

**Perth & Kinross Council
Housing & Environment Service**

**Flood Risk Management:-
Update on Actions to Manage Flood Risk in Kinross (PVA 10/04)**

Flood Forecasting

SEPA run a service known as Floodline. As well as providing provide live flooding information, Floodline also send messages direct to your phone to provide an early alert that flooding is possible to enable action to be taken to protect your home. We would encourage residents to sign up for this service to enable action to be taken to protect your property. Please refer to <https://www.floodlinescotland.org.uk/resources/> for further information.

Awareness Raising/Self Help

While public authorities have certain duties to manage and, where possible, reduce flood risk overall, the primary responsibility for avoiding or managing flood risk rests with land and property owners. Property owners can take simple steps to reduce damage and disruption to their homes should flooding happen. This includes preparing a flood plan and flood kit, installing property flood protection products, signing up to Floodline (noted above) and ensuring that properties are insured against flood damage. Advice on these steps can be found at the various websites noted in this e-mail.

Your e-mail mentions flood gates for doors and air vent covers to protect your houses and these are indeed possible ways of protecting your homes. As the responsibility for avoiding or managing flood risk rests with land and property owners, the Council's Flooding Team does not provide these products for private properties. Property owners are responsible for arranging to pay for and fit these products. However, the Council's Housing Service have confirmed that they will shortly be investigating the provision of air brick covers for Council properties.

Further information on suitable flood protection products can be found on the Council's website at www.pkc.gov.uk/plp

We would also suggest that you contact the Scottish Flood Forum (Tel 01698 839021; www.scottishfloodforum.org). The Forum is an independent organisation which supports individuals and communities at risk from flooding.

Insurance

We note your concern about obtaining affordable contents insurance following the recent flooding.

Home contents insurance is a private matter for the property owner or tenant, but our general advice would be for the resident to speak to their neighbours, shop around in the insurance market or even to go to a broker if need be.

We would also refer you to the following sources of insurance information:

- Please note that a national scheme - known as FloodRe - has been set up to ensure the provision of affordable flood insurance. Their website can be viewed at <https://www.floodre.co.uk/can-flood-re-help-me/>.
- Residents can find some information on the Council's website – see www.pkc.co.uk/flooding and <https://www.pkc.gov.uk/article/14719/Flooding-advice-and-support>
- Flood Line's website <https://www.floodlinescotland.org.uk/media/7157/1277-flood-insurance-guide-a5-leaflet-final.pdf> also includes advice on obtaining flood insurance - please find attached the flood insurance leaflet from their website.
- The Scottish Flood Forum can also provide residents with advice on obtaining flood insurance – please see <https://scottishfloodforum.org/> and <https://scottishfloodforum.org/services/individual/#insurance-advice>.

Maintenance

Riparian landowners have a responsibility to maintain the bed and banks of any watercourse as it passes through their property. This includes preventing any material entering the watercourse that could become an obstruction to the flow of water and/or cause a flood risk elsewhere. It is also the responsibility of the riparian owner to remove any such debris from their section of the watercourse even if it has been transported downstream from another property.

The Council inspects the South Queich twice a year to ensure that there are no obstructions, e.g. overgrown vegetation, debris, etc which may increase the risk of flooding. Where a risk of flooding is identified, and clearance or repair works would substantially reduce that risk, then the Council would list the works on its schedule and carry them out. Any such works are carried out in order of priority and as budgets allow.

The last routine inspection of the South Queich was undertaken on 12 of December 2019 and, at that time, the river was clear of any debris. Our next inspection has been delayed by the recent coronavirus pandemic, but we will be carrying this out soon. Anyone who has concerns about the watercourse in the meantime can contact the Council.

Property owners are also responsible for maintaining the drains within their property boundary and on any private roads. The Council's Housing Service undertook a CCTV inspection of the drainage running from 221 to 223 High Street on 24 June 2020 following reports of drain system being full of sediment. However the inspection found that the drains were clear.

Emergency Plans/Response

The Council can provide assistance in the event of a flood, where possible. This could involve providing and placing sandbags, diverting water flows or pumping flood water away from public roads, footways and properties.

There is no duty on the Council to provide sandbags but when they are requested by members of the public, we will try to supply them. In extreme flooding situations this may not be possible due to the level of demand placed on our available resources. As sandbags are in limited supply, we can only provide them to properties that are in imminent danger of being flooded. We would therefore always advise you to stockpile your own sandbags if you are in a flood prone area. To request sandbags, members of the public can telephone 01738 476476.

Planning Policies

Current national planning policies, the Scottish Planning Policy and accompanying Planning Advice notes restrict development within floodplains and limit exposure of new receptors to flood risk. Planning authorities are responsible for implementing this policy guidance when preparing Local Development Plans and when considering individual planning applications. In addition to national policies, local planning policies may place further requirements within their area of operation to restrict inappropriate development and prevent unacceptable risk.

The Council's Flooding Team provides advice to the Planning Authorities with respect to flood risk.

Flood Protection Scheme - Update

As mentioned previously, the Council is promoting a flood protection scheme for the area.

Our consulting engineers, RPS, are continuing to use the topographic survey and ground investigation information gathered previously to inform the development of the proposed scheme. They have been updating the hydrology and hydraulic modelling for the area using information gleaned from the flooding in February of this year. They have also started reviewing the various options for managing flooding in the area.

We have carried out some CCTV survey work on the culverted parts of the Clash Burn and some partial blockages have been cleared from the culverts in order to alleviate the risk of flooding.

As noted previously, we will be carrying out some community engagement on the initial proposals early next year once RPS have commenced the outline design for the scheme.