Huntly Flood Alleviation Scheme

The Proposed Scheme

The proposed works will consist of:

1. Raised defences on the right bank of the River Deveron from Arnhall Cottages to Milton Farm (either next to the river or set back against the A920);

2. Increasing the size of the culvert on the Ittingston Burn below the A920 and constructing raised defences adjacent to the road and on the right bank of the burn;

3. Raising and strengthening the existing defences on the river Deveron between the Bridge of Gibston and the Hill of Haugh;

4. Constructing low level embankments to the east and south of the caravan park;

5. Replacing one undersize culvert on the Meadow Burn with a timber footbridge, and;

6. Creating a water storage to the west of the Meadows estate during high flood events by restricting flow in the Meadow Burn to a volume that can be accommodated by the downstream channel and culvert systems.

The future scheme – environmental enhancements

Environmental engineering will be applied to the scheme. The use of ‘greenbank’ solutions rather than hard engineered (concrete, steel, stone, etc) will be preferred to maintain and enhance the existing area, where possible. The scheme will look to blend into its existing surrounding and take cognisance of possible future development. Comments made by statutory consultees and the wider community during the consultation period will help to inform the proposed environmental mitigation and enhancements for the scheme.

Your comments and next stage in the process

A Pre-Application Consultation Report will be submitted with the planning application following the public exhibition and the consultation period. It will provide an explanation of the community engagement process which has been undertaken as well as how the comments received from the community have influenced the final flood alleviation scheme. Therefore we encourage you to fill in one of the questionnaires we have provided and send it back to us.

Contact

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Need for the Scheme

The Meadows has experienced several significant flood events within living memory, and damage has been caused to many residential and commercial properties. The A96(T) and the A920 are also affected by flooding causing significant disruption to transportation links in the area.

The area has flooded recently in:
• September 1995;
• April 2000;
• October and November 2002; and
• September and November 2009.

Environmental considerations, conceptual engineering design and detailed modelling of the River Deveron, the Ittingston Burn and the Meadow Burn has been undertaken in order to identify the most effective methods of providing flood risk management improvements for the community of Huntly.

The Site

The majority of the town is located on high ground to the south of Huntly Castle. However between the town centre and the River Deveron there is a flat low-lying area called ‘The Meadows’. In the more recent past this area has been developed for housing and leisure purposes, (Meadows Housing estate, a care home, a caravan park and the Nordic Ski Centre). The River Deveron, which flows west-east, forms the northern boundary of the town, there is also the River Bogie, the Ittingstone Burn and the Meadow Burn. The Ittingstone Burn joins the River Deveron in the Milltown area to the west of the town. The River Bogie joins with the River Deveron about 1km downstream of Huntly Castle and the Meadow Burn flows through ‘the Meadows’ and joins with the River Bogie to the north east of the town. The proposed application site boundary is approximately 9.9 hectares.

Preface

The Planning etc (Scotland) Act 2006 introduced the requirement for Pre-Application Consultation with local communities. In accordance with the new Scottish Planning Reforms, all ‘major’ developments require pre-application consultation with the community before a planning application is submitted to the planning authority. In addition, the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 requires this consultation to be undertaken with key statutory consultees and members of the community prior to the development of the flood alleviation scheme. Atkins Ltd were commissioned by Aberdeenshire Council to design and promote the scheme for Huntly.

Your Role

The Council has undertaken a public exhibition on 30th June 2011 to raise awareness in the community of the development proposals. The information that has been presented to you is to inform and provide you with an opportunity to engage and comment on the proposals prior to submitting the planning application.

There is a 28 day consultation period commencing 30th June 2011 for your comments to be received with regard to the scheme. All comments received during this event and the subsequent 28 days will be considered and reviewed as part of the design process.

Please note, any comments raised today do not constitute a formal representation to the planning application. Formal representations can be made after the consultation period and once the planning application has been submitted to the planning authority.