

Bridgend, Grant Court, South Church Street – Flooding update 10th December 2020

1. Feedback from meeting with Stirling Council /WSP

Paper on this has been previously circulated. The main points were - level of protection from proposed flood wall - briefing for local councillor - community consultation / engagement - letter to every household – data collection -individual property protection wider benefits to the community.

The letter to every household in Callander that Stirling Council were to send out week beginning 30th November does not appear to have been sent. At present we have not been told any reason for delay.

Local councillors, Martin Earl, Jeremy McDonald and Evelyn Tweed had a briefing on Callander Meadows Car Park Flood Alleviation Scheme by Maria Lucey and Bruce Reekie on 7th December.

Jennie had emailed our concerns and questions to the local councillors before their briefing with Maria Lucey. Copy of this was previously circulated.

Martin Earl sent a resume of the session:

Regarding the issue of how we have reached this point I have asked for all reports that were sent to the relevant committees of the Council (Environment and Finance) concerning a Callander Flood Scheme since 2015 to 2019 inclusive. This should shed some historic light of what was brought forward, when and why.

- We have asked and it was agreed that the fundamental issue of providing protection for Bridgend residents needs to be further investigated and Scot Gov contacted regarding the potential to include this in any scheme that is progressed.*
- Independent assessment of proposal to be obtained.*
- We have asked for clarity on the funding situation with Scot Gov. My understanding is that the funding runs on ten year cycles and any scheme that has 'in principle ' agreement in the current cycle must be either delivered or substantially in progress by 2025.*
- Any scheme goes through a formal consultation process, should there be unresolved objections to it at the end of the process then a public inquiry is required and that can substantially extend the timeline.*
- This seems to me to make the case for any scheme that enters into that process to have resolved fundamental issues such as Bridgend inclusion and why alternate solutions cannot or should not be progressed. Otherwise unresolved objections appear almost certain and there is no Community Council or interested group support at present.*
- Regarding those alternate proposed solutions (Dredging, River realignment, NFM up catchment, embankment etc) they need much more clarity/explanation as to why they are not thought feasible. This point has been clearly made.*
- We have sought clarity as to why a 1:50 scheme became the 'agreed' way forward and why that has centred around a wall as proposed.*
- I have raised a query directly*
- Any consultation of the community should not take place until these matters have been addressed.*

Community Consultation – Susan has had word from Maria Lucey that public consultations may go ahead in January 2021. This is to take the form of a virtual public meeting – some felt that this would be challenge, especially if a large number wished to take part – and it's success would required good local publicity. The final point in Martin's note may well push any public consultation into later winter months / spring.

2. Follow-up email to Stirling Council.

A reply has been sent to Stirling Council (Bruce Reekie) thanking them for their previous response but again asking the main core question about how Stirling Council plan to protect our 10 homes.

Maria Lucey has indicated that she would be replying to Ian. It was proposed that we should email Maria Lucey. **Action Ian**

3. Invitation to Maria Lucey

Maria has previously indicated that she is willing to come out to see our properties. Need to follow-up. **Action Jennie**

4. Meadows Car Park properties.

Andy reported that he had spoken to Ross Munro and John Gibson.

Ross Munro, stays in one of the flats on Main Street and uses the garages (owned by John Gibson) at the old putting green. He is quite keen on something happening now – fears if there is delay it might not happen.

John Gibson is sympathetic to the idea that all properties at risk of a 1:50 year flood should be protected.

Both were surprised that the proposed wall would not have protected from three major floods in last thirty years and the cost of the scheme.

Owners / residents in Meadows Car park area have not been talking together about the proposed flood wall. **Action – to make contact with Hugh Harvey – Andy**

Issue of identity was raised – only mention of Bridgend in Martin Earl's email. Agreed that we should always refer to Bridgend/ Grant Court/South Church Street or the other ten properties.

5. Flood Histories

Should be sent to Maria Lucey and copied to local councillors. Discussion re potential impacted of making it known that our properties have the potential to flood. Will detail to Stirling Council that our flooding histories should be treated as confidential and not to share these with any third party or identify these properties publicly without our permission **Action Ian**

6. Flood Information

Flood information gathered from public / community held by Community Council. Susan has written to Dick Johnson requesting information.

7. Callander Community Council

Discussion re circulating information about level of flood protection on offer to all community councillors. **Action - Susan & Ian will look at wording.**

8. Getting Our Message Out

Expanded into discussion as to how we could get a message out about the level of flood protection on offer / encouraging individuals to ask questions. We must also be wary about sending / posting mixed messages.

Agreed that we should get a message out – using Ben Ledi View / Facebook. Prepare these drafts to be ready by 8th Jan to be used depending on the current position at that date. **Action – draft article for Ben Ledi View and Facebook posts – Jennie**
To spread this message further we agreed to write to Bruce Crawford to make him aware of the latest developments and to put pressure on Stirling Council.

Action Ian

9. Comrie / Bridge of Allan

After our initial contact Andy is now waiting to hear from Bridge of Allan, hopefully, early in 2021.

In an email from Jeremy McDonald (local councillor) he stated

I should also let you know I suggested this is an area of discussion Bridge of Allan and Callander Community Councils collaborate on because the concerns about the coverage of flood protection is identical and useful to team up with people pursuing the same cause it gives you mutual support, ideas and strength. It may be worth dropping a line to Bridge of Allan CC so you can share experiences and ideas with the similarly affected properties there.

Andy has sourced information about the flood protection scheme in Comrie – full details are available at:

<https://www.pkc.gov.uk/article/21568/Comrie-flood-protection-scheme-documents>

Andy informed meeting of the new Facebook page that Dick Johnson has started – potential area to raise discussion and get information and ideas. Can be found at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/857630654975208/permalink/859858041419136/>

10. Impact Of Water Table

Discussion re ground water flooding in the gardens of properties in South Church Street, Bridgend and in the school playing field. Some concern that this is a significant risk of flooding and has it been missed in the planning for flood protection. We can raise this with Maria Lucey.

Date of next meeting – **Wednesday 13th January 2021 at 7.30pm**

Ian Dec2020