



DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Flooding update 2: October 2008

This is the second update from Clackmannanshire Council for people affected by the flooding in Tillicoultry in January 2008. These updates will be posted directly to those affected and are also available on the Council website, www.clacksweb.org.uk

Work to begin on mixed leisure route

Surveys and tests

The Council restored the mixed leisure route along the old railway line to its pre-flood level in July 2008. At a public meeting in July, we explained that we had appointed Atlantic Geomatics to carry out additional topographic surveys of the area. These surveys were needed to allow the two existing river models to be joined and extended upstream and downstream. The surveys also included the mixed leisure route and the spur to the Bessie Mine, including the Red Bridge.

The extended river model shows that raising the mixed leisure route from the high ground to the south of Melloch Crescent to tie in with the embankment created by Sterling Furniture should not cause problematic flooding elsewhere.

A ground investigation contractor (Norwest) was appointed to carry out tests on the existing ground in the area. This included a number of boreholes and trial pits. The information from these tests has dictated how deep the cut off trench under the mixed leisure route will have to be to stop water coming through the ground underneath.

Raising the route

As a result of these investigations, the Council has decided to permanently raise the mixed leisure route by around 1m over approximately 200m of its length. This level is set by the predicted 1 in 200 year flood event, plus a 20% allowance for climate change. On top of this, we are allowing an additional 600mm of freeboard.

An experienced national contractor (C A Blackwell (Contracts) Limited), who have just completed a major flood prevention scheme in Renfrew, has been appointed to carry out the works and plan to begin work in the week beginning Monday 3 November. The route will be raised to its final level before Christmas and will protect properties from flooding, to the level described above, from then on. Minor works including fencing and landscaping will follow in the new year.

Vegetation and temporary closure of the path

To ensure the future effectiveness and stability of the new embankment a significant amount of vegetation including some trees will have to be removed. We are making very effort to preserve trees wherever possible. We will design and put in a replacement planting scheme once the construction works are finished.

During the works it will be necessary to close the mixed leisure route in the vicinity of the works. Information signs will be erected on the route at either side of the works. We apologise for this inconvenience and will have the route available again as soon as we can.

Access along Derby Place

The material used in the construction has to meet a fairly rigid specification to ensure that water cannot pass through it and that it remains stable when water is high. We will bring in 2,500 cubic metres of suitable material by lorry. A significant number of lorries will be involved and they will access the site along Derby Place.

It is standard practice when heavy construction vehicles will be passing residential properties to record the existing condition of the buildings before any construction work begins. We have appointed an independent company (Hardies Property and Construction Consultants) to carry out these surveys on properties in Derby Place and they will be approaching residents individually. These surveys are simply standard procedure and we do not expect construction works to have any adverse affect on the properties.

Update on individual property defences

Following an assessment of the type of construction of properties in Elistoun Drive and Kirkton Gardens it was concluded that individual property defences would not be effective and were not appropriate. This conclusion was supported by a number of residents who considered that individual defences would potentially devalue their properties.

Further detailed surveys were carried out on properties in Derby Place which may remain at risk during very extreme events even after the mixed leisure route is raised. These surveys revealed that the Derby Place properties would also not benefit greatly from individual defences.

Update on full flood warning system

Detailed discussions have taken place with SEPA on the provision of a flood warning system for the River Devon. The Council have appointed JBA to advise on the most appropriate system and it is planned to have a system developed before the end of the year and in operation in the New Year.

As reported in the previous newsletter the Council have established an interim SMS message warning system to send a text message of severe weather warnings in the area. If you have not yet signed up to this but would like to receive these warnings please contact:

Emergency Planning Unit
Lime Tree House
North Castle Street
Alloa
FK10 1EX
Tel: 01259 452537 / 452546
E-mail: emergencyplanning@clacks.gov.uk

Other preventative measures

The Council is regularly inspecting the river for blockages such as trees and is removing them when necessary. Liaison continues with the Devon Angling Association who have helpfully identified a number of locations where the Council has carried out work.

Drainage works

Scottish Water will shortly be beginning the next phase of their project to upgrade the foul drainage system serving south-east Tillicoultry. This project has elements of work which affect the mixed leisure route and careful coordination between the Council and Scottish Water is planned to ensure neither project is compromised by the other.

Contact us

Please contact me directly if you have any concerns.

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