

## **Flooding update 1: July 2008**

Clackmannanshire Council will be sending out regular updates to people affected by the flooding in Tillicoultry in January 2008. These updates will also be posted here on ClacksWeb.

### **Public meeting**

On 3 July 2008, Clackmannanshire Council held a second public meeting at Devonvale Hall in Tillicoultry to update people on the current investigations into the January floods in the area. Many people attended, and we are grateful for the interest shown and the useful issues raised.

While SEPA and Scottish Water were unable to attend the public meeting, the Council will be working with them closely to develop effective solutions to the flooding.

At the meeting, JBA Consulting Ltd gave a presentation on behalf of the Council on the likely causes of the flooding and possible preventative measures.

#### **Likely causes of flooding:**

- The flooding was caused by the River Devon overtopping its banks as the result of an unusually high volume of rain when ground was already very saturated from earlier rainfall.
- It was confirmed that there was no unusual release of water from reservoirs upstream.
- An apparent surge in flows towards Elistoun Drive may have been caused by the river overtopping the Red Bridge.
- It is possible that, in the future, such water levels will be more common.

#### **Preventative/Warning measures to be further investigated:**

- Lowering ground upstream to introduce extra capacity to hold flood waters on undeveloped land upstream.
- Raising the mixed leisure route to substantially reduce the threat of future flooding by the river.
- Providing individual flood defences for properties at risk of flooding.
- Installation of a full flood warning system for the River Devon in partnership with SEPA.

#### **Preventative/Warning measures already being progressed:**

- The Council is regularly inspecting the river for blockages such as trees, and is removing them where necessary. However keeping the river clear is the responsibility of the adjoining landowners and the Council will be contacting landowners to remind them of this.
- Contact has been established with the Devon Angling Association and the Council is going to work with the Association to better manage the river.
- The Council has already restored the mixed leisure route to the pre-flood height.
- Meetings have been held with SEPA to progress the installation of a flood warning system for the River Devon. Interim solutions which can be implemented in a shorter timescale are also being investigated.
- The Council has set up an interim SMS message warning system to send a text message of severe weather warnings in the area. If you would like to get

these warnings, please contact: Emergency Planning Unit, Lime Tree House, North Castle Street, Alloa, FK10 1EX. Phone: 01259 452537 / 452546. Email: [emergencyplanning@clacks.gov.uk](mailto:emergencyplanning@clacks.gov.uk)

- Atlantic Geomatics have been appointed to carry out level surveys in the area and this work will be completed over the next fortnight. These surveys will include additional cross sections of the river to allow the flood model to be extended as well as the Mixed Leisure Route and the spur to the Bessie Mine including the Red Bridge.
- Many residents have returned questionnaires aimed at identifying whether properties are suitable for individual property defences. This initial investigation has shown that this approach may not be feasible in terms of the level of protection they would provide for each property and also the inconvenience their installation would cause to residents. This research along with the Council's proposals to provide alternative protection by raising the Mixed Leisure Route before next winter has led to the conclusion that individual property defences are not the best or most practicable solution for the area as a whole.
- Preliminary findings suggest that some of the properties on Derby Place may remain at risk of flooding during very extreme events even after the Mixed Leisure Route is raised. These are generally older stone built properties and it may be possible to successfully protect them using individual property defences. Owners of these properties have been contacted and surveys are being carried out to further assess the suitability of these measures.
- Detailed design of the Mixed Leisure Route works will begin as soon as the surveys are completed.

## **Drainage works**

Scottish Water have now completed the drainage improvement works around Elistoun Drive and after the heavy rain at the end of July and beginning of August the new drainage systems are working well. While insufficient drainage in this area did not contribute significantly to the January flooding, the newly installed drainage should substantially reduce the risk of flooding from sewers during less extreme weather.

Finally for the moment the Council are aware that further improvements to waste water drainage are planned in the area by Scottish Water and we understand that further site work is scheduled to start in the near future.

## **Contact us**

Please contact me directly if you have any concerns.

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