenance Partnership installed kerb drainage between Barrel Wynd and Market Square in April 2021 which will help to alleviate any flooding, should the burn overflow. They will also be carrying out further preventative repair work to the culvert at Bamff Road.

This work has reduced the risk of flooding occurring from the Johnshill Burn. However, it is important to note that flooding can never be entirely eliminated and a potential risk of overtopping at the inlet, or other blockages, remains. The Council will monitor the Johnshill Burn, although it largely flows in an open channel or culvert through private land. The primary responsibility for the maintenance and upkeep of this watercourse therefore rests with the respective landowners.

#### Springbank Road - Council Properties

The Council has completed improvements to the flood protection measures previously fitted to 14 Council-owned properties on Springbank Road. This included the installation of additional automatic airbrick covers and servicing of existing products to ensure they will operate as designed.

#### Springbank Road Drainage

Following the flooding in August 2020, the Council's Roads Maintenance Partnership has undertaken some drainage improvements on Springbank Road. This involved the replacement of a damaged length of pipe allowing the gullies to drain the road more efficiently.

#### Diamond Jubilee Park Ground Water Issue

Properties at Springbank have been affected by water emanating from ground within the park. The properties sit below the level of the park and are cut back into the slope. This may cause the properties to be affected by changes in the natural water table.

The Council has carried out work within Diamond Jubilee Park to reduce compaction and improve drainage of surface water.

Residents can contact the Council at [flood@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:flood@pkc.gov.uk) for further advice on taking steps to deal with this potential groundwater issue.

## Other Updates

### Doctor's Burn

The banking of the Doctor's Burn to the west of Cambridge Street was found to be in poor condition, with significant damage from animal burrowing. The landowner has carried out repair works to the watercourse bank. This has reduced the risk of water passing through the banking and across the field towards Cambridge Street. There remains a residual risk of the watercourse overtopping in more extreme flood events, although this repair work has reduced the likelihood of flooding to properties along Cambridge Street.

### St Ninian's Road – Development Site Run-off

In August 2020, properties along St Ninians Road were affected by run-off from a development site to the north. The Developer has responded to concerns raised by residents and the Council by improving the temporary drainage within the site whilst the construction phase is on-going. The completed site will be served by a permanent drainage scheme approved by the Council through the planning process.

## Further Information and Advice

Please refer to the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) at [www.pkc.gov.uk/August2020flooding](http://www.pkc.gov.uk/August2020flooding). Further information and advice on flooding can be found on the Council's website at [www.pkc.gov.uk/flooding](http://www.pkc.gov.uk/flooding) and [www.pkc.gov.uk/frmplans](http://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](mailto:flood@pkc.gov.uk) (routine enquiries)  
Tel 01738 476476 or 01738 475000 (road drains)

Road drains: [www.pkc.gov.uk/article/14914/Report-a-road-or-street-lighting-fault](http://www.pkc.gov.uk/article/14914/Report-a-road-or-street-lighting-fault)  
(You don't need to register - just click the link at the bottom of the page).

Scottish Water:      Tel 0800 077 8778 (customer helpline)  
(Any sewer flooding should be reported to Scottish Water.)

Scottish Flood Forum:      Tel 07895 883170  
E-mail: [admin@scottishfloodforum.org](mailto:admin@scottishfloodforum.org)

SEPA Floodline      Tel 0345 988 1188

Alyth Community Support Group      Tel 07840 755 339  
E-mail: [ACSG@alyth.online](mailto:ACSG@alyth.online)