

# **Newton Stewart**

## **FLOOD PROTECTION SCHEME**

# Community Engagement Report

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Newton Stewart Flood Protection Scheme has been developed with extensive consultation and engagement events being held with stakeholders and the local community. The Scheme will provide a 1 in 200 standard of protection and is designed to keep any visual and environmental impact to a minimum.

### 1.1 Method of Community Engagement

The engagement, consultation and Committee reporting for this project has been undertaken by the Project Team comprising of Officers from Dumfries and Galloway Council and Sweco, the Principal Designers for the Scheme.

All of the main engagement events held were advertised by the Council in the local press, on social media, flyers delivered to shops and properties, and by notices placed in the Town Centre and along both sides of the river within the Scheme extents. The events were staged at accessible venues and included the use of display boards, posters, a 3D model and drone fly-through of the proposed Scheme, with Council staff and partners in attendance to facilitate and assist with any questions or issues. All material was then made available on the Council's website.

A designated email address – [newtonstewartFPS@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:newtonstewartFPS@dumgal.gov.uk) - was set up for anyone to contact the Council directly with specific questions and a regular 'Community newsletter' was sent out to residents who had requested information on progress and updates (and then distribution extended to all properties within the Scheme extent).

### 1.2 Stakeholder Engagement Plan

An engagement plan was drawn up at an early stage and was reviewed/updated during the project to ensure there was good communication and community involvement at all key stages. A copy of this initial engagement plan is attached as **Appendix 1**.

### 1.3 Committee Process

The project was reported to the Council's Economy, Environment and Infrastructure (EEI) Committee, and then to the Communities Committee following restructure, at each key stage. The Committee were provided with information on the engagement which had taken place to assist with the decision making. Specific reporting was also made to the Finance, Transportation and Procurement Committee on budgeting matters.

## 2. BACKGROUND

### 2.1 National Flood Risk Assessment

Newton Stewart was identified in the National Flood Risk Assessment published by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) in December 2011 as a Potentially Vulnerable Area (PVA). This confirmed the work undertaken previously by Dumfries and Galloway Council in the publication of the 2007 Strategic Flood Risk Appraisal which ranked Newton Stewart as one of the top five settlements in the region in terms of numbers of properties at flood risk.

The NFRA identified 24 PVAs within the Solway Local Plan District (LPD), 23 of which are in Dumfries and Galloway, with the final one being in the Scottish Borders.

Since 2011, and in accordance with the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009, SEPA have progressed the development of the Flood Risk Management Strategies for the 14 Local Plan Districts across Scotland including the Solway LPD.

In December 2015, SEPA published the Flood Risk Management Strategy which set out a plan-led, risk-based, sustainable approach to flood risk management across Scotland.

The delivery of the actions required to reduce flood risk across Dumfries and Galloway were agreed by EEI Committee on 15 March 2015 and the Solway LPD Local Flood Risk Management Plan was published by the Council in June 2016, covering the period from 2016-2022 (Cycle 1). The updated Plan, covering the period from 2022-2028 (Cycle 2) was published in December 2022.

## **2.2 Flooding in Newton Stewart**

In November 2012, Newton Stewart suffered from the worst flooding event experienced 'in living memory'. A flood event estimated at the 1:50 year return period on the River Cree led to property flooding on both the west and east sides of the river. The rising river reached above deck level of the Sparling Bridge (the pedestrian footbridge) which resulted in it being blocked with debris and caused an additional obstruction to the river flow. Residents of some of the riverside properties were rescued by the Dumfries and Galloway Fire and Rescue Service by boat.

Water levels along Riverside Road were above road level and the only thing preventing worse flooding was a free-standing masonry wall. The wall was not designed as a floodwall and failure could have caused a significant rush of water. While efforts were made to keep public away from the location, the residual risk existed of failure of this wall.

Following this event, the Council tendered for the production of a Flood Study.

## **2.3 Kaya and Initial Hydraulic Modelling**

Kaya were appointed to undertake hydraulic modelling of the River Cree and Penkiln Burn, produce inundation mapping for various return periods, and consider feasible options for flood protection.

## **2.4 Further Flooding in December 2015**

In December 2015 a flood event in excess of that experienced in November 2012 impacted upon Newton Stewart. The flood caused the riverside wall to fail at the War Memorial exacerbating flooding in Victoria Street. Again, the Sparling footbridge was surcharged but this time significant scour to the east abutment meant the bridge had to be removed.

Details on the replacement of the bridge are included later in this report. The replacement was classed as advance works of the Flood Protection Scheme as it was a priority to have this vital link between the Communities in Minnigaff and Newton Stewart restored.

The 2015 flood event led to the further commissioning of Kaya to update their modelling works to reflect the impacts of the events and to help inform a future commission to design a flood protection scheme to a standard that would avoid a repeat of flooding events of December 2015.

## **2.5 Appointment for Outline Design**

Following a tender process Sweco were appointed to undertake outline design work based on the findings of Kaya Consulting Ltd and to prepare the necessary documentation and information for the publication of the Scheme.

### 3. ENGAGEMENT EVENTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### 3.1 March 2014 – Flood Risk Assessment Update Report to the Economy, Environment and Infrastructure Committee

An update report was provided to the EEI Committee regarding progress following the November 2012 floods. It was reported that meetings had been held with the Cree Valley Community Council and a local Flood Action Group had been established. A public event had also been held where residents could speak to the SEPA, Scottish Flood Forum, and the Council's Flood Risk Management Team. The findings of Kaya Consulting were presented to the Committee, and it was agreed to progress the design options accordingly.

#### 3.2 Community Meeting June 2016

A meeting was held in the McMillan Hall with representatives from the Council, Sweco, Cree Valley Community Council, and other interested parties, to discuss potential options and ideas to protect Newton Stewart from flooding. This meeting helped inform the 'long list' of options for Sweco to consider as part of the process.

#### 3.3 Community Newsletter (No 1)

A Community Newsletter was produced in August 2016 and distributed in the town. This is attached as **Appendix 2**.

#### 3.4 Community Newsletter (No 2)

The second newsletter was distributed in July 2017 to update on the latest position with the Flood Protection scheme and the replacement of the Sparling Bridge. This is attached as **Appendix 3**.

#### 3.5 Value Management (VM1) Meeting

Sweco and the Council held a value management meeting on 1 August with the intention of assessing the 24 options and reducing these to a short list of options to be taken forward. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following groups;

- Elected Members
- Cree Valley Community Council
- SEPA
- Scottish Natural Heritage
- Scottish Water
- Forestry Commission Scotland
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
- Galloway Fisheries Trust
- Kaya Consulting

Each of the options were assessed in accordance with standard practice using a multi-criteria assessment. This assessment considered a total of 29 elements under the headings of technical, economic, environmental and social. Results of the multi-criteria assessment were presented at the VM1 meeting and discussion took place to reach consensus as to whether an option should remain on the short-list for further consideration.

### 3.6 Report to Economy, Environment and Infrastructure Committee in September 2017 'Newton Stewart Flood Protection Scheme Update'

An update report was provided on the progress of the scheme and Members agreed the following;

- Agreed the decisions made at the first Value Management meeting to narrow down the long list of options to a short list of schemes which merit further investigation and consideration
- Noted that a report will be presented to a future meeting of the Committee to agree a preferred option.

### 3.7 Community Newsletter (No 3)

The third newsletter was issued in October 2017 and provided a detailed update on the decisions taken at the VM meeting, provided a timeline for delivery of the scheme, and an update on the replacement of the Sparling Bridge. A copy is attached as **Appendix 4**.

### 3.8 Value Management (VM2) Meeting

Sweco and the Council held the second value management meeting on 7 November 2017 with the intention of assessing the 10 short list options and selecting a preferred option, or options, to be taken forward for outline design.

As with the first VM meeting this was an inclusive process which was attended by the main stakeholders.

The consensus of those in attendance was that the option which had the greatest benefit and provides the optimum solution for flooding in Newton Stewart was the construction of direct defences.

### 3.9 Public Engagement Event (PE1)

As part of the overall Scheme Programme and the Stakeholder Engagement Plan a public engagement event was held following the VM2 meeting.

The event was held in the McMillan Hall at the following times:

- Thursday 30 November 2017 – 3pm to 8pm
- Friday 1 December 2017 – 10am to 6pm
- Saturday 2 December 2017 – 10am to 2pm

The event included a number of display boards, plans and proposals, and was staffed by the Project Team. The display boards were put on the project webpage shortly after the event.

The total number of people attending the event was 107 with 57 questionnaires completed.

A summary of the main feedback was;

- 100% want to see a Flood Protection Scheme provided in Newton Stewart.
- 86% agreed with the approach being taken to develop a Scheme.
- 77% agreed all the available options to address the flooding had been included and considered.

Following the event all the feedback, including queries and comments (and response to the same) were compiled into a report and published on the website. A copy of this is attached as **Appendix 5**.

### **3.10 Report to Economy, Environment and Infrastructure Committee on 23 January 2018 'Newton Stewart Flood Protection Scheme – Preferred Option and Public Engagement'**

A report was provided to Members on 23 January which provided details of the VM2 meeting and Public Engagement Event.

The following matters were agreed;

- Agreed the decisions made at the second Value Management meeting to consider the short list of options and reduce this down to a preferred option.
- Noted the feedback from the recent public engagement event.
- Agree to take forward the preferred option of the construction of direct defences (together with supporting options of increasing the flow under the A75 bridge and re-profiling the land adjacent to the Scottish Water pumping station) to outline design stage.
- Noted the next stages of the project.

### **3.11 Report to Economy, Environment and Infrastructure Committee 20 March 2018 'Newton Stewart Flood Protection Scheme – Update on Flood Protection and Sparling Bridge'**

A report was presented to Members to provide details of progress and the updated timetable for the Newton Stewart Flood Protection Scheme and the replacement of the Sparling Bridge.

Members agreed the following;

- Noted the updated programme for the delivery of the Newton Stewart Flood Protection Scheme
- Agreed the design of the new Sparling Bridge
- Noted the timescales and next steps in the programme for the new Sparling Bridge.

### **3.12 Community Newsletter (No 4)**

The fourth issue of the newsletter in May 2018 provided an update on the Scheme (preferred option, public engagement event feedback, Committee report, timeline) and the latest position on the replacement of the Sparling Bridge. A copy is attached as **Appendix 6**.

### **3.13 Community Council Presentation 29 May 2018**

The Project Team met with Elected Members and representatives of the Cree Valley Community Council to update them on the progress of the main scheme and the new Sparling Bridge.

### **3.14 Value Management (VM3) Meeting**

The third VM meeting was held on the 5 June 2018 and as with the previous VM meetings attendance included all the main stakeholders and interested parties.

Discussion was held on the outline design of the preferred Scheme with details presented on the type, height and location of the direct defences.

All in attendance agreed the outline proposals with the next step in the process being a public engagement event.

### **3.15 Public Engagement Event (PE2)**

The event was held in the McMillan Hall at the following times:

- Thursday 21 June 2018 – 3pm to 8pm
- Friday 22 June 2018 – 10am to 6pm
- Saturday 23 June 2018 – 10am to 2pm

The event included a number of display boards, plans and proposals, and was staffed by the Project Team. The display boards were put on the project webpage the week following the event.

Over the three days the total number of people attending the event was 124 with 64 questionnaires completed.

A summary of the main feedback was;

- 100% want to see a Flood Protection Scheme provided in Newton Stewart.
- 82% agreed with the approach being taken to develop a Scheme.
- 68% agreed all the available options to address the flooding had been included and considered.

Following the event all the feedback, including queries and comments (and response to the same) were compiled into a report and published on the website. A summary of the event and feedback is attached as **Appendix 7**.

### **3.16 Report to Economy, Environment and Infrastructure Committee on 13 July 2018 'Flood Risk Management Update Report'**

A report was provided to Members which included an update on the Sparling Bridge (Newton Stewart Flood Protection Scheme) Project.

Members agreed the following;

- Noted the amended timescales and next steps in the programme for the new Sparling Bridge.

### **3.17 Report to Economy, Environment and Infrastructure Committee on 23 November 2018 'Newton Stewart and Langholm Flood Protection Scheme Update'**

This report contained details of the VM3 meeting and outcomes and provided feedback on the second Community Engagement Event.

Members agreed the following;

- Noted the outcomes of the third Value Management meeting (VM3).
- Noted the feedback from the Community Engagement Event held at the McMillan Hall on 21 to 23 June 2018.
- Noted the increase in the budget required for the Scheme and that these costs will be considered by the Policy and Resources Committee.
- Noted the timetable for the Flood Order for the Scheme.
- Noted the progress and proposed timetable for the new Sparling Bridge.

### **3.18 Report to Economy, Environment and Infrastructure Committee on 22 January 2019 'Flood Risk Management Update Report'**

A report was provided to Members on both the main Flood Protection Scheme and the advance works at Sparling Bridge.

Members agreed the following;

- Noted the progress on the Newton Stewart Flood Protection Scheme
- Noted that the Stage 1 tenders have been issued for the replacement of the Sparling Bridge
- Agreed to the purchase of additional land required for the Sparling Bridge and the future Newton Stewart Flood Protection Scheme.

### **3.19 Report to Economy, Environment and Infrastructure Committee on 18 April 2019 ‘Sparling Bridge Replacement’**

A report was provided to Members with an update on the bridge and to approve the award of the construction contract for the new bridge.

### **3.20 Report to Economy, Environment and Infrastructure Committee on 14 May 2019 ‘Flood Risk Management Update Report’**

A report was provided to Members on both the main Flood Protection Scheme and the replacement of the new Sparling Bridge.

Members agreed the following;

- Noted the progress on the Newton Stewart Flood Protection Scheme and agreed to the amended (earliest) timescales.
- Noted the tender process for the construction of the Sparling Bridge has been concluded and the replacement of the bridge is underway.

### **3.21 Report to Communities Committee on 17 September 2019 ‘Flood Protection Schemes Update Report’**

A report was provided to Members on the main scheme, with agreement on the recommendations, as follows;

- Noted the progress and increase in costs for the Newton Stewart Flood Protection Scheme and agree to a report being submitted to Finance, Transformation and Procurement Committee on funding the increased costs of the Scheme.
- Agreed the next steps and amended (earliest) timescales of the Newton Stewart Flood Protection Scheme.

### **3.22 Report to Communities Committee on 1 October 2020 ‘Flood Protection Schemes Update Report’**

A report was provided to Members on the main Scheme, with agreement on the recommendations, as follows;

- Noted the progress made on the Scheme and agree to an additional community engagement phase.
- Noted the amended earliest timescales and current cost estimate of the Scheme.
- Agreed to a further report being submitted to Communities Committee to consider the promotion of the Scheme.

### **3.23 Website Update to Include Interactive PDF**

An interactive pdf was added to the project’s website in May 2021, to present information in a more engaging way. With this tool, the viewer can click on banners to access documents. The documents currently available include a Scheme overview board (showing locations, types and approximate heights of defences) banners presenting key information on the Scheme, a fly-through and a summary of the publication process.

### **3.24 Virtual Presentation to the Cree Valley Community Council and Ward Officers**

The Project Team held an online presentation to members of the Cree Valley Community Council and Ward Officers on the 13 May 2021 to provide an update on the Scheme and to answer to any questions raised. This included a presentation by Sweco providing background information on the Scheme and an update on current proposals, followed by a questions and answers session.

### **3.25 Community Newsletter (No 5)**

The fifth issue of the Community Newsletter provided an update on the Scheme outlining the delays due to COVID-19, new information available online, further engagement planned for 2021, a copy of the overview board and latest programme and timescales, and information on the final works on the Sparling Bridge project. A copy is attached as **Appendix 8**.

### **3.26 Report to Communities Committee on 29 June 2021 ‘Flood Protection Schemes Update Report’**

A report was provided to Members, with agreement on the recommendations, as follows:

- Noted current position with respect to the Scheme.

### **3.27 Additional virtual engagement with the Cree Valley Community Council**

Following a request by the Cree Valley Community Council, the Project Team held a further online meeting on 1 July 2021.

### **3.28 Public Engagement (PE3) and Individual discussions with owners of Most Affected Properties**

The event was held in the McMillan Hall at the following times:

- Tuesday 21 September 2021 – 12noon to 8pm
- Wednesday 22 September 2021 – 10am to 6pm
- Thursday 23 September 2021 – 10am to 6pm
- Saturday 25 September 2021 – 10am to 4pm

The event included a number of display boards, plans and proposals, and was staffed by the Project Team.

Prior to the event, letters were sent to 74 properties which will be directly impacted by the construction of the proposed defences. A plan showing the property, the proposed defence location/type and approximate height was also sent to each property. The Project Team offered time slots over the four days of the engagement event for individual discussions with property owners. 25 property owners booked a slot with the Project Team. Following the event, the need to provide owners of most affected properties with more accurate information was identified. A copy of the Post-Engagement Briefing Note is attached as **Appendix 9**.

### **3.29 Report to Communities Committee on 7 December 2021 ‘Flood Risk Management Update Report’**

A report was provided to Members on the Flood Risk Management Schemes, with agreement on the recommendations, as follows:

- Noted the current position with respect to the projects being progressed by the Flood Risk Management Team (including Newton Stewart FPS) and the challenges faced with staff retention and recruitment, coupled with the need to react to flooding events which has an impact upon project delivery.

### **3.30 Additional engagement with most affected property owners**

Additional engagement was undertaken with the residents most affected by the Scheme in November 2022, with updated drawings provided and on-site discussion.

### **3.31 Report to Communities Committee on 6 December 2022 as part of the Public Realm Capital Programme 2022/23 Monitoring Report.**

This provided details of progress on the Scheme, the publication process, and advised that publication was expected to take place in early 2023.

### **3.32 Report to Communities Committee on 10 February 2023 'Newton Stewart Flood Protection Scheme – Approval To Publish'**

This report advised the Scheme Documents were complete (with only minor amendments required) and the Committee agreed that the Scheme could be published.

### **3.33 Community Newsletter (No 6)**

The sixth newsletter was sent in March 2023 which detailed progress and the forthcoming publication. This is attached as **Appendix 10**.

### **3.34 Engagement Session and Drop-in Information Session 19 April 2023**

This was held in the McMillan Hall and the Project Team presented the final outline design (and highlighted any amendments made). This was advertised by way of flyers and emails to all key stakeholders. The final outline design to be published is shown on **Appendix 11**.

## 4. OTHER RELEVANT CONSULTATION

### 4.1 Flood Risk Management Strategy and Local Flood Risk Management Plan (LFRMP)

The development of the LFRMP has been progressed over a number of years in conjunction with SEPA, Scottish Water, Scottish Government and other responsible authorities. At regular intervals in its development, approval has been sought from the service committee. Furthermore, engagement has been undertaken as part of the process. This included consultation with Nithsdale Area Committee and a statutory 3 month on-line consultation period from March to June 2015 during which Dumfries and Galloway Council held eight drop-in sessions enabling the public to come and discuss the Strategies for flood risk management across Dumfries and Galloway for the first six-year planning cycle (Cycle 1), from 2016 to 2022. Extensive consultation has also taken place as part of the update of the Flood Risk Management Plan (Strategy) and the LFRMP for the second six-year planning cycle (Cycle 2), from 2022 to 2028. Dumfries and Galloway Council supported the consultation through a series of drop in events, MS Team meetings and telephone appointments with Elected Members, Community Councils and Members of Public. Full details of the development process and engagement can be found in the reports that are appended to this response.

### 4.2 Replacement of Sparling Bridge

The old Sparling Bridge was removed in late 2016 following extensive flooding in the town (the bridge was acting as a dam and was a contributing factor in flooding to the town).

The proposal was to install the old bridge at a higher level but at the request of the Cree Valley Community Council an alternative location further downstream was put forward. The choice of location was then put to the Community, who voted for the new location.

A further request was then received from the Community Council to ask if there was the possibility of installing a new bridge rather than the old one.

This was considered by Dumfries and Galloway Council who agreed to proceed with the design of a new structure at the preferred location. Sweco were appointed to lead on the design and work alongside Sustrans, the Community Council, and the Council to design a combined cycle/footbridge.

Engagement has often run alongside the main Scheme and has involved regular meetings, Committee reports, newsletters, project webpage and updates.

The Community Council outlined their aspirations for the new bridge which were taken on board by the Design Team leading to the final design which has received the support of all parties.

Construction work commenced in early 2019 with the new bridge officially opened on 2 December 2019. Further final minor works were completed in 2021.

## 5. TIMELINE

### 5.1 Timeline of Consultation and Committee Approvals

#### 2013 to 2016

Hydraulic Modelling Study – undertaken by Kaya to assess flood level and potential options.

#### March 2014

Report to Economy, Environment, and Infrastructure (EEI) Committee to update on Kaya work.

#### June 2016

Community meeting to discuss flooding issues and options.

#### August 2016

First Community newsletter.

#### July 2017

Second Community newsletter.

#### August 2017

First Value Management meeting to discuss long list of options.

#### September 2017

Report to EEI Committee to update on short list of options from VM1 meeting.

#### October 2017

Third Community newsletter.

#### November 2017

Second Value Management meeting to decide on a preferred option.

#### November/December 2017

First public engagement event held over 3 days in Newton Stewart.

#### January 2018

Report to EEI Committee to provide details of VM2 and the public engagement event and agree to take the preferred option forward.

#### March 2018

Report to EEI Committee to provide an update on the programme and Sparling Bridge.

#### May 2018

Fourth Community newsletter.

#### May 2018

Update meeting with the Local Elected Members and Cree Valley Community Council.

#### June 2018

Third Value Management meeting to agree outline of preferred scheme.

#### June 2018

Second public engagement event held over 3 days in Newton Stewart.

#### July 2018

Report to EEI Committee to provide an update on Sparling Bridge.

**November 2018**

Report to EEI Committee to provide an update on the third Value Management meeting and the second Community Engagement Event.

**January 2019**

Report to EEI Committee to provide an update on the main Scheme and Sparling Bridge.

**April 2019**

Report to EEI Committee to provide an update on the Sparling Bridge.

**May 2019**

Report to EEI Committee to provide an update on the main Scheme and Sparling Bridge.

**September 2019**

Report to Communities Committee to provide on the timescales and revised costs of the Scheme.

**October 2020**

Report to Communities Committee to provide update on the main Scheme.

**May 2021**

Fifth Community newsletter, website update, virtual engagement with Cree Valley Community Council and ward officers.

**June 2021**

Report to Communities Committee to provide update on the main Scheme.

**July 2021**

Further virtual engagement with Cree Valley Community Council.

**September 2021**

Third public engagement event held over 4 days in Newton Stewart and individual discussions with most affected properties' owners.

**December 2021**

Report to Communities Committee to provide update on the main Scheme.

**November 2022**

Additional engagement with most affected property owners

**December 2022**

Report to Communities Committee to provide details of progress on the Scheme, the publication process, and of expected publication date (early 2023).

**February 2023**

Report to Communities Committee to seek approval to publish the Scheme.

**March 2023**

Sixth newsletter and revised website.

**April 2023**

Pre-publication engagement event at McMillan Hall.

## 6. APPENDICES



# Stakeholder Engagement Plan

## Newton Stewart Flood Protection Scheme

118908/SM/240817

Revision A

Prepared For: Dumfries & Galloway Council

DRAFT



Issue	Date	Reason for Issue	Prepared	Checked	Approved			
0	29/05/17	Draft	SM	29/05/17	DL	14/06/17	DAG	14/06/17
A	24/08/17	Revision to include VM1 Mtg, Pre-Meet & DGC Comments	SM	24/08/17		24/08/17		24/08/17

NSFPS – Stakeholder Engagement Plan  
 118908/SM/240817  
 Revision A

**LIVE DOCUMENT**

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Appendix A – Stakeholder Contact List

Appendix B – Minutes from Pre-meet with Cree Community Council & Cree Valley  
Flood Action Group

Appendix C – Minutes from VM1 Meeting

## 1. Introduction

This document has been prepared for the consideration by Dumfries and Galloway Council (DGC) to provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) for the Newton Stewart Flood Protection Scheme (NSFPS).

The purpose of the document is to:

- outline the management approach;
- identify key stakeholders for the project;
- where possible, identify any initial key stakeholder issues to allow support prioritisation;
- map stakeholders and stakeholder groups, that is to prioritise, against their current interest in and potential influence on the project (refer to Chapters 3 and 4); and
- review and update this strategy following feedback from stakeholders to allow for better informing for actions, goals and future engagement.

*The Stakeholder Engagement Plan is a live document and as such it should be reviewed and updated throughout the life of the project.*

## 2. Stakeholder Identification

### 2.1 Vision

Flood events in 2012 and 2015 in Newton Stewart had severe effects on both residential and commercial properties, and road infrastructure in the town. The main aim of the Newton Stewart Flood Protection Scheme is to develop a sustainable flood protection scheme for Newton Stewart that will be able to attract grant aid from Scottish Government. The Scheme will be based on the work undertaken to date and shall be developed to a stage suitable for submission to Scottish Government. This requires a review of work undertaken to date and developing further those options which warrant further investigation.

Engagement with stakeholders is proposed from an early stage in the project and will continue throughout appraisal process to ensure local knowledge is obtained and used in the development of the options. This should help the local community with a feeling of ownership of the preferred option, reducing the likelihood of objections.

### 2.2 Stakeholders Identification (People, Groups, Organisations)

The identification of both statutory and non-statutory stakeholders that could impact or be impacted by the NSFPS will be identified in consultation with DGC. Sweco will also identify landowners along the river reaches to be surveyed. It is expected that landowners will be identified in consultation with DGC records or the Land Registry Office. Further stakeholders may be identified throughout early engagement process during promotion of the scheme. The full Stakeholder Contact List is located within Appendix A, with the identified stakeholders listed below:

- Statutory Undertakers
  - o OpenReach BT
  - o Scottish Power
  - o Scottish Water
  - o Scotia Gas Networks (SGN)
- Statutory Bodies
  - o Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)
  - o Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)
  - o Historic Environment Scotland (HES)
- Emergency Services
  - o Scottish Fire & Rescue Services
  - o Police Scotland
  - o NHS Dumfries & Galloway
- DGC Departments
  - o Structures
  - o Flooding
  - o Planning
  - o Roads
- DGC Ward Councillors for Mid Galloway & Wigtown West
  - o Kate Hagmann
  - o David Inglis
  - o Jim McColm

- Graham Nicol
- Scottish Government
- Local Groups
  - Cree Valley Community Council
  - Cree Valley Flood Action Group
  - Newton Stewart Angling Association
  - Galloway Fisheries Trust
  - Galloway Salmon Fisheries
- Landowners
- Businesses
  - Belted Galloway Café and Business Centre
  - Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS)
  - Sainsbury (supermarket)
  - Aldi (supermarket)
- Miscellaneous
  - The Coal Authority
  - British Geological Society
  - Mobile Phone Networks (EE, O2, 3, Virgin, Vodafone)

### 3. Stakeholder Engagement

#### 3.1 Engagement Matrix

The Engagement Matrix tool will be used to assess the influence and interest of each stakeholder, allowing resources to be focused effectively going forward. Refer to tables 3.1 and 3.2. The technique is also useful to understand how perceptions and attitudes change as the project proceeds, and thus allows engagement activities to be adapted throughout the process.

Using the matrix should encourage collaborative working between all affected parties, clearer communication and allow possible issues to be identified early and mitigated.

The matrix is in the form of a Power / Interest Grid and classifies stakeholders, both individuals and groups, according to the two following criteria.

- a) Interest – the level of interest shown by the stakeholder in the project. This may be indicated by:
  - Requests for information / regular correspondence;
  - Proximity to the project;
  - Having property / land affected by the project;
  - Having made public / media comment;
  - Politics; and professional / industry / corporate connections.
- b) Influence – the potential impact the stakeholder could have on project delivery. This may be indicated by:
  - Holding a position of authority in a relevant sphere, for example, local or national politics, media, transport policy, finance;
  - Having legislative / statutory / legal powers or rights;
  - Being a frequent commentator in the media; or
  - Being a gatekeeper to other stakeholders able to influence public / stakeholder opinions / actions.

Based on these two criteria, stakeholder will be mapped into four categories. These are shown in Table 3.1 below.

Table 3.1: Engagement Matrix: Influence / Interest Grid

Influence	High	Keep satisfied	Manage closely
	Low	Monitor	Keep informed
		Low	High
		Interest	

Once classified, the stakeholders will be effectively engaged throughout the project life cycle. The proposed actions to be taken for each category, is shown in Table 3.2 below.

Table 3.2: Stakeholder Management Strategies

Category	Description	Action to be taken
Manage closely (High interest, high influence)	Influential stakeholders, highly capable of having an impact on the project positively or negatively.	Key players: to be engaged with. Regular monitoring and frequent engagement using appropriate channels.
Keep satisfied (Low interest, high influence)	Influential stakeholders who could impact on the project positively or negatively, but are not currently well engaged or informed.	Bystanders: to be considered. Relationship and knowledge to be built through appropriate engagement OR prevent unhelpful escalation of interest.
Keep informed (High interest, low influence)	Keen followers / enthusiasts / critics who can create 'noise' but with low influence on delivery.	Observers / commentators: keep involved. Regular monitoring and some engagement to keep informed.
Monitor (Low interest, low influence)	Stakeholders not of direct relevance or of limited importance to project delivery.	Others: keep informed. Low level engagement to keep informed.

### 3.2 Stakeholder Analysis

#### Priority Stakeholder Groups

Target audiences are prioritised to ensure that those most affected and central to the project are properly informed and resource is concentrated in those areas.

To support the prioritisation process, stakeholder groups were categorised as follows:

1. Public Sector / Political
2. Business & Tourism
3. Community / Key Locations e.g. community councils and other representative groups
4. Statutory Bodies & Undertakers
5. Key Landowners
6. Special Interest Groups e.g. environmental, campaigning organisations

Some audiences will fall into a number of categories such as the Community Council are both a community and statutory audience. This has been identified in the analysis and will influence communications planning, for example, different communication approaches may be considered based on the reasons for contacting specific audiences.

It should be noted that for some stakeholders:

- Based on the information available at present, it can be difficult to pinpoint their level of influence or interest and further information may be required and/or this will not be known until engagement commences.
- They have the potential to move from low to high interest / influence during the course of the project.

## 3.2.1 Public Sector

Public sector stakeholders include key elected officials and government agencies / representatives with a potential involvement or interest in the project. Typically this is related to their geographical location or their area or responsibility / portfolio.

Table 3.3: Public Sector Stakeholders

CATEGORY	STAKEHOLDER (Public)	ISSUES	OBJECTIVES / ACTION
<i>High interest, high influence</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cabinet Ministers</li> <li>- Constituency MSP</li> <li>- Regional MSPs</li> <li>- DGC Ward Councillors</li> <li>- DGC Council Officials</li> <li>- DGC Planning Conveyors</li> <li>- Members of Finance Committee (Scottish Government)</li> <li>- Community Groups               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cree Valley CC</li> <li>- Cree Valley Flood Action Group</li> <li>- Newton Stewart Angling Association</li> <li>- Galloway Fisheries Trust</li> <li>- Galloway Salmon Fisheries</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Keep informed of issues affecting the scheme and their constituents directly in a timely fashion.</li> <li>- Equip with information to support constituents and communicate accurate messages.</li> <li>- Manage criticism and prevent escalation of issues</li> <li>- Establish a programme of regular proactive communication through briefings and other relevant project communications.</li> <li>- Regular monitoring to identify emerging issues and prevent escalation.</li> </ul>
<i>Low interest, high influence</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- DGC Capital Investment Committee</li> <li>- COSLA</li> </ul>		Ensure their influence on the scheme does not escalate to high interest/influence as a result of poor communications. Information needs should be met and issues identified and addressed quickly.
<i>High interest, low influence</i>			
<i>Low interest, low influence</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UK Government</li> <li>- MEPs</li> <li>- Relevant cross party groups</li> <li>- Public Petitions Committee</li> <li>- Audit Scotland</li> <li>- Public Petitions Committee</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Keep informed of issues affecting the scheme / their constituents in a timely fashion.</li> <li>- Equip with information they require to support constituents and communicate accurate messages.</li> </ul>

## 3.2.2 Business and Tourism

Table 3.4: Business and Tourism Stakeholders

CATEGORY	STAKEHOLDER (Business)	ISSUES	OBJECTIVES / ACTION
<i>High interest, high influence</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Government agencies / partnerships</li> <li>- Dumfries &amp; Galloway Chamber of Commerce</li> <li>- Local Businesses/Key Employers</li> <li>- Belted Galloway Café and Visitor Centre</li> <li>- Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS)</li> <li>- Community Groups</li> <li>- Cree Valley Flood Action Group</li> <li>- Newton Stewart Angling Association</li> <li>- Galloway Fisheries Trust</li> <li>- Galloway Salmon Fisheries</li> <li>- Statutory Undertakers</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Foster close working relationship to ensure cooperation and support for project delivery</li> <li>- Keep informed of scheme progress generally</li> <li>- Equip with key information to enable them to act as advocates / champions</li> <li>- Manage issues to prevent escalation</li> <li>- Develop and deliver a programme of regular stakeholder engagement</li> <li>- Identify issues which may impact on delivery and reputation</li> <li>- Secure testimonials and/or agreement to support comms activities</li> </ul>
<i>Low interest, high influence</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Telecoms Providers</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Build and maintain relationship and support</li> <li>- Where appropriate, raise interest to a higher level</li> <li>- Equip with key information to enable them to act as advocates</li> <li>- Provide regular updates through routine communications</li> <li>- Secure testimonials and/or agreement to support comms activities</li> </ul>
<i>High interest, low influence</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tourism organisations (general):</li> <li>- Scottish Government: Tourism &amp; Enterprise</li> <li>- Hoteliers Association</li> <li>- Visit Scotland</li> <li>- Caravanning &amp; Camping</li> </ul>		-
<i>Low interest, low influence</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Key employers</li> <li>- Aldi</li> <li>- Sainsbury</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Keep informed of issues affecting the scheme / their interests in a timely fashion.</li> <li>- Equip with information they require.</li> </ul>

## 3.2.3 Community / Key Locations

Table 3.5: Community / Key Locations (Community Councils &amp; Other Representative Groups) Stakeholders

CATEGORY	STAKEHOLDER (Community)	ISSUES	OBJECTIVES / ACTION
<i>High interest, high influence</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cree Valley Community Council</li> <li>- Cree Valley Flood Action Group</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- High priority for communication &amp; engagement</li> <li>- Keep informed of project progress &amp; planned activities</li> <li>- Maintain regular two-way dialogue</li> <li>- Programme regular proactive communication</li> <li>- Regular monitoring to identify emerging issues / complaints &amp; prevent escalation</li> </ul>
<i>Low interest, high influence</i>	-	-	-
<i>High interest, low influence</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Residents Associations</li> <li>- Rotary Clubs</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Keep informed of project progress &amp; specific construction activities</li> <li>- Maintain regular two-way dialogue</li> <li>- Manage issues complaints to prevent escalation</li> </ul>
<i>Low interest, low influence</i>	-	-	-

### 3.2.4 Statutory Bodies & Undertakers

In addition to section 3.2.3, statutory bodies and undertakers include public utility providers, local authorities (planning) and a wide range of organisations with some statutory authority. Many of which have a key role in the design and development phases.

Table 3.6: Statutory Bodies & Undertaker Stakeholders

CATEGORY	STAKEHOLDER (Statutory)	ISSUES	OBJECTIVES / ACTION
<i>High interest, high influence</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Government Agencies:</li> <li>- SEPA</li> <li>- HES</li> <li>- SNH</li> <li>- FCS</li> <li>- DGC Planning Conveyors</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Meet statutory obligations.</li> <li>- Foster close working relationship for cooperation &amp; support for project development/delivery.</li> <li>- Keep informed of project progress where relevant.</li> <li>- Manage issues to prevent escalation.</li> <li>- Establish groups &amp; forums to support design development.</li> <li>- Project team to continue routine communication on operational matters.</li> <li>- Establish a mechanism between project delivery &amp; communications teams, to flag up issues that may impact on delivery &amp; reputation.</li> </ul>
<i>Low interest, high influence</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Government Agencies:</li> <li>- National Trust for Scotland</li> <li>- HSE</li> <li>- Statutory Undertakers</li> <li>- OpenReach BT</li> <li>- Scottish Power</li> <li>- Scottish Water</li> <li>- SGC</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Foster close working relationship for cooperation &amp; support for project</li> <li>- Keep informed of project progress generally.</li> <li>- Manage issues to prevent escalation.</li> </ul>
<i>High interest, low influence</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- FCS</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop working relationship to ensure cooperation &amp; support for project delivery.</li> <li>- Keep informed of project progress generally.</li> <li>- Manage issues to prevent escalation.</li> <li>- Project team to develop &amp; deliver a programme of stakeholder engagement.</li> <li>- Communications team to provide regular updates through routine communications.</li> </ul>

<i>Low interest, low influence</i>	- Crown Estate (relevance tbc).		- Establish a plan for engagement at an appropriate level as required.
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### 3.2.5 Key Landowners

Some of the stakeholders also feature on other stakeholder lists, that is, statutory groups and community stakeholders.

Table 3.7: Key Landowner Stakeholders

CATEGORY	STAKEHOLDER (Landowners)	ISSUES	OBJECTIVES / ACTION
<i>High interest, high influence</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Directly affected (i) residential property owners; (ii) commercial property owners.</li> <li>- Fisheries Boards</li> <li>- Newton Stewart Angling Association</li> <li>- Galloway Fisheries Trust</li> <li>- Galloway Salmon Fisheries</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Meet legislative requirements.</li> <li>- Keep informed of project progress &amp; specific proposals affecting landowner.</li> <li>- Maintain regular two-way dialogue.</li> <li>- Manage issues &amp; complaints to prevent escalation.</li> <li>- Programme regular proactive communication through briefings &amp; other relevant project communications.</li> <li>- Regular monitoring to identify emerging issues &amp; prevent escalation</li> </ul>
<i>Low interest, high influence</i>	- National Trust for Scotland		- Increase understanding of project.
<i>High interest, low influence</i>	-	-	-
<i>Low interest, low influence</i>	- Indirectly affected commercial property owners.	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Keep informed of project progress &amp; specific proposals that may indirectly affect landowner.</li> <li>- Maintain regular two-way dialogue.</li> <li>- Manage issues &amp; complaints to prevent escalation.</li> </ul>

### 3.2.6 Special Interest Groups

Special interest groups – local, regional and international – are likely to closely monitor the project development. Campaigning groups are likely to emerge as the project progresses. The requirement is predominantly for careful monitoring with reactive communication and engagement as required.

Table 3.8: Special Interest Group (Environmental Groups, Campaigning Organisations) Stakeholders

CATEGORY	STAKEHOLDER	ISSUES	OBJECTIVES / ACTION
<i>High interest, high influence</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Community Groups</li> <li>- Cree Valley Flood Action Group</li> <li>- Emergency Services</li> <li>- Businesses</li> <li>- Wildlife</li> <li>- RSPB</li> <li>- Walking / Access</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Keep informed</li> <li>- Manage any issues to prevent escalation</li> <li>- Equip with key information to enable them to act as advocates</li> <li>- Remain aware of stance/ statements in relation to project</li> <li>- Respond to issues as required</li> <li>- Provide regular updates through routine communications</li> <li>- Monitor closely to remain aware of activity</li> <li>- Respond to any misinformation to ensure accuracy</li> </ul>
<i>Low interest, high influence</i>	-	-	-
<i>High interest, low influence</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Government Agencies:</li> <li>- Public Contracts Scotland (PCS)</li> <li>- Sports / Activities</li> <li>- Wildlife</li> <li>- Transport</li> <li>- Environment</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- As Category 1, also:</li> <li>- Identify representative organisations that can communicate with membership</li> <li>- Provide appropriate information for distribution to membership</li> <li>- Monitor closely to remain aware of activity</li> <li>- Respond to any misinformation to ensure accuracy of information</li> </ul>
<i>Low interest, low influence</i>	-	-	-

## 3.2.7 Media

Table 3.9: Media Stakeholders

CATEGORY	STAKEHOLDER (Media)	ISSUES	OBJECTIVES / ACTION
<i>High interest, high influence</i>	Local newspapers Local TV stations	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Keep informed</li> <li>- Manage any issues to prevent escalation</li> <li>- Equip with key information to enable them to act as advocates</li> <li>- Remain aware of stance/statements in relation to project</li> <li>- Respond to issues as required</li> <li>- Provide regular updates through routine communications</li> </ul>
<i>Low interest, high influence</i>	-	-	-
<i>High interest, low influence</i>	-	-	-
<i>Low interest, low influence</i>	-	-	-

## 4. Stakeholder Management

Set out as key dates within the project programme, it is the intention of the design team to communicate with (statutory and non-statutory) stakeholders and local landowners at each stage of the scheme. This will be undertaken through a variety of meetings, consultations and exhibition events, which are detailed throughout this chapter.

The purpose of each of these is to:

- Understand the key issues of the stakeholders and local landowners related to the flooding problem. Careful consideration and understanding of local perceptions and attitudes will be required if the final outcome is to gain support and confidence. This is an important element of engagement with local communities.
- Collating data and information from landowners and other stakeholders living or working in the area. Photographs of flooding and anecdotal observations can provide evidence on the cause of flooding or corroborate modelling outputs.
- Discussing opportunities and constraints with local stakeholders. This can help define the risk of achieving a successful outcome from an early stage and can help identify opportunities for potential partnership working.

### 4.1 Consultation Register

The following steps will be used to take forward the communications and engagement programme:

- Construct a database of stakeholders and agree protocols for updating database:
  - o A number of stakeholders require further research/clarifications to identify individuals/organisations;
  - o The database also requires contacts within organisations to be identified; and
  - o Cross reference with the DGC stakeholders.
- Review findings from this document to develop the Engagement Action Plans to reflect planned phased approach to project development.
- Agree the frequency of sessions to refresh and develop the stakeholder picture, including monitoring stakeholder movements and updating stakeholder map and database as required.

In addition to providing an auditable trail of the engagement process, this will also allow the outcomes of all meetings and any other consultation to feed into the study.

### 4.2 Contract Stakeholder Activities

Sweco will contribute to the organisation and provide facilitation support for the Public Exhibitions (and subsequent meetings) in conjunction DGC Council Officers. Sweco will provide presentational material for the meeting, for example, poster boards, hand-outs and PowerPoint presentations to describe each scheme. A member of Sweco staff will also make a record of the meeting (and subsequent meetings) including capturing contact details of stakeholders who can provide further information; and this will be fed into the consultation register.

#### 4.3 Social Media

Other potential engagement activities which Sweco could assist DGC with is the development of promotional material for a bespoke website for the schemes.

*Update 11 August 2017:* Agreed between DGC and Sweco, that at this stage, a Facebook page for the scheme will not be provided, as it would not be either beneficial or cost effective. Information on the scheme will be distributed to interested parties / stakeholders via the following mediums:

- Quarterly newsletter to be prepared and e-mailed to interested parties and delivered on site by the Community Council;
- Monthly updates will be available on the DGC Webpage for download, for example relevant documents, background, timeline etc;
- DGC Facebook Page. Details of occasional releases such as the VM1 Meeting will be uploaded; and
- There will be a specific project e-mail address for people to send comments, queries etc to.

#### 4.4 Arrangement for Topographical Survey Access

Following discussions with DGC, it was decided rather than undertake a letter being sent to all property owners that a letter, provided by DGC prior to the survey, be used by the surveyors, Aspect. This was to be shown to any concerned landowners on the survey that was being undertaken.

During the survey, the survey staff will employ customer care skills, speaking to residents or business owners if they are present prior to the survey. This may include requesting that vehicles are moved to allow access.

#### 4.5 Arrangement for Geotechnical Investigation Access

A letter will be sent to each landowner to arrange access along the specified survey reaches. The letter will also invite the landowner to the Public Exhibition and will contain contact details of a Sweco project team member should they have any immediate concerns about survey access or other matters.

To ensure that the project is a success it is recommended that have an early engagement with the affected landowner's land. It is hoped that 'buy-in' from the landowners will be achieved during the initial engagement avoiding the need to issue Power of Entry Notices; this is a last resort.

Further access, for example, due to a requirement to clear invasive species, will be arranged directly with the landowners, again giving reasonable notice.

On the day of the survey, the survey staff will employ customer care skills, speaking to residents or business owners if they are present prior to the survey. This may include requesting that vehicles are moved to allow access.

## 4.6

## Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM)

The scheme stages are aligned with the FCERM Appraisal Guidance (FCERM-AG), and each stage, along with how Sweco propose to manage it is set out below, and presented in tabular form in Table 4.1.

## 4.6.1

## Setting the Objectives and Defining the Baseline

1. This stage is aligned with the completion of all the *Survey and Hydrological Analysis activities*, and part completion of the *baseline flood risk and environmental assessment*. Adopting stakeholder engagement at this stage will allow the objective setting for each appraisal to be based on the best available information for each site whilst providing an opportunity for stakeholders to input into the definition of the baseline.

The objectives for the NSFPS were set through engagement with key stakeholders at a Value Management (VM) Workshop (VM1) on 1 August 2017. The inclusion of key stakeholders at the VM1 ensured that the progression of options were discussed and agreed upon with all parties concerned.

This is in line with the FCERM-AG and the setting and agreement of clear objectives provides a reference point for stakeholder engagement and managing stakeholder expectations for the remainder of the project.

The VM1 discussed the:

- objective setting for the site(s);
- review baseline assumptions and draft hydraulic model predictions; and
- provide an update of the programme of future work.

The VM1 followed a rigid agenda, with Sweco providing *strong facilitation* so it was clear from the start of the meeting what the purpose of the objective setting is and how it relates to the overall project objective. The purpose of the VM1 was to *manage stakeholder aspirations* and avoid objectives which are unrelated to flood risk management; and also provide an opportunity to identify additional scheme funding partners.

Where possible, information from stakeholders from engagement to date has been used to better define the impacts and consequences of the baseline hydraulic modelling, validate data collected during development of the baseline modelling, and ultimately, provide understanding of what happens locally. The meeting allowed stakeholders to *comment on the initial findings from the baseline hydraulic modelling* prior to the completion of this activity. Sweco will provide presentation material for the workshop.

2. Consultation with statutory and non-statutory consultees were required at this stage to meet planning, environmental and other legal requirements associated with the assessment of options. Consultation will include the agreement of the scope and extent of any impact assessment on the environmental receptor in question (different to the scope of the study).

Included within this was the pre-meet with the Cree Community Council and the Cree Valley Flood Action Group. This aimed to introduce some of the Sweco project team to the two groups, and to gather information from them by identifying the issues that they feel have affected them. This should also identify if there are any additional groups that should be engaged as part of this process, and the frequency and method of engagement. This pre-meet was held on 24 July 2017.

The minutes from the the pre-meet with the Cree Community Council & Cree Valley Flood Action Group, and the VM1 meeting can be found in Appendices B and C respectively.

3. The SEP will be updated, in conjunction with DGC, following the objective setting process and subsequent stages and will act as a framework for the remaining stages of the scheme project lifecycle.

#### 4.6.2 Identify, develop and short-list options

This stage is aligned with the *Option Identification and Development* activities in this study and it is critical that stakeholders are engaged to provide input in selecting and short-listing options. This will help identify funding partners to deliver the final preferred solution.

1. Sweco propose to hold a VM Workshop (VM2) key stakeholders in October 2017 for the NSFPS. The purpose of the VM2 is to agree a short-list of options. Sweco will the provide presentation material for the workshop including, for example, Powerpoint presentations and presentation boards in agreement with DGC. Stakeholders will be encouraged to comment on the solutions and state their preference through the use of post-it notes.
2. Following the VM2, continued engagement with stakeholders is proposed to ensure they remain informed and involved during the refinement of options for the site. This will be achieved through direct consultation via telephone call or email. This is particularly important when seeking potential funding from partners.
3. It is proposed to hold the first Public Exhibition 1, presenting the preferred option to members of the public, in November 2017. This will provide a communication platform for sharing of local information and data, to ultimately obtain engagement with stakeholders.

#### 4.6.3 Describe, quantify and value costs and benefits

This stage is aligned with the *Options Analysis* activity.

1. Direct consultation with potential scheme funding partners will be particularly critical at this and later stages to determine the levels of funding to incorporate into the economic assessment. Sweco will co-ordinate consultation activities with DGC, in accordance with the SEP to ensure the level of engagement is appropriate.
2. Consultation with statutory and non-statutory consultees will be ongoing to meet any planning, Environmental Screening and other legal requirements associated with the assessment of options.

#### 4.6.4 Compare and select the preferred option

This stage is aligned with the *Preferred Option Analysis* activity.

1. It is expected that consultation with statutory and non-statutory consultees on the selection of the preferred option and, if required, the environmental impact assessment of that option will also occur at this stage; via meetings or direct correspondence between Sweco, DGC and the consultees.
2. Sweco will hold a VM Workshop (VM3) for the scheme which will present a comparison of options and the decision behind the selection of a preferred option. As well as presenting how a decision has been made, the purpose of the workshop is to illustrate how the input from the stakeholders has influenced the preferred option. Details of the programme and plan going forward will also be presented.
3. Following the VM3 it is expected that the outline design of the preferred option will be presented to members of the public at the second Public Exhibition 2, in March 2018. As previously, this will provide a communication platform for sharing of local information and data, to ultimately obtain engagement with stakeholders.

#### 4.6.5 Appraisal Report

It is expected that engagement activities with the stakeholders will be much reduced at this stage except for some final consultation with statutory consultees such as the SEPA and/or the potential scheme funding partners.

It focuses on ensuring that relevant information from the engagement process and the SEP are clearly documented within the Project Appraisal Report (PAR). Relevant information should include the concerns, needs and expectations of those stakeholders affected by the decision and how they have been taken into account in the final decision. The PAR will also state the current support and opposition for the proposal, and whether this will affect delivery of the solution; in particular, the ability to gain planning approval if required.

The SEP will be updated to identify what will happen during detailed design and construction phases, and who will be responsible for the engagement and informing stakeholders of next stages. This will be agreed in conjunction with DGC.

Successful engagement with stakeholders during detailed design and construction will benefit from: evaluation of the effectiveness of the stakeholder engagement; assessment of whether the solution satisfies the objectives set as part of the appraisal process; and consideration of how any remaining barriers have limited the process so far.

#### 4.6.6 Summary of Proposed Management of Stakeholders

Table 4.1: Proposed stakeholder management in accordance with FCERM-AG

#### 4.6.7 Anticipated Stakeholder Engagement Programme

The main stakeholder engagement events are highlighted below with their associated programme ID in brackets.

- Pre-meet with CCC & CVFAG July 2017 (ID 3.1.19)
- VM1 workshop and identification of short-list of option July 2017 (ID 3.1.26)
- VM2 workshop and identification of preferred option October 2017 (ID 3.2.19)
- Public Exhibition 1 Nov 2017 (ID 3.3.10)
- VM3 workshop for discussion of outline design Dec 2017 (ID 3.4.11)
- Public Exhibition 2 Mar 2017 (ID 3.5.9)

Contract Activities	FCERM Stage	Stakeholder Engagement Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Data Review</li> <li>- Surveys</li> </ul>	Understanding & defining the scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Produce Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)</li> <li>- Develop consultation register</li> <li>- Identify key stakeholders</li> <li>- Identify landowners for survey access</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review existing mathematical model &amp; flood management options.</li> </ul>	Setting the objectives; and define the type of project and baseline.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pre-meet with Cree Valley Flood Action Group &amp; Cree Valley Community Council</li> <li>- Develop Community Engagement Plan (CEP) and update following pre-meet</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Options identification &amp; development</li> </ul>	Identify, develop and short-list options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop presentation material in agreement with DGC to present at VM1 Meeting</li> <li>- Organise, facilitate and minute VM1 Meeting</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Option Appraisal</li> </ul>	Describe, quantify and value costs and benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Update SEP and CEP</li> <li>- Appraise options to allow updating of presentation material for VM2 Meeting</li> <li>- Organise, facilitate and minute VM2 Meeting to present appraisal of short-list and agree preferred option</li> <li>- Consult with statutory and non-statutory organisations and public / private utilities</li> <li>- Develop presentation material for Public Exhibition 1</li> <li>- Organise, facilitate and present Public Exhibition 1</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preferred Option Analysis</li> </ul>	Compare and select preferred option	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Environmental Screening consultation with statutory consultees</li> <li>- Appraise options to allow updating of presentation material for VM3 Meeting</li> <li>- Organise, facilitate and minute VM3 Meeting to present discuss preferred option</li> <li>- Develop presentation material for Public Exhibition 2</li> <li>- Organise, facilitate and present Public Exhibition 2</li> <li>- Update CEP</li> <li>- Develop presentation material for Public Exhibition 2</li> <li>- Organise, facilitate and present Public Exhibition 2</li> </ul>

# APPENDIX A STAKEHOLDER CONTACT LIST

APPENDIX B  
MINUTES: PRE-MEET WITH CREE  
COMMUNITY COUNCIL &  
CREE VALLEY FLOOD ACTION GROUP

# APPENDIX C MINUTES: VM1 MEETING

## NEWTON STEWART FLOOD PROTECTION SCHEME

### Newsletter

ISSUE 1: August 2016

**Information for the Cree Valley Community Council, Cree Valley Flood Action Group, Residents, Businesses and Stakeholders from Dumfries and Galloway Council**

**WELCOME** to our first Newsletter. The purpose of this newsletter is to keep you informed of news, progress and works planned for the Newton Stewart Flood Protection Scheme. Frequency of the bulletins will be dictated by progress of the scheme.

#### **SOLWAY LOCAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Dumfries and Galloway Council published the Solway Local Flood Risk Management Plan (LFRMP) on the 22 June 2016, which is available to view online at <http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/15215/Flood-risk-management-plan>. The LFRMP details how and when the actions to deliver the goals set out in the SEPA Flood Risk Management Strategy are to be included in the first planning cycle from 2016 to 2022.

Dumfries and Galloway Council are developing a flood protection scheme for Newton Stewart with the proposed delivery timetable:

Q4 2016 – Q4 2017 – development of a flood protection scheme design for Newton Stewart.

Q1 2018 – promotion of flood protection scheme in accordance with Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 and associated 2010 Regulations.

Q2 and Q3 2018 – production of detailed design and tender documentation, (assuming no public inquiry).

Q1 2019 – Q2 2020 – scheme construction and completion.

#### **WORKS IN PROGRESS:**

Riverside road wall repair: Design of the new wall allows for the height to be increased in future as part of the delivery of a flood protection scheme for Newton Stewart during the first cycle (2016-2022) of the Local Flood Risk Management Plan. Design is completed and Enterprising Services (Wigtown) will be commencing the works on 29 August 2016. The works will take 12 weeks to complete.



*Riverside wall, Newton Stewart*

Sparling Bridge: At a meeting attended by members of the Cree Valley Community Council (CVCC) concerns were expressed about the Council's proposal to relocate the bridge immediately upstream of its current position on new, raised abutment supports. It was felt that a better location for the raised structure would be to move it some 100m downstream to reduce visual impact and reduce the need for approach

ramps on the Newton Stewart bank which is at a higher level.

Accordingly, the Council will undertake a survey of the potential site, undertake preliminary design work and bring forward proposals with a view to construction in spring/summer 2017.

It was also requested that the existing deck be removed as soon as possible in order to avoid any impact on flooding over the coming months. The means of undertaking this operation are currently being investigated.



Sparling Bridge surcharging during Storm Frank

### NEW FLOOD WARNING

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency will continue with the development and implementation of a warning scheme for the Newton Stewart area on the River Cree. The launch date for the scheme has yet to be finalised and more information will follow shortly

### SELF HELP

Everyone is responsible for protecting themselves and their property from flooding. Dumfries and Galloway Council has a Flood Product Subsidy Scheme in place, for further information visit the following webpage <http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/flooding>. Signing up to Floodline provides live flooding information and advice on how to prepare for, or cope with, the impacts of flooding.

### STAKEHOLDER GROUP MEETINGS

Our Council does keep the Community Council and Flood Action Group briefed on all matters but we appreciate that it is important that this information reaches beyond these groups. It is our Council's intention to enhance this information by issuing a regular newsletter to the community of Newton Stewart.

The council will attend meetings where the aims are:

- to explain proposals for the flood defences
- to outline the construction programme
- to answer your questions and collect information on particular stakeholder issues

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

*Who is funding the scheme?*

80% of the funding for the flood defence scheme is coming from the Scottish Government, with Dumfries and Galloway Council contributing the remainder.

### HOW WILL WE KEEP YOU INFORMED?

Regular updates on progress of the scheme will be provided via these regular News Bulletins which will be published on the Council's website and local notice boards. If you have any comments or questions about the scheme or would like to discuss in more detail please contact us via the dedicated email address below.

## CONTACT DETAILS

### Dumfries and Galloway Council Flood Risk Management Team

☎ 01387 260303 [www.dumgal.gov.uk/flooding](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/flooding) ✉ [pe.flooding@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:pe.flooding@dumgal.gov.uk)

### Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)

☎ 0345 9881188 (Floodline) [www.sepa.org.uk](http://www.sepa.org.uk)

## NEWTON STEWART FLOOD PROTECTION SCHEME Community Newsletter (Issue 2 – July 2017)

**Welcome** to our second newsletter which provides an update on the Newton Stewart Flood Protection Scheme and relocation of the Sparling Bridge.

### Newton Stewart Flood Protection Scheme

Dumfries and Galloway Council are committed to provide a Flood Protection Scheme as highlighted in the Solway Local Flood Risk Management Plan (LFRMP) which is available to view online at;

<http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/15215/Flood-risk-management-plan>.

Sweco (consultants in construction, architecture and environmental engineering) have now been appointed to deliver the Newton Stewart Flood Protection Scheme. The main aim of the Newton Stewart Flood Protection Scheme is to develop a sustainable flood protection scheme for Newton Stewart that will be able to attract grant aid from Scottish Government. The Scheme will be based on the work undertaken by Kaya Consulting Ltd to date and shall be developed to a stage suitable for submission to Scottish Government.

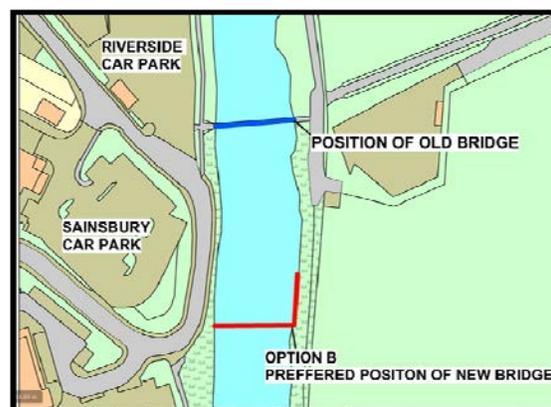
The programme is for the promotion of a flood protection scheme in accordance with Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 and associated 2017 Regulations.

A key part of the programme is community engagement and this will include meetings with the Cree Valley Community Council, Cree Valley Flood Action Group and other key stakeholders. There will also be public consultation and exhibition events as the scheme progresses.

### Sparling Bridge

Since the bridge was removed in November 2016, a structural inspection has been carried out. The bridge is in good condition with only a few minor repairs required. It is therefore the intention to re-use the existing bridge.

Cree Valley Community Council carried out a public consultation in March 2017 to allow the public to vote on their preference between two options. Option A was to reinstall the bridge at the existing location, but to raise the deck by 1.2m to ensure the bridge deck was above the predicted 1 in 200 year flood event, and to construct associated ramps at either side of the river. Option B was to install the bridge at a new location, 100m downstream (south) of the existing location, where the bridge would be above the predicted 1 in 200 year flood event, but only one ramp would be required, on the east side of the river. Following the consultation exercise, the public's preferred option was identified as Option B.



Proposed location of Sparling Footbridge

A ground investigation survey was recently carried out at the proposed new location by a specialist contractor and the results will be used to refine the design of the new foundations.

A programme for the Sparling Bridge has been divided into two contracts, one for foundations and one for steelwork. As it stands completion of the foundation works is the end of September, and installation of the bridge and associated works by the middle of November.

This may be subject to change due to ground conditions, and other matters such as land entry, permissions, etc. have been agreed.

### Riverside Wall

Works on the Riverside Wall are now completed.



### Consultation and Engagement

The Council and Sweco will continue to engage with the Community Council and Flood Action Group with the aim of;

- Updating the community on the proposals for the flood defences
- Outline on any forthcoming construction programme for the flood defences or the Sparling Bridge
- to answer questions and collect information on any issues

### New Flood Warning

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency launched a new flood warning scheme for the River Cree in Newton Stewart on 30 March 2017. The scheme is based on real-time flood forecasting models and will provide advance warning when flooding is predicted to 600 homes and businesses at risk of flooding. People can sign up to receive free notifications of flood warning messages direct to their choice of mobile or landline numbers at;

[www.sepa.org.uk/floodingsignup](http://www.sepa.org.uk/floodingsignup) or by calling 0345 988 1188.

### Self Help

Everyone has a responsibility for protecting themselves and property from flooding. Dumfries and Galloway Council has a Flood Product Subsidy Scheme in place, for further information visit the following webpage;

<http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/flooding>

### How Will We Keep You Informed?

Updates on progress of the scheme will be provided via newsletter which will be published on the Council's website and local notice boards.

The Council are also working with Sweco to provide a dedicated Facebook page on the scheme to provide information and regular updates.

If you have any comments or questions about the scheme or would like to discuss in more detail please contact us via the dedicated email address below.

## CONTACT DETAILS

### Dumfries and Galloway Council Flood Risk Management Team

☎ 01387 260303 [www.dumgal.gov.uk/flooding](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/flooding) ✉ [pe.flooding@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:pe.flooding@dumgal.gov.uk)

### Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)

☎ 0345 988 1188 (Floodline) [www.sepa.org.uk](http://www.sepa.org.uk)

# Newton Stewart

## FLOOD PROTECTION SCHEME

Newsletter

Issue No 3

**Welcome to our third newsletter which provides an update on the Newton Stewart Flood Protection Scheme and the Installation of a New Pedestrian Bridge to replace the Sparling Bridge.**

### Flood Protection Scheme

In August 2017 Dumfries and Galloway Council, SWECO and Kaya Consulting held a meeting (VM1 meeting) with Elected Members, the Cree Valley Community Council and Flood Action Group, SEPA, Scottish Natural Heritage, Forestry Commission Scotland, Galloway Fisheries Trust and the RSPB to consider 24 options which had been put forward as solutions to the flooding in Newton Stewart.

Each of these options were considered and discussed with regard to their effectiveness and feasibility and the outcome was that the following 10 options were selected as suitable to be taken forward;

- Option 2 - Upstream Storage at Linloskin Bridge
- Option 4 - Obstructions on River Cree
- Option 6 - Construction of Direct Defences
- Option 7 - Increase Flow Area beneath A75 Bridge
- Option 9 - Increase A75 Flood Relief Culvert Size/Number
- Option 19 - Reprofile Land at Broomisle
- Option 20 - Reinstate Flood Storage Area at Water of Minnoch
- Option 21 - Upstream Storage Area at the Ghyll
- Option 22 - Upstream Storage in River Cree Tributaries
- Option 24 - Reprofile Land around Pumping Station

These options will now be subject to further modelling work, investigation, and economic analysis to assess their feasibility and to decide which option (or combination of options) will provide optimum benefit for Newton Stewart. They will then be considered at a VM2 meeting to decide upon a preferred option.



*Attendees at VM1 Meeting*

## Current Timeline

- October 2017 - Further assessment of short list of 10 options.
- Early November 2017 - VM2 meeting to decide upon preferred option/options.
- Late November 2017 - 1st Public Engagement Event.
- November 2017 to February 2018 - Outline Design of Preferred Option (plus Environmental Assessment and VM3 Meeting late February 2018).
- January 2018 - Report to EEIC to confirm preferred option following VM2 and update on public engagement event.
- March 2018 - 2nd Public Engagement Event.
- April 2018 - Final Scheme Documents and Drawings.
- May 2018 - Report to EEIC to authorise publication of the scheme.
- May 2018 - Publish Flood Order.



*Consideration of the Long List of Options at VM1 Meeting*

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## Proposed Replacement of Pedestrian Bridge (formerly Sparling Bridge)

Sparling Bridge was removed in November 2016 following the severe flooding and plans were put in place to have it re-located by late 2017.

However as a result of recent discussions and correspondence received from the Community Council, Dumfries and Galloway Council are now developing the request for a new pedestrian bridge at Newton Stewart.

The provision of a new bridge will, however, have time implications for the provision of the crossing and we are aware that the local community is expecting the replacement bridge to be in position soon. Unfortunately the work involved in planning and costing for a new bridge will mean that the earliest work can commence will be May 2018, with installation then taking 3-4 months, and a completion date of mid to late summer 2018.

The additional time now gives us an opportunity to apply for match funding for a new improved bridge which would be of a standard suitable for both pedestrians and cyclists (given that it forms part of the National Cycle Network).

The Council will also work with SWECO to align the design of the new bridge structure with any preferred flood protection scheme.

The Project Team recently met with colleagues from another Council who have undertaken a similar exercise as part of their flood protection scheme. They too replaced an old Bailey Bridge with a new structure. As this was part of the overall flood scheme, this was part funded by Scottish Government and attracted match funding as the new bridge is a cycle/pedestrian bridge to link a National Cycle Network.

We recognise that the delay in replacing the bridge may not be welcomed by some of the local community, but through working with the Community Council there is now an opportunity to provide a modern, attractive crossing which is fit for purpose, is more cost effective, and has the potential to be integrated into an overall flood protection scheme for Newton Stewart.

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## Further information

If you require further information on the project, or wish to see the full list of options considered, please check the Council's website at [www.dumgal.gov.uk](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk)

Alternatively you can email the Project Team at [newtonstewartFPS@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:newtonstewartFPS@dumgal.gov.uk)

Or telephone **030 33 33 3000**.

# Newton Stewart

## FLOOD PROTECTION SCHEME

### Summary of Public Engagement 1 30 November 2017 to 2 December 2017

## Introduction

**Dumfries and Galloway Council, together with SWECO, are currently working on the design of a flood protection scheme in Newton Stewart. This also includes the design and construction of a replacement for the old Sparling Bridge.**

As part of the project the Council is committed to engaging with the local community which includes public engagement sessions and a regular community newsletter.

The first main public engagement event was held in Newton Stewart from 30 November to 2 December 2017. The event included a number of display boards and plans. Members of the Project Team were on hand to discuss the scheme and answer any questions.

107 people who attended over the three days and many took the time to complete questionnaires and left feedback on the proposals.

The main points taken from this feedback was;

- 100% want to see a Flood Protection Scheme provided in Newton Stewart.
- 86% agreed with the approach we are taking in developing a scheme.
- 77% agreed that all the available options to address the flooding have been included and considered.

This document has been compiled to provide the feedback gathered at the event and to answer all of the main points raised.

## Contents

- Copy of questionnaire
- Feedback from public engagement
- Response to Issues Raised



# The Questionnaire

# Newton Stewart FLOOD PROTECTION SCHEME

## Public Engagement 1 - Questionnaire

1. Please provide your postcode

2. Have you ever been flooded in your current or previous property? *Please tick.*

YES  NO  BUSINESS  HOME

3. Do you want to see a Flood Protection Scheme provided at Newton Stewart?

YES  NO

4. Do you agree with the approach that we are taking in developing a scheme?

YES  NO  If 'NO' can you please let us know what we could have done better?

5. Would you agree that all the available options to address the flooding have been included and considered?

YES  NO  If 'NO' can you please let us know what additional measures should have been included?

Please turn over

**SWECO** 

Dumfries  
& Galloway 

6. Have you been kept up to date with the Project? YES  NO

If 'YES' can you confirm which means of communication you received?

If 'NO' can you advise how you would like to be kept up to date?

7. If you would you like to receive email updates and electronic newsletters please leave us your details;

Email address:

8. Please let us know your thoughts on today's visit;

- Venue was suitable and well located YES  NO
- Staff were helpful and available YES  NO
- Plans/boards were well presented and easy to follow YES  NO
- Visit was informative and worthwhile YES  NO
- Process and Options chosen were well explained YES  NO

Other?

9. Are there any additional comments you wish to make?

**PLEASE LEAVE QUESTIONNAIRE IN THE BOX PROVIDED** (Alternatively please return to the Flood Risk Management Team, Dumfries and Galloway Council, English Street, Dumfries, DG1 2HR)

**Questionnaires to be returned by Friday 15 December. Feedback will be analysed and the results published in January 2018.**

# Feedback

## Total number of questionnaires completed: 57

107 people attended the event but many filled in questionnaires as a couple. Not all questions were completed in some instances which is why some of the response figures do not always total to 57.

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## Have you ever been flooded in your current or previous property?

Yes: 23

5 advised they had business premises, and 12 residential

No: 33

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## Do you want to see a Flood Protection Scheme provided in Newton Stewart?

Yes: 57 (100%) No: 0

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## Do you agree with the approach we are taking in developing a scheme?

Yes: 49 (86%)

I want to say how pleased I am with the information provided. I am very impressed with investigation work carried out.

No: 8 (14%)

- Timing of flows down the 3 main rivers not considered. If one flow could be slowed this impact to town should be significant.
  - We would like to see more involvement with the Forestry Commission to develop upper catchment large volume storage (even over the long term).
  - Sparling Bridge should go back where it was. Footpath from the bridge is too narrow.
  - Once again the pumping station built across the flood plain has been ignored as a cause of the excess flooding which has only occurred since the station was finished in 2012. The only answer we get when this question is raised is it cannot be lowered.
  - Tell Forestry Commission to plant trees without trenches which lead to nearly immediate run off as against slow percolation run off.
  - The scheme to protect the town by widening the A75 bridge capacity will not work as you have a narrow section of river above ie so increased flow cannot be greater than the flow at this point.
  - Area below old bridge on Minnigaff side is narrow part of river. High water last week was eating into the Minnigaff side.
  - If hard defences are to be used in Old Minnigaff they need to extend to bridge over Penkiln. Attention should be given to peninsula between suspension bridge pool and Penkiln Burn otherwise hard defences may be compromised.
- 

## Would you agree that all the available options to address the flooding have been included and considered?

Yes: 44 (77%)

- They have now.
- It would appear so.
- I am pleased that all options have been looked at. Thanks for consultation.
- Looks good and great to see that the matter is being taken so seriously - good luck and well done D&G Council.

**No: 13 (23%)**

- Would like to see consideration given to lowering height of suspension bridge pool.
- Upper catchment area needs to be dealt with to review management strategies.
- River catchment areas needed.
- Area 100 metres north of Penkiln Bridge needs to be included.
- I think some of the stones and gravel at Cree Bridge should have been removed.
- At the moment a flood wall alone seems to be the only option. Has a combination of different solutions been assessed? I also think forestry is a critical element in the catchment because of the extent of cover.
- Dredging down Wigtown Bay past Creetown to clear silt built up since ships sailed up to collect granite.
- Would like to see more involvement of Forestry Commission. Remove large gravel berms. General river maintenance.
- I would expect several options not just one which smacks of 'This is what is going to happen'. This is the cheap option - a dam should be built upstream at Glenhapple Loch or The Ghyll. This proposed solution will not work.

**Have you been kept up to date with the project?****Yes: 35 No: 18**

(Additional data was also gathered here about the communication methods people would like used which will assist the team in future. Email addresses were also left so we can contact people with updates direct).

**Thoughts on the visit;****Venue was suitable and well located: Yes: 55 (96%) No: 2 (4%)****Staff were helpful and available: Yes: 56 (98%) No: 1 (2%)****Plans/boards were well presented and easy to follow: Yes: 54 (98%) No: 1 (2%)****Visit was informative and worthwhile: Yes: 55 (98%) No: 1 (2%)****Process and options chosen were well explained: Yes: 55 (98%) No: 1 (2%)****Positive comments:**

- 'Tour' of presentation boards very informative and much appreciated. Thanks.
- Staff were very helpful and took plenty of time explaining the issues and also listened carefully to our concerns.
- Helpful staff to explain the boards.
- Example of proposed new Sparling Bridge aesthetically pleasing.
- Excellent & informative, thanks.
- The helpfulness and explanations were excellent - thank you and well done.
- I will attend further meeting and presentations after this.

**Other comments:**

- Might be an idea to do a shorter version if people don't want to read every single board and direct them to the most pertinent ones.
- A little too much information
- They did a good job of pushing a poor scheme that will not work.
- Only answers I could get were the official line and no one seemed interested in alternatives.

## Additional comments

- Really miss the Sparling Bridge - impact on tourists and locals.
  - Make scheme resilient to tide.
  - How is river to be accessed and who will be responsible for deploying demountable defences.
  - Sparling Bridge should be a priority as it is a nightmare walking over the main bridge when the road is busy.
  - Would have been good to see that Challoch had been included in the scheme as it is part of Newton Stewart and floods regularly.
  - Walls seem to be the best option and one certainly better than being flooded.
  - Bad flooding occurred in 1960's as hard core replaced gardens ie riverside road and car park - flooding then extended to streets. The history of the Cree needs to be looked at to hopefully succeed with decisions made for plans to be successful.
  - Do hope this happens without delay.
  - You need to go back to the drawing board and look at Dams to allow a progressive flow not the full force of water by tinkering.
  - I feel that all the proposed solutions seem to concentrate on protecting the town bywalls and faster flood release but I feel that these huge peak flows should be reduced much further upstream as the high flood levels could still be a danger to the town (eg damage/destroy the listed Cree Bridge).
  - If walls are to be built it is important to still be able to see river as a tourist attraction and part of the town's visual appeal for both locals and visitors.
  - I realise that walls will be an essential part of the flood defences but I hope they can be kept as low as possible for the look of the town. Possible use of glass and walls?
  - Proposed floodwall stops short of protecting houses in old Minigaff (up to 20 houses). The floodwall is good but should be extended to tie in with the Penkiln Bridge which sits 5m high and provides an impairment in itself. This would save unnecessary objections and delay for the sake of an extra 100m extension. Otherwise floodwall a good idea.
  - Forest could be better managed.
  - I think removing Mill Island, dredging, and better forest management are good options.
  - Could the new bridge provide less obstruction to flow? New location is less convenient. Forest management needs to be held responsible for their part in past floods - mass felling is not acceptable and best practise should be followed.
  - Would like walls to be on both side to protect Mingaff.
  - Need Sparling Bridge in 2018 and flood protection in place as soon as practicable.
  - Impressive amount of work done and timescales are realistic.
-

## Responses to Issues raised

Issue Raised	Response
<p><b>Forestry</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We would like to see more involvement with the Forestry Commission to develop upper catchment large volume storage (even over the long term).</li> <li>• Tell Forestry Commission to plant trees without trenches which lead to nearly immediate run off as against slow percolation run off.</li> <li>• Upper catchment area needs to be dealt with to review management strategies.</li> <li>• River catchment areas needed.</li> <li>• I think forestry is a critical element in the catchment because of the extent of cover.</li> <li>• Would like to see more involvement of Forestry Commission.</li> <li>• I feel that all the proposed solutions seem to concentrate on protecting the town by walls and faster flood release but I feel that these huge peak flows should be reduced much further upstream as the high flood levels could still be a danger to the town (eg damage/destroy the listed Cree Bridge).</li> <li>• Forest management needs to be held responsible for their part in past floods - mass felling is not acceptable and best practise should be followed.</li> <li>• Forest could be better managed.</li> </ul>	<p>Over 70% of the hydrological catchment (370km<sup>2</sup>) to the north of Newton Stewart is land managed by the Forestry Commission. There are a number of Land Management Plans (LMP) available from the Forestry Commission website, such as the Upper Cree catchment and the Penninghame LMP which is situated directly to the north west of Newton Stewart. These plans outline forest management until 2030, and shows no greater than 10% of the forested area is planned to be felled during any single 5 year window. Felled trees are planned to be replaced by broadleaf trees that may be used in the future for commercial purposes, and have been chosen to promote biodiversity within the catchment. As these broadleaf will be a replacement for those felled, no new areas of drainage are planned for construction and hence no impact on the peak flows over the long-term is expected.</p> <p>Additional provision of new habitat within the LMP's includes the restoration of bog habitats and the provision of wetlands. While the aims of these interventions are primarily to promote biodiversity, their provision will additionally act as Natural Flood Management (NFM) to attenuate small volumes of runoff within the upper catchment.</p> <p>Consultation with the Forestry Commission has taken place through the VM1 and VM2 meetings with additional discussions having taken place ahead of these meetings. Feedback at both VM1 and VM2 stages (short list decision and preferred option decision respectively) from the Forestry Commission was positive regarding the provision of NFM features within the upper catchment and would be open to further discussion on their implementation over the longer term.</p>

Issue Raised	Response
<p><b>Upstream Storage and NFM</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Timing of flows down the 3 main rivers not considered. If one flow could be slowed this impact to town should be significant.</li> <li>• I would expect several options not just one which smacks of 'This is what is going to happen'. This is the cheap option - a dam should be built upstream at Glenhapple Loch or The Ghyll.</li> <li>• You need to go back to the drawing board and look at Dams to allow a progressive flow not the full force of water by tinkering.</li> </ul>	<p>Extensive consideration was given to these matters from the outset of the scheme with numerous options on upstream storage and NFM being modelled and benefits assessed, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upstream Storage at Glenhapple</li> <li>• Upstream Storage at Linloskin Bridge</li> <li>• Upstream Storage at Frankie Hill</li> <li>• Installation of Obstructions on the River Cree</li> <li>• Installation of Obstructions on Penkiln Burn</li> <li>• Reinstate Flood Storage Area at Water of Minnoch</li> <li>• Upstream Storage at the Ghyll</li> <li>• Upstream Storage on River Cree Tributaries</li> <li>• Natural Flood Management as part of forest management.</li> </ul> <p>None of these options have a positive benefit cost ratio, or had extensive negative impacts, and could therefore not be taken forward to the preferred option stage.</p> <p>A document has been prepared which details how upstream storage and natural flood management techniques are considered (entitled 'Review of Potential Natural Flood Management Techniques 27 November 2017') and a copy will soon be available on the Council's website.</p>
<p><b>Sparling Bridge</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sparling Bridge should go back where it was. Footpath from the bridge is too narrow.</li> <li>• Really miss the Sparling Bridge – impact on tourists and locals.</li> <li>• Sparling Bridge should be a priority as it is a nightmare walking over the main bridge when the road is busy.</li> <li>• Could the new bridge provide less obstruction to flow? New location is less convenient.</li> <li>• Need Sparling Bridge in 2018 and flood protection in place as soon as practicable.</li> </ul>	<p>The new Sparling Bridge location was selected as part of an extensive Community Engagement process.</p> <p>The deck level of the new bridge will be much higher (to match the proposed 1 in 200 level for the flood protection scheme).</p> <p>The new bridge is currently at design stage with the programme showing work starting in May 2018 and a new bridge programmed to be in place by August 2018.</p>

Issue Raised	Response
<p><b>Scottish Water Pumping Station</b></p> <p>Once again the pumping station built across the flood plain has been ignored as a cause of the excess flooding which has only occurred since the station was finished in 2012. The only answer we get when this question is raised is it cannot be lowered.</p>	<p>Removal of substantial structures would not be cost effective options and were not therefore included in the scheme. Re-profiling (lowering) of the land near to the station has been considered and may be included in any potential scheme as it may create additional flow capacity and lower the height of direct defences.</p>
<p><b>A75 Bridge</b></p> <p>The scheme to protect the town by widening the A75 bridge capacity will not work as you have a narrow section of river above ie so increased flow cannot be greater than the flow at this point.</p>	<p>The preferred scheme to protect the town is the construction of direct defences. This is to be designed in conjunction with increasing the flow under the A75 and increasing the flow to the section above (beyond the Scottish Water pumping station).</p> <p>Increasing the flow is not a solution in itself but will lower levels in flood events thus enabling the direct defences to be slightly lower.</p>
<p><b>Defences at Minigaff</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Area below old bridge on Minnigaff side is narrow part of river. High water last week was eating into the Minnigaff side.</li> <li>• If hard defences are to be used in Old Minnigaff they need to extend to bridge over Penkiln. Attention should be given to peninsula between suspension bridge pool and Penkiln Burn otherwise hard defences may be compromised.</li> <li>• Would like to see consideration given to lowering height of suspension bridge pool.</li> <li>• Area 100 metres north of Penkiln Bridge needs to be included.</li> <li>• Proposed floodwall stops short of protecting houses in old Minigaff (up to 20 houses). The floodwall is good but should be extended to tie in with the Penkiln Bridge which sits 5m high and provides an impairment in itself. This would save unnecessary objections and delay for the sake of an extra 100m extension. Otherwise floodwall a good idea.</li> <li>• Would like walls to be on both side to protect Minigaff.</li> </ul>	<p>The next stage of the scheme is to prepare an outline design of the preferred options and to re-run the computer model with this design in place. At this stage there will be opportunity to look into the points raised regarding Minigaff in more detail to see if additional benefits can be gained by altering/ extending the defences.</p>

Issue Raised	Response
<p><b>Dredging</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I think some of the stones and gravel at Cree Bridge should have been removed.</li> <li>Dredging down Wigtown Bay past Creetown to clear silt built up since ships sailed up to collect granite.</li> <li>Remove large gravel berms. General river maintenance.</li> </ul>	<p>A number of options were considered to remove gravel and build-up within the river channel namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Removal of Gravel Berm</li> <li>Removal of Mill Island</li> <li>Remove Sediment Around Key Structures</li> <li>Dredging of River</li> </ul> <p>These options were considered and modelled but the results clearly demonstrated that they did not reduce water levels during a flood event and could not therefore be taken forward. Any dredging may also have a detrimental effect on the stability of the Cree Bridge.</p>
<p><b>Other options</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At the moment a flood wall alone seems to be the only option. Has a combination of different solutions been assessed?</li> <li>Make scheme resilient to tide.</li> <li>Would have been good to see that Challoch had been included in the scheme as it is part of Newton Stewart and floods regularly.</li> <li>The history of the Cree needs to be looked at to hopefully succeed with decisions made for plans to be successful.</li> </ul>	<p>A combination of the different options has been assessed as part of the modelling work. The preferred scheme (direct defences) is being taken forward together with 2 other options which may help to lower the height of the defences.</p> <p>The scheme has been planned taking into account previous events and will be designed to be resilient to future extreme combinations of river flow and tide.</p>
<p><b>Preferred Scheme</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This proposed solution will not work.</li> <li>They did a good job of pushing a poor scheme that will not work. Only answers I could get were the official line and no one seemed interested in alternatives.</li> <li>How is river to be accessed and who will be responsible for deploying demountable defences</li> <li>Walls seem to be the best option and one certainly better than being flooded.</li> <li>If walls are to be built it is important to still be able to see river as a tourist attraction and part of the town's visual appeal for both locals and visitors.</li> <li>I realise that walls will be an essential part of the flood defences but I hope they can be kept as low as possible for the look of the town. Possible use of glass and walls?</li> </ul>	<p>Flood modelling has demonstrated that the proposed solution (direct defences) will protect Newton Stewart from 1 in 200 flood events.</p> <p>Maintaining access to the river, retaining views where possible, and keeping the height of walls as low as possible will all be part of the outline design work which is now being undertaken.</p> <p>A further public engagement event will be held in Newton Stewart to allow people the opportunity to comment on the evolving designs.</p>



### **Further information**

If you require further information on the project please go to the Council's website at [www.dumgal.gov.uk](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk)

Alternatively you can email the Project Team at [newtonstewartFPS@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:newtonstewartFPS@dumgal.gov.uk)

Or telephone **030 33 33 3000**.

# Newton Stewart

## FLOOD PROTECTION SCHEME

Newsletter

Issue No 4

Welcome to our fourth newsletter which provides an update on the Newton Stewart Flood Protection Scheme and the installation of a new pedestrian bridge to replace the Sparling Bridge.

### Flood Protection Scheme

In November 2017 the Newton Stewart Project Team held a VM2 meeting with various stakeholders to consider the short list of 10 options to address flooding in Newton Stewart (which had been taken forward from an initial list of 24 options).

Details of these 10 options were presented and discussed, with the outcome being that the option which had the greatest benefit, and will provide the optimum solution for flooding in Newton Stewart, was Option 6 - Construction of Direct Defences.

It was also found that Option 7, Increase Flow Area beneath the A75 Bridge, and Option 24, Reprofile Land around Scottish Water Pumping Station, whilst not a solution in themselves, do work in conjunction with the preferred option and may result in the reduction in height of the direct defences.



*Attendees at Public Engagement Event*

### Public Engagement Event

A public engagement event was held in Newton Stewart from 30 November to 2 December 2017. The event included a number of display boards and plans. Members of the Project Team were on hand to discuss the scheme and answer any questions.

We'd like to thank all 107 people who attended over the three days, especially those who completed questionnaires and left feedback on the proposals. The main points taken from this feedback was;

- 100% want to see a Flood Protection Scheme provided in Newton Stewart.
- 86% agreed with the approach we are taking in developing a scheme.
- 77% agreed that all the available options to address the flooding have been included and considered.

## Committee Approval

At the meeting of the Council's Economy, Environment and Infrastructure Committee on 23 January 2018 Members agreed the decisions made at the VM2 meeting and agreed to take forward the preferred option of the construction of direct defences (together with supporting options of increasing the flow under the A75 bridge and reprofiling the land adjacent to the Scottish Water pumping station), to the outline design stage.

Full details of the VM2 process, engagement event and feedback, along with the Economy, Environment and Infrastructure Committee report, are available on the Council's project webpage at:

<http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/17043/Newton-Stewart-Flood-Protection-Scheme>



*Attendees at Public Engagement Event*

The preferred options will now be subject to further geotechnical investigation, modelling and outline design.

## Current Timeline

- January/February 2018 - Site and ground investigations. Outline design of preferred option (including Environmental Assessment and VM3 meeting).
- March 2018 - Update report to EEI Committee on the preferred option (Outline design).
- April 2018 - Public engagement event
- May 2018 - Refine preferred option
- May 2018 - Report to EEI Committee to seek approval to publicise the scheme
- May 2018 - Final scheme documents and drawings
- June 2018 - Publish flood order

## Proposed Replacement of Sparling Bridge

Sweco, who are the Principal Designers for the flood defence scheme, have now been appointed to also undertake the design work on the replacement bridge.

Ground investigations at the new site have been completed and design work is well underway. The Council and Sweco are working closely with Sustrans on the design as the new bridge will accommodate both pedestrians and cyclists.

A planning application has now been submitted and this can be viewed on the Council's planning portal; <https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/planning>

It is hoped that the design will be completed in April 2018, followed by a tender process to construct the new bridge in May 2018 with completion programmed for August 2018.

## Further information

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Alternatively you can email the Project Team at [newtonstewartFPS@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:newtonstewartFPS@dumgal.gov.uk)

Or telephone **030 33 33 3000**.

## Newton Stewart Flood Protection Scheme – Summary of Public Engagement 2 Feedback

<p>Total number of questionnaires completed: <b>64</b></p> <p>(124 people attended the event but some did not wish to fill in. Not all questions were completed which is why some of the response figures do not always total to 64).</p>	
<p><b>Have you ever been flooded in your current or previous property?</b></p>	<p>Yes: <b>19</b> (4 advised they had business premises, and 6 residential)</p> <p>No: <b>41</b></p>
<p><b>Do you want to see a Flood Protection Scheme provided in Newton Stewart?</b></p>	<p>Yes: <b>55 (100%)</b> No: <b>0</b></p>
<p><b>Do you agree with the approach we are taking in developing a scheme?</b></p> <p>Yes: <b>49 (82%)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As long as the wooded areas are protected for wildlife.</li> <li>Really like the areas for glass topped walls.</li> <li>Wall building needs all properties to buy into it.</li> </ul> <p>No: <b>11 (12%)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The timescale is shocking.</li> <li>There is not enough urgency. The flood devastated the town and could not cope if it happens again. The high street is quiet as it is.</li> <li>Put the bridge up now!</li> <li>I agree with most of the ideas planned for the defences however I strongly disagree with the absence of any form of clearing the river bed of debris which has built up over the past 100 years – The river MUST be dredged.</li> <li>New bridge is urgent and focus should be on completion of this prior to any other works.</li> <li>You could have provided the Sparling Bridge earlier. Telling the folk of Newton Stewart that the bridge would be opened in September 2018 and then not doing it is inexcusable.</li> <li>Certain issues continue to be ignored – namely attenuation in the upper catchment (ie working with the Forestry Commission) and removing restrictions in the river bed (as required in the Flood Risk Management Act).</li> <li>Don't want a 1.5m wall fencing in the back of our garden destroying views.</li> <li>No sorry, I do not want a 1.6m wall in my garden.</li> <li>New embankment upstream from pumping station would serve no purpose while pumping station is still blocking the flood plain.</li> <li>Very slow process with the bridge disappointing to say the least.</li> <li>Not happy with proposed glass wall – would prefer raised garden level and stone wall and access to river.</li> <li>Concerned about state of the island and discrepancy in water levels of Cree and Penkiln Burn and effect of this on any embankment in severe flooding.</li> <li>Replacing wall entirely from below the water line to new height. Soft engineering outside of town limits.</li> <li>Yes but very concerned about not containing water/allowing flooding upstream.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Would you agree that all the available options to address the flooding have been included and considered?</b></p> <p>Yes: <b>27 (68%)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Having spoken to your representatives I think all options have been considered.</li> <li>Public engagement programmes are a good opportunity to ask whether or not there are things that need to be considered further.</li> </ul> <p>No: <b>13 (32%)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public input</li> <li>Still have worry regarding Sparling Bridge – 1<sup>st</sup> action to be taken is to replace it.</li> <li>I don't have enough information to pass proper comment on this.</li> </ul>	

## Newton Stewart Flood Protection Scheme – Summary of Public Engagement 2 Feedback

- Consideration not given to original main bridge structure which needs to be rectified due to transport as well as pedestrian access to medical centre. At present pavement access dangerous.
- Unsure – primarily concerned (reason for coming today) re delay of new footbridge until next year. However, the reason for the delays were adequately explained to me.
- Timescale.
- Rivers need managing and this has never been done. Right after the last flood excavators should have been in the river removing rock and gravel build up. This is done throughout Europe where water from the hills flows through towns and villages.
- SEPA are responsible for blocking the dredging of the river. They need to be accountable for any future damage from floods – financially!
- Maintenance of road drainage (Millcroft Road) and residential ‘soak away’ drains?
- I would have thought dredging river bed would have helped.
- The trees and island on east side of the river and the bank of gravel on the west side below the original Cree Bridge should be removed.
- Items highlighted in the Solway Flood Management Plan have not been carried out.
- Virtually no Community involvement in the design of Sparling Bridge. Everything presented as a ‘Fait Accompli’.
- I believe maximising the flow of the river by taking away the excess stone and debris would be more effective.
- I still believe cleaning the river bank of all the debris would be effective.
- Pumping Station blockage and rubbish build up in river has not been addressed at all.
- Moving rubble out of river.
- I would still like to see a lot of the berm removed below the Cree Bridge. Lots of shrubs and trees starting to appear. Good luck with this massive challenge.
- Stones need to be removed from below the main bridge.
- Upstream storage needs to be considered.

### Have you been kept up to date with the project?

Yes: **37** No: **15**

(Additional data was also gathered here about the communication methods people would like used which will assist the team in future. Email addresses were also left so we can contact people with updates direct).

### Thoughts on the visit;

Venue was suitable and well located: Yes: **53 (100%)** No: **0**

Staff were helpful and available: Yes: **53 (100%)** No: **0**

Plans/boards were well presented and easy to follow: Yes: **52 (100%)** No: **0**

Visit was informative and worthwhile: Yes: **51 (98%)** No: **1 (2%)**

Process and options chosen were well explained: Yes: **47 (94%)** No: **3 (6%)**

Positive comments:

- Have learned more today.
- Staff were very helpful in explaining the process and details of the project. Thank you!

Other comments:

- Detail is important at this stage and you state design options are next – need them first.
- Reason for the delays in the promised completion date for Sparling Bridge was not explained satisfactorily in spite of questioning.
- Map of catchment area would help visualize the need.
- Sorry to give Council staff hard time!

## Newton Stewart Flood Protection Scheme – Summary of Public Engagement 2 Feedback

### Additional comments:

- Nothing done in 3 years.
- Property sits on the edge of river. Suggested 1.9m height wall will not be acceptable due to proximity to our house (2m ie our living room with patio doors). Height of base wall is higher than current wall and suggestion is that it may need to be thicker and encroach further onto our garden. Glass wall on top of this will be an eyesore and ruin the reason we bought the property. Feelings are you may as well brick up my windows. Glass walls are industrial looking and suitable for sides of town but not outside my window. Seepage may also affect thickness of wall. Apart from living with this eyesore you have ruled out the option of using this as a holiday let as no one would want to go outside behind a solid glass wall.
- I am not technically minded and unfortunately have not taken an interest in the development. My life experience has been that decisions are taken above my head and public consultations are publicity and placatory events.
- The matter of the replacement bridge is at the forefront of my visit. My disable mother cannot use the existing bridge safely and has basically been stuck in her house since the flood. It is only a bridge across the Cree and not the Solway Firth.
- There does seem to be an amount of uncertainty and confusion re installation of Sparling Bridge and generally a frustration of residents. D & G Council being 'highlighted' as 'dragging their feet' regarding the proposal.
- This is all a bit late.
- I sincerely hope that feedback from the public will actually be taken into consideration.
- My hope is that the work proceeds as quickly as possible.
- Do something about the buses.
- When are we getting our walking bridge back?
- I hope that the timelines for this work are adhere to and that any problems are notified to the Community Council as they arise.
- Sorry that the Sparling Bridge is taking so long to build but the team explained the reasons which are completely understandable. Thank you all.
- Sparling Bridge very sorely needed sooner rather than later due to danger on Cree Bridge.
- Get on with it A.S.A.P.
- When is the bridge being started and finished – realistic answers would be good instead of maybe's.
- Please just get Sparling Bridge build A.S.A.P.
- I hope that there does not have to be an accident on the old bridge to make you get a move on with the Sparling Bridge.
- Impressed by the commitment of the D&G staff to inform the public.
- There is no mention of flood prevention in the 10 year Forestry Commission Forest Management Plan. There must be more co-operation and input from the Scottish Govt.
- Make Forestry Commission address the land drainage problem they have created when deforested.
- Why did Planning Department approve pumping station when planning application stated area was not subject to flooding. This is not the case.
- The plans laid out in my opinion failed to address the issues residents deem to be important.
- Would like confirmation that embankment will follow line of former Meal Mill lade.
- Would have liked to have seen more engagements.
- I'm really concerned about the extensive spread of Japanese Knotweed – it is clearly visible from Mortons to Goods Land on the riverbank and spreading onto the highway. At Mortons Lane and into Sainsbury's car park.

## Newton Stewart Flood Protection Scheme – Summary of Public Engagement 2 Feedback

### Response to points made (by topic)

<p><b>Forestry</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is no mention of flood prevention in the 10 year Forestry Commission Forest Management Plan. There must be more co-operation and input from the Scottish Government.</li> <li>• Make Forestry Commission address the land drainage problem they have created when deforested.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Response</b></p> <p>Over 70% of the hydrological catchment (370km<sup>2</sup>) to the north of Newton Stewart is land managed by the Forestry Commission. There are a number of Land Management Plans (LMP) available from the Forestry Commission website, such as the Upper Cree catchment and the Penninghame LMP which is situated directly to the north west of Newton Stewart. These plans outline forest management until 2030, and shows no greater than 10% of the forested area is planned to be felled during any single 5 year window. Felled trees are planned to be replaced by broadleaf trees that may be used in the future for commercial purposes, and have been chosen to promote biodiversity within the catchment. As these broadleaf will be a replacement for those felled, no new areas of drainage are planned for construction and hence no impact on the peak flows over the long-term is expected.</p> <p>Additional provision of new habitat within the LMP's includes the restoration of bog habitats and the provision of wetlands. While the aims of these interventions are primarily to promote biodiversity, their provision will additionally act as Natural Flood Management (NFM) to attenuate small volumes of runoff within the upper catchment.</p> <p>Consultation with the Forestry Commission has taken place throughout the project.</p>
<p><b>Upstream Storage and NFM</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certain issues continue to be ignored – namely attenuation in the upper catchment (ie working with the Forestry Commission) and removing restrictions in the river bed (as required in the Flood Risk Management Act).</li> <li>• Yes but very concerned about not containing water/allowing flooding upstream</li> <li>• Upstream storage needs to be considered.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Response</b></p> <p>Extensive consideration was given to these matters from the outset of the scheme with numerous options on upstream storage and NFM being modelled and benefits assessed.</p> <p>None of these options have a positive benefit cost ratio, or had extensive negative impacts, and could therefore not be taken forward to the preferred option stage.</p> <p>A document has been prepared which details how upstream storage and natural flood management techniques are considered (entitled 'Review of Potential Natural Flood Management Techniques 27 November 2017') and is available on the Council's website.</p>
<p><b>Sparling Bridge</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New bridge is urgent and focus should be on completion of this prior to any other works.</li> <li>• You could have provided the Sparling Bridge earlier. Telling the folk of Newton Stewart that the bridge would be open in September 2018 and then not doing it is inexcusable.</li> <li>• Very slow process with the bridge disappointing to say the least.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Response</b></p> <p>When the project was redefined to provide a bespoke designed bridge at a new location in 2017 it was hoped this would lead to a bridge being in place by 2018. In hindsight this was perhaps too ambitious and an underestimation of the work required to bring this project to completion. The Project Team have done everything possible to try and replace the bridge in</p>

## Newton Stewart Flood Protection Scheme – Summary of Public Engagement 2 Feedback

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Still have worry regarding Sparling Bridge – especially since 1<sup>st</sup> action to be taken is to replace it.</li> <li>• Unsure – primarily concerned (reason for coming today) re delay of new footbridge until next year. However, the reason for the delays were adequately explained to me.</li> <li>• The matter of the replacement bridge is at the forefront of my visit. My disable mother cannot use the existing bridge safely and has basically been stuck in her house since the flood. It is only a bridge across the Cree and not the Solway Firth.</li> <li>• There does seem to be an amount of uncertainty and confusion re installation of Sparling Bridge and generally a frustration of residents. D&amp;G Council being ‘highlighted’ as ‘dragging their feet’ regarding the proposal.</li> <li>• When are we getting our walking bridge back?</li> <li>• Sorry that the Sparling Bridge is taking so long to build but the team explained the reasons which are completely understandable. Thank you all.</li> <li>• Sparling Bridge very sorely needed sooner rather than later due to road danger on Cree Bridge.</li> <li>• When is the bridge being started and finished – realistic answers would be good instead of maybe’s.</li> <li>• Please just get Sparling Bridge build A.S.A.P.</li> <li>• I hope that there does not have to be an accident on the old bridge to make you get a move on with the Sparling Bridge.</li> </ul>	<p>2018 but a combination of factors has meant this has not been possible.</p> <p>Following the decision taken to design a new bridge, the following work and improvements have been made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better/preferred location chosen by the Community.</li> <li>• New bridge will be both a pedestrian and cycle bridge which is accessible by all users.</li> <li>• Project has successfully accessed Sustrans funding for both design and construction (50% of design will be approximately £55k, and 50% of construction approximately £250k).</li> <li>• Flagship bridge for Newton Stewart which will be designated and promoted as an exemplar project by Sustrans.</li> </ul> <p>Unfortunately the time required to undertake the necessary tender process to appoint a contractor, and to give them sufficient time to mobilise and prepare the site, would not leave a sufficient period to carry out any meaningful work before the construction period ends (the SEPA licence to work in a river environment, which includes the floodplains, expires at the end of September).</p> <p>The decision has therefore been taken to postpone the building of the bridge until 2019. Whilst we fully appreciate that this will mean Newton Stewart will remain without a dedicated pedestrian/cycle bridge again this year we feel that this postponement will ultimately lead to the provision of a substantially improved project due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Longer lead in time allowing better planning of works.</li> <li>• Likely to receive lower tender prices given less disruption/constraints.</li> <li>• End product of much higher quality.</li> <li>• Construction during ‘best weather’ months.</li> <li>• Maximise SEPA licence window.</li> <li>• Additional lead in time will allow further review of the project to ensure maximum co-ordination and tie-in with the design of the main flood protection scheme.</li> </ul> <p>A Prior Information Notice (PIN) has now been published on Public Contracts Scotland website. This notice details the works required to construct the bridge and allows interested parties to meet with the Council and begin preparatory work in advance of the tender.</p> <p>A new timetable/programme has been prepared as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• June 2018 – complete tender documents and drawings.</li> <li>• June 2018 – issue (Prior Information Notice) PIN notice on Public Contracts Scotland to</li> </ul>
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## Newton Stewart Flood Protection Scheme – Summary of Public Engagement 2 Feedback

	<p>enable interested parties to express interest, visit site, consider supply chains etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• July 2018 - conclude land and access agreements.</li> <li>• Late 2018/early 2019 - issue tender.</li> <li>• Early 2019 - award contract.</li> <li>• March/April 2019 - site set-up and initial works.</li> <li>• April/May 2019 – main work to start on site.</li> <li>• August 2019 – completion.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Scottish Water Pumping Station</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New embankment upstream from pumping station would serve no purpose while pumping station is still blocking the flood plain.</li> <li>• Why did Planning Department approve pumping station when planning application stated area was not subject to flooding. This is not the case.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Response</b></p> <p>Removal of substantial structures would not be cost effective options and were not therefore included in the scheme. Re-profiling (lowering) of the land near to the station has been considered and is to be included in any potential scheme to create additional flow capacity and lower the height of direct defences.</p>
<p><b>Proposed Defences</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wall building needs all properties to buy into it.</li> <li>• Really like the areas for glass topped walls</li> <li>• Don't want a 1.5m wall fencing in the back of our garden destroying views.</li> <li>• No sorry, I do not want a 1.6m wall in my garden.</li> <li>• Not happy with proposed glass wall – would prefer raised garden level and stone wall and access to river.</li> <li>• Property sits on the edge of river. Suggested 1.9m height wall will not be acceptable due to proximity to our house (2m ie our living room with patio doors). Height of base wall is higher than current wall and suggestion is that it may need to be thicker and encroach further onto our garden. Glass wall on top of this will be an eyesore and ruin the reason we bought the property. Feelings are you may as well brick up my windows. Glass walls are industrial looking and suitable for sides of town but not outside my window. Seepage may also affect thickness of wall. Apart from living with this eyesore you have ruled out the option of using this as a holiday let as no one would want to go outside behind a solid glass wall.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Response</b></p> <p>The location and height of defences are as a result of extensive modelling and planning and are designed to protect Newton Stewart from flood events up to the 1 in 200 year level.</p> <p>As a result of comments received the Project Team will continue to refine the proposals where possible and will work with affected parties as the scheme progresses to Flood Order.</p>
<p><b>Dredging</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I agree with most of the ideas planned for the defences however I strongly disagree with the absence of any form of clearing the river bed of debris which has built up over the past 100 years – The river MUST be dredged.</li> <li>• Concerned about state of the island and discrepancy in water levels of Cree and Penkiln Burn and effect of this on any embankment in severe flooding.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Response</b></p> <p>A number of options were considered to remove gravel and build-up within the river channel namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removal of Gravel Berm</li> <li>• Removal of Mill Island</li> <li>• Remove Sediment Around Key Structures</li> <li>• Dredging of River</li> </ul> <p>These options were considered and modelled but the results clearly demonstrated that they did not reduce water levels during a flood event and could not</p>

## Newton Stewart Flood Protection Scheme – Summary of Public Engagement 2 Feedback

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rivers need managing and this has never been done. Right after the last flood excavators should have been in the river removing rock and gravel build up. This is done throughout Europe where water from the hills flows through towns and villages.</li> <li>• SEPA are responsible for blocking the dredging of the river. They need to be accountable for any future damage from floods – financially!</li> <li>• I would have thought dredging river bed would have helped.</li> <li>• The trees and island on east of the river and the bank of gravel on the west side below the original Cree Bridge should be removed.</li> <li>• I believe maximising the flow of the river by taking away the excess stone and debris would be more effective.</li> <li>• I still believe cleaning the river bank of all debris would be effective.</li> <li>• Pumping Station blockage and rubbish build up in river has not been addressed at all.</li> <li>• Moving rubble out of river.</li> <li>• I would still like to see a lot of the berm removed below the Cree Bridge. Lots of shrubs and trees starting to appear. Good luck with this massive challenge.</li> <li>• Stones need to be removed from below the main bridge.</li> </ul>	<p>therefore be taken forward. Any dredging may also have a detrimental effect on the stability of the Cree Bridge.</p>
<p><b>General</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As long as the wooded areas are protected for wildlife</li> <li>• The timescale is shocking.</li> <li>• There is not enough urgency. The flood devastated the town and could not cope if it happens again. The high street is quiet as it is.</li> <li>• Having spoken to your representatives I think all options have been considered.</li> <li>• Consideration not given to original main bridge structure which needs to be rectified due to transport as well as pedestrian access to medical centre. At present pavement access dangerous.</li> <li>• Items highlighted in the Solway Flood Management Plan have not been carried out.</li> <li>• My hope is that the work proceeds as quickly as possible.</li> <li>• Do something about the buses.</li> <li>• Would like confirmation that embankment will follow line of former Meal Mill lade.</li> <li>• I'm really concerned about the extensive spread of Japanese Knotweed – it is clearly visible from Mortons to Goods Land on the riverbank and spreading onto the highway. At Mortons Lane and into Sainsbury's car park.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Response</b></p> <p>The Project Team will take all comments and issues raised on board to assist in the design of the scheme.</p> <p>There will for example be an Environmental study to ensure wildlife is protected and issues such as the Japanese Knotweed are addressed.</p> <p>The design of the defences and the need to follow a set process mean that the time taken is unavoidable.</p> <p>The scheme will include measures to prevent 'secondary flooding' ie behind the defences' from excess surface and drainage waters.</p>

## Newton Stewart Flood Protection Scheme – Summary of Public Engagement 2 Feedback

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintenance of road drainage (Millcroft Road) and residential 'soak away' drains?</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Community Engagement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public engagement programmes are a good opportunity to ask whether or not there are things that need to be considered further</li> <li>• Virtually no Community involvement in the design of Sparling Bridge. Everything presented as a 'Fait Accompli'.</li> <li>• I am not technically minded and unfortunately have not taken an interest in the development. My life experience has been that decisions are taken above my head and public consultations are publicity and placatory events.</li> <li>• I sincerely hope that feedback from the public will actually be taken into consideration.</li> <li>• I hope that the timelines for this work are adhere to and that any problems are notified to the Community Council as they arise.</li> <li>• Would have liked to have seen more engagements.</li> <li>• Impressed by the commitment of the D&amp;G staff to inform the public.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Response</b></p> <p>The Flood scheme (and the replacement of Sparling Bridge) have been designed in conjunction with extensive Community Engagement including numerous meetings with local Members, Cree Valley Community Council, statutory bodies, and the public at two 3 day engagement events. There have also been regular newsletters delivered to those affected by the flood events and a project website for interested parties to view and access all the scheme plans and documents,</p>

# Newton Stewart

## FLOOD PROTECTION SCHEME

Newsletter

Issue No 5

**Welcome to our fifth newsletter which provides an update on the Newton Stewart Flood Protection Scheme and the final works on the Sparling Bridge Project.**

### Flood Protection Scheme

There has been a delay in progressing the Scheme due to COVID-19 impacts and the Project Team consider that it is important to re-engage with people as it is some time since we have provided any additional information.

Accordingly, we have produced further online information which can now be found on the project webpage at <https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/newtonstewartfloodprotection>

This includes new display boards and a presentation on the Scheme as well as the full background and details of the project.

As soon as COVID-19 restrictions allow we will commence direct engagement with the landowners and the people most affected by the Scheme (principally those along the riverside where defences will limit views or where land is required for works). There will then be a drop-in session held in Newton Stewart prior to publication of the Scheme (late summer 2021).

This publication includes a 28 day period where anyone can make representation (or submit an objection) regarding the Scheme.

There is a detailed timeline for the project on the webpage with all the various stages in progressing the Scheme. Whilst construction is not scheduled until 2024/25, which is much later than originally hoped, this is a realistic timeframe based on similar schemes.

If all goes well this could be delivered earlier, but equally so there could be delays which mean it could be delayed further. We will however continuously review this timetable and provide updates as we progress the various stages.

At Full Council on 25 March 2021 funding was confirmed for 2021/22 to progress the Newton Stewart Scheme as a Priority Project.

**A Scheme overview board which includes images of how the scheme could look can be found on the reverse of this newsletter.**

### Sparling Bridge

Work to replace the Sparling Bridge was undertaken in 2019 with opening in November of that year.

There were a few further 'finishing' works needed and some of these were undertaken in 2020 but could not be completed because of COVID-19 restrictions and the need for favourable weather conditions. The final phase of work is planned for Spring 2021 and these can be done with the bridge remaining open.

### Further information

If you require further information please go to the see the website (above), email the Project Team at [newtonstewartfps@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:newtonstewartfps@dumgal.gov.uk) or telephone **030 33 33 3000**

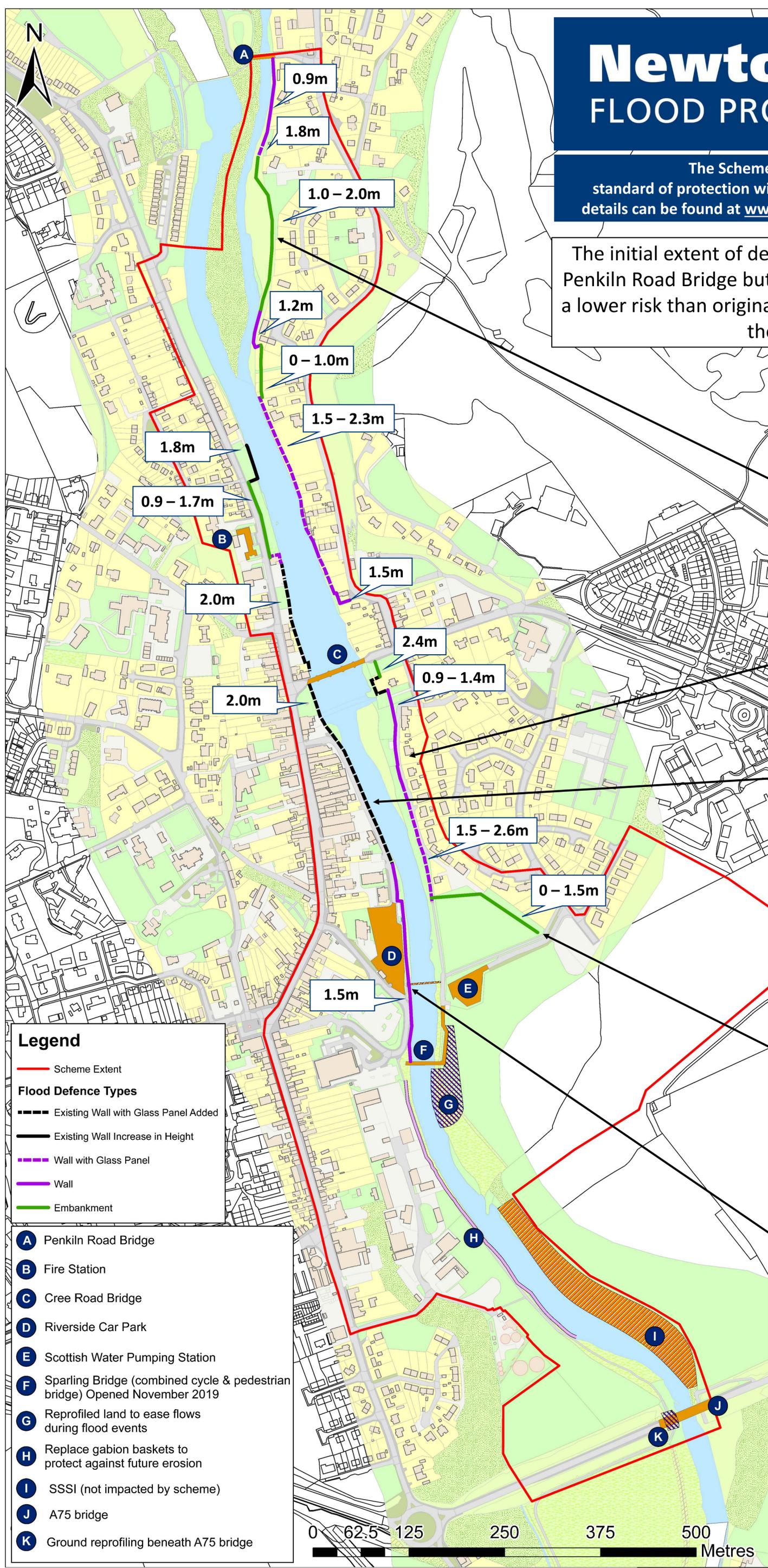
**SWECO** 

# Newton Stewart FLOOD PROTECTION SCHEME

Appendix 8

The Scheme is designed to provide a 1 in 200 standard of protection with construction estimated for 2024/25. Further details can be found at [www.dumgal.gov.uk/newtonstewartfloodprotection](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/newtonstewartfloodprotection)

The initial extent of defences included a section north of the Penkiln Road Bridge but further modelling found this area is at a lower risk than originally thought and is therefore not part of the current Scheme.



**Legend**

- Scheme Extent
- Existing Wall with Glass Panel Added
- Existing Wall Increase in Height
- Wall with Glass Panel
- Wall
- Embankment

- A** Penkiln Road Bridge
- B** Fire Station
- C** Cree Road Bridge
- D** Riverside Car Park
- E** Scottish Water Pumping Station
- F** Sparling Bridge (combined cycle & pedestrian bridge) Opened November 2019
- G** Reprofiled land to ease flows during flood events
- H** Replace gabion baskets to protect against future erosion
- I** SSSI (not impacted by scheme)
- J** A75 bridge
- K** Ground reprofiling beneath A75 bridge



## Newton Stewart Flood Protection Scheme – Engagement Week Briefing Note

### Visits to Drop-In (McMillan Hall)

Despite extensive advertising (800 flyers delivered, notices in town and social media) the drop-in was poorly attended – only about 66 people over the 4 days. Not sure this is because most people are familiar with the Scheme (eg very good webpage, newsletters and previous events) or perhaps because of COVID-19.

### Property Visits

Approximately 30 site visits were made (out of the 74 'most affected properties' contacted).

This was a very positive and worthwhile exercise with most owners/residents supportive of the Scheme. Overriding aspect however was that the majority of people wanted a more definitive defence height and alignment as without this they were unable to confirm if they would be making representation or objection.

It also gave the Project Team a better understanding of some of the challenges faced and improvements/changes needed to the Scheme drawings.

### Project Team Discussion

The Project Team discussed the request for additional information on heights and alignments and agreed that a 'hybrid' design between outline and detailed was perhaps needed. This would involve additional property surveys and inspections followed by drafting of additional plans and information. This to be done pre-publication with information posted to owners with the offer of further discussion.

Whilst this exercise certainly has both cost, and time (delay to publication) implications, it is felt it will have the benefit of reducing objections to the Scheme and the survey work would be needed at some stage in the project anyway.

Accordingly, Sweco are seeking costs and timescales for this additional work and hopefully we will have the information back in the next few weeks to decide on the way forward.

Project Team are also going to meet and review the Scheme drawings as the site visits highlighted a few issues which need more accurate detailing.

### Next Steps

Once further information is received from Sweco, look to preparing a scope for procuring/seeking prices from survey companies.

Look to report to the Communities Committee in early December on these points and seek approval to carry out further survey work and preparation of additional information. Assess effect on programme (but highlight benefits of doing this work and that time/cost saving will be made later in the Scheme).

This Committee Report also to seek approval to allocate additional £30k to undertake design work on the Erosion Protection (Core Path) for reason previously highlighted.

# Newton Stewart

## FLOOD PROTECTION SCHEME

Newsletter

Issue No 6

**Welcome to our sixth Community Newsletter which provides an update on the Newton Stewart Flood Protection Scheme and the forthcoming publication process.**

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Work on the Newton Stewart Flood Protection Scheme has progressed through the outline design phase and now has a preferred Scheme which will provide a 1 in 200 year standard of protection.

The Council formally agreed to the publication of the Scheme at the meeting of the Council's Communities Committee on 10 February 2023 with a continued funding commitment agreed at Full Council on 28 February.

The next stage in the project is to publish the Scheme and this will take place in May 2023. This is similar to a 'planning application' process and will begin with notices placed in the local press, around the town, with letters posted to all properties affected by the Scheme.

A more detailed briefing note on the forthcoming publication process can be found on the project website at: [www.dumgal.gov.uk/newtonstewartfloodprotection](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/newtonstewartfloodprotection) (A printed/hard copy can be sent upon request).

By way of summary, the publication includes a 28-day period where anyone can make a representation (or submit an objection) regarding the proposals contained within the documents which will be available to view online or in hard copy at the Newton Stewart Library. The Project Team will also be available at the McMillan Hall on one day each week during this 28-day period.

We will also hold a pre-publication engagement session to provide the community with more detailed information on the process, how to submit representations, timescales, next steps, and on the Scheme itself. Flyers, notices, social media notices etc. will be produced and circulated when proposed times are known.

The purpose of publication of a Scheme is to notify the public with an interest in land and statutory consultees of the Council's intention to propose a Flood Protection Scheme. The Council is legally required to publish Scheme documents which show, in outline only, the defences proposed, and the extent of the land affected. This is limited to descriptions and drawings in sufficient detail to identify and understand the proposed defences. There is no requirement at this stage in the process to provide detailed or precise information (including drawings), or to obtain any formal agreements from owners.

If the Scheme is confirmed following publication, there will then be a detailed design phase which will include production of construction drawings, land entry agreements, individual engagement with affected owners etc. At this stage it is anticipated that construction will start in 2025, with completion in 2027.

A Scheme overview board can be found on the reverse of this newsletter.

### Further information

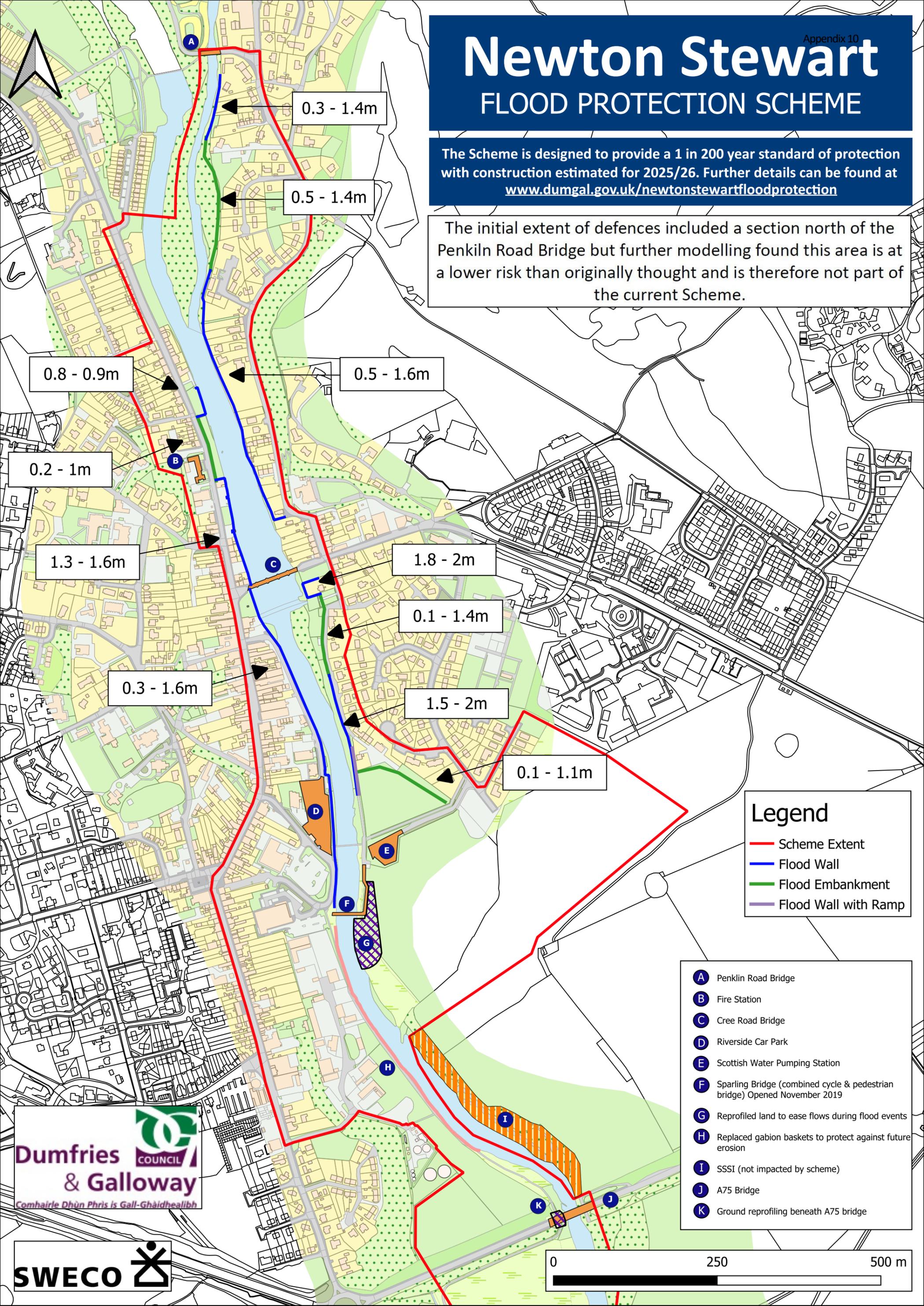
If you require further information, please go to the website (above or scan the QR code on the right), email the Project Team at [newtonstewartfps@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:newtonstewartfps@dumgal.gov.uk) or telephone 030 33 33 3000



# Newton Stewart FLOOD PROTECTION SCHEME

The Scheme is designed to provide a 1 in 200 year standard of protection with construction estimated for 2025/26. Further details can be found at [www.dumgal.gov.uk/newtonstewartfloodprotection](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/newtonstewartfloodprotection)

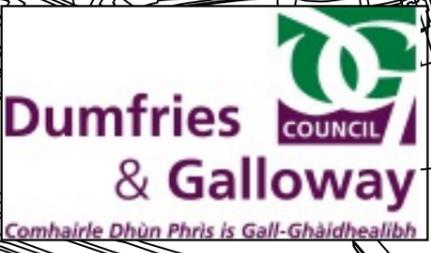
The initial extent of defences included a section north of the Penkiln Road Bridge but further modelling found this area is at a lower risk than originally thought and is therefore not part of the current Scheme.



### Legend

- Scheme Extent
- Flood Wall
- Flood Embankment
- Flood Wall with Ramp

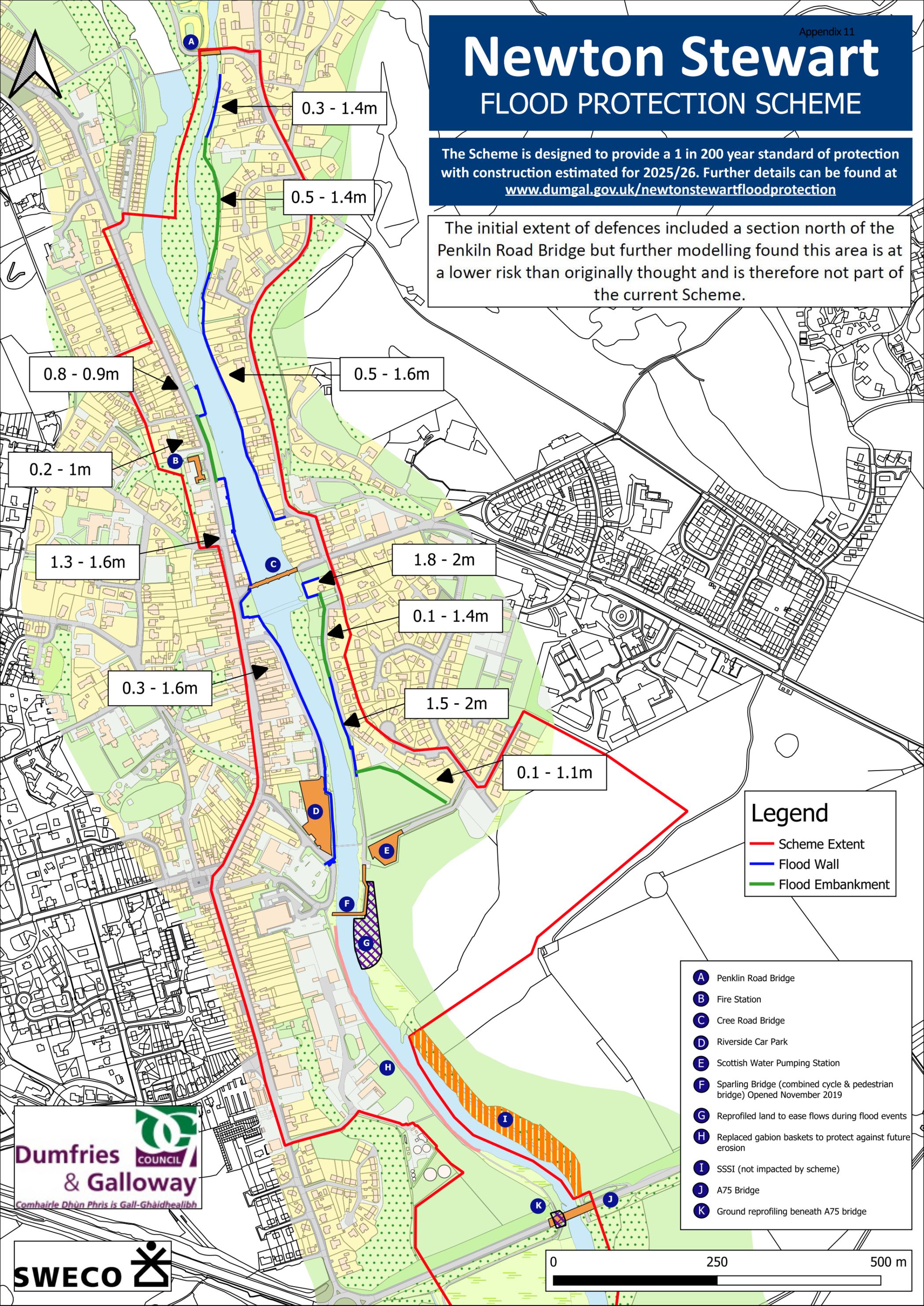
- A** Penkiln Road Bridge
- B** Fire Station
- C** Cree Road Bridge
- D** Riverside Car Park
- E** Scottish Water Pumping Station
- F** Sparling Bridge (combined cycle & pedestrian bridge) Opened November 2019
- G** Reprofiled land to ease flows during flood events
- H** Replaced gabion baskets to protect against future erosion
- I** SSSI (not impacted by scheme)
- J** A75 Bridge
- K** Ground reprofiling beneath A75 bridge



# Newton Stewart FLOOD PROTECTION SCHEME

The Scheme is designed to provide a 1 in 200 year standard of protection with construction estimated for 2025/26. Further details can be found at [www.dumgal.gov.uk/newtonstewartfloodprotection](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/newtonstewartfloodprotection)

The initial extent of defences included a section north of the Penklin Road Bridge but further modelling found this area is at a lower risk than originally thought and is therefore not part of the current Scheme.



0.3 - 1.4m

0.5 - 1.4m

0.8 - 0.9m

0.5 - 1.6m

0.2 - 1m

1.3 - 1.6m

1.8 - 2m

0.3 - 1.6m

0.1 - 1.4m

1.5 - 2m

0.1 - 1.1m

**Legend**

- Scheme Extent
- Flood Wall
- Flood Embankment

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**Dumfries & Galloway**  
COUNCIL  
Comhairle Dhùn Phris is Gall-Ghàidhealbh

**SWECO**

