



SUMMARY OF SECOND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FEEDBACK (FEBRUARY 2020)

Total number of questionnaires completed: 158

(208 people attended the event. Not all questions were completed in some instances which is why some of the response figures do not always total to 158).

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

Yes: 10 (6%) No: 148 (94%)

(We are aware that Langholm has not experienced significant flooding to property, but it is always worthwhile to ask the question in case there were any instances of floods which had not been recorded).

Do you want to see a Flood Protection Scheme provided in Langholm?

Yes: 115 (78%) No: 32 (22%)

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

Yes: 90 (63%) No: 53 (37%)

- (Agree) but only to a limited degree.
- As long as you stick to the plans like the runoff in the park.
- Uncertain.
- Undecided.
- Yes and no. Realise that there are problem areas.

Do you have a preferred option?

Yes: 101 (70%) No: 43 (30%)

If Yes, which of these do you prefer?

Option 1 Direct Defences **33 (33%)**

Option 2 Direct Defences and Overflow Channel **49 (49%)**

Option 3 Direct Defences and Realigned Channel **19 (18%)**

Reasons for choice/comments on Option 1:

- Option 1 is the best one as it would not ruin the park.
- Appreciate wall heights may be greater in some areas but this can be mitigated via design, more glass as an example.
- It covers the areas I felt were vulnerable.
- I've ticked Option 1, but don't mind which option is taken forward as long as is sympathetic to surroundings.
- Option 1 seems to be reasonable with no ditch in park. Caroline St has not flooded in 80+ years though water lapping near road in 1977 (Oct). Action needs to be taken at Corseholm corner where water was over in Aug 1919. Wall seriously needs repair.
- Not spoiling the play area and park.
- I am not convinced that creating a channel through the park offers the correct solution – the houses of Caroline St have never flooded!!
- Retains river courses as they are.
- The overflow channel (2) + the realigned channel will direct the water towards our property, increasing the chance of erosion at the waterside.
- Overflow channel will have limited benefits and affect natural landscape of the park, including future maintenance/landscaping. I remember the park being totally flooded in 60's and 70's which has rarely happened since. Direct defences will also detract from the natural riverine landscape of the town.
- Not convinced of benefits of overflow channel through park. It will impact on plans for the park. Would like access to Cogie too for bird watching and recreation for children.
- Concern re: War Memorial Park – concern re: trees.
- Defences Elizabeth St, Mary St not necessary up at roadside should be down at river level. Height to top of garden fences (these would be solid because not obstructing view). Park does not need to be touched but if this goes ahead some form of bridge across waterway needed for access to Easton's walk path route (Also health and safety).

Reasons for choice/comments on Option 2:

- I think it looks great and a huge benefit to Langholm.
- Think this is the best option.
- Best option for defence and not causing disruption to any views or obstruction to river use.
- Protects existing environment of park, in comparison with the more extreme consequences of Option 3. Total scheme as displayed on video add to the attractiveness of the street scene.
- Looks like less disruption to the community. Lower wall heights. Would include community park.

Reasons for choice/comments on Option 2 (continued):

- Not qualified to make technical judgements. The greater good of the community as a whole seems to lie in the protection of the community itself. The choice seems to lie between adequate protection with some diminution of amenity or the risk of flooding with the costs of insurance etc of that plus those of the devastation. If the risk materialises, protection is better than being flooded.
- The explanations appear to favour this option. I'm not an engineer and rely on professional advice. I like the proposals and designs.
- Least intrusive, with best results.
- Middle ground.
- I feel realignment runs the risk of "going against nature".
- Realigned channel will cause pressure by the church + wider footpath by the Mill buildings.
- If we have to have change it seems the best and most effective protection.
- Keep walls/embankments to lower level.
- Best compromise.
- I'm not sure about realigning Wauchope Water; and I know Buccleuch Park project have spent years raising money and although the channel is in the park, I think it could still be for the best as the park gets flooded anyway. At the end of the day – it is important that we do have a flood defence, and I will be happy with any approach and be thankful that the risk to our town is being addressed.
- I have selected option 2 but would not like to see major changes within the park and it is very picturesque, well used by the public including children and we also have the War Memorial.
- Overview of preferred Option gives good idea of how things will look.
- A good balance of all options. Minimises impacts of the work.
- Most versatile not as drastic as 3.
- Least intrusive.
- Most in keeping with the landscape.
- It looks the best option despite the impact on the park.
- Looks the most effective without realigning the river.
- Level of protection, plus less damage to the park area, better than option 1.
- Protection for riverside properties. Least interference with the park. Good plan altogether!
- The best of the 3 options, if you continue with the protection plan.
- Retain river at Caroline St for the majority of year.
- Keep river alignment the same along Caroline St.
- From what you are offering it is the best option however, there would be more effect damming up stream and creating flood zones to control flow.
- I would rather not to have a wall but if I really have to choose then I would go for Option 2. I have in good authority the wall being 1.2. I would not want the wall being built any higher. I am also not happy about the trees being taken away. Yes, you can replant but I think you will agree Elizabeth St is a pretty street to live on. I would not want it spoilt.
- Option 2 looks ok, but do walls and banks need to be so high? Don't like the embankments looks a huge job – is there enough money? Walls need plenty of grass.
- Option 2 only as a last resort if we have to have something. Catherine St has never flooded in the last 80+ years. The water always flows with the park.

Reasons for choice/comments on Option 3:

- Looks like it will work to a greater extent than the other options.
- I would prefer river being moved as it would allow more space where river was.
- This gives less intrusion to Buccleuch Park. Other issue protection of Townfoot for elderly development when flood defences in place needs urgent re-appraisal by SEPA.
- I prefer Option 3 as the wall that will be erected along Elizabeth street is not as offensive as expected and the diversion in Caroline street seems a very good option.
- Because of embankment instead of wall.
- Less need for wall defence along Caroline street. More forward-looking provision for the future.
- Less walls.

Miscellaneous:

- Whatever is chosen please get this done as quickly as possible.
- Fundamental issues with all of the displayed options.
- I think the flood wall would be overflowed if the infill of Wauchope River was implemented.
- Don't know enough to select an option.
- All them will effect the natural look of the river, embankments are a better option as this keeps a natural look. Don't start a problem before one is caused.
- The experts know better than me.
- I'm pleased to accept the recommendation of the Council & RPS on this matter.
- Langholm would benefit from any of the schemes above.
- Option 3 not applicable.
- I think option 3 is totally unacceptable. The idea of filling in the Wauchope fills me with horror.

Thoughts on the visit:

Venue was suitable and well located: **Yes: 127 (98%) No: 2 (2%)**

Staff were helpful and available: **Yes: 125 (98%) No: 2 (2%)**

Plans/boards were well presented and easy to follow: **Yes: 123 (95%) No: 6 (5%)**

Visit was informative and worthwhile: **Yes: 117 (94%) No: 8 (6%)**

Process and options chosen were well explained: **Yes: 109 (93%) No: 8 (7%)**

Comments on Specific Issues

The completed questionnaires included numerous comments on a variety of subjects. These have been grouped together under specific headings with the Project Team providing a response. These are detailed on the following pages.

Sediment Management (Dredging)

38 comments were made on this subject.

- I have heard all the arguments against dredging but the huge gravel bank in front of Elisabeth St. formed when Storm Desmond came, and I believe it should be removed.
- Don't understand why the river can't be dredged.
- Clean gravel out of the river.
- River dredging worked in the past. Builders were allowed to take loads of gravel out for their construction/foundations.
- Dredging section between bridges would also increase capacity upland flooding zones would also help control flow. Pay farmers to use their land for flood zones.
- Dredge rivers regularly and Langholm would not have a flood risk. Option 1 with dredging years of built up of stone would be enough.
- The river is too shallow on a key bend below the confluence of Wauchope River. This restriction causes levels to rise more rapidly than necessary at every rainfall. Cleaning all gravel obstructions will help keep levels all along the Esk at lowest possible levels, thus maximising the time available for heavy rain to dissipate. Dredging or excavating to increase minimum flow would please lots of Langholmmites.
- Definitely think dredging should be considered. Walls if still needed would be lower.
- Please dredge the river, walls can be slightly lower. Use glass on walls where possible.
- Not convinced proposed scheme will work and costs will rocket. Believe riverbed between bridges needs to be dug out and right-hand arch of Church bridge also to ensure free flow of water away from town.
- Look at short term solutions like dredging in the interim. Not convinced by feasibility and budget.
- I think you should start by cleaning out gravel on riverbed first.
- Would like to see area dredged.
- Seems too much for the level of risk, some attempt to clear built up sediment along Elizabeth street side at the River Esk and around Church bridge would allow the water to flow better and not back up.
- Dredge – River goes up and down very quickly, scheme is overkill. Walls too high.
- Far too much money. Take out gravel bed.
- Dredge the rivers is all that is needed.
- Clean out river.
- Dredge the river as previous.
- As a very inexpensive experiment the dredging should be carried out prior to any other scheme to prove this is as ineffective as suggested.

Sediment Management (Dredging) Continued:

- Take gravel built up away as it always worked beforehand.
- Remove gravel regularly would be helpful. I do not agree with Option 3.
- Dredge the river.
- I think dredging the rivers, along with other options/actions are paramount.
- Simple method would be to dredge the river between the two bridges and beyond!
- I still think the logical move is to remove gravel. It will keep rising if not and years down the line will compromise abilities of walls. From my communication with residents the overwhelming preference is to remove the huge piles of gravel and property defence where required. I don't feel they have been listened to.
- We have always dredged in the past no problem. Need to get rid of stones at Church Bridge, water that can't get away will cause a health hazard as children bathe here in summer and water will stagnant, trough through park will also be a danger to children.
- Dredging and clearing gravel/silt from around the suspension bridge is all that is required. Dredging is apparently not cost effective however even if the river was dredged every year it would take and years to amount to the cost of building all these walls, embankments and altering the water course.
- Please dredge the rivers as it was done years ago.
- Affect on new play park. Gravel built up under the bridge is getting really worse and should be cleared. No additional water flow through park.
- Yes – Dredge River.
- None, why doesn't dredging get done as it used to?
- Has consideration been given to dredging the rivers to mitigate flood risk.
- Issue of dredging of river dismissed as not a problem when whole flow of river changes putting George St. at risk when flooding.
- I still prefer dredging.
- I also think some selective dredging should take place but it's not the sole answer.
- Dredge sensitively, regularly to prevent stone and gravel build-up. Even very large stones which appear after a higher river will not be there after the next rise occurs. The riverbed moves all the time – It is second faster flowing river in Scotland.
- Listening to members of the public at meeting – dredging is for some a preferred option

Project Team Response on Sediment Management

In some instances, the removal of sediment (gravel) from a river channel will increase the capacity however any positive impact will only be seen during low flows. When it was assessed in Langholm the amount of sediment in the river was found to be negligible compared to the amount of flow during flood/extreme events. The study undertaken showed the removal of the sediment would offer no significant or long-term benefits on water levels in a flood event.

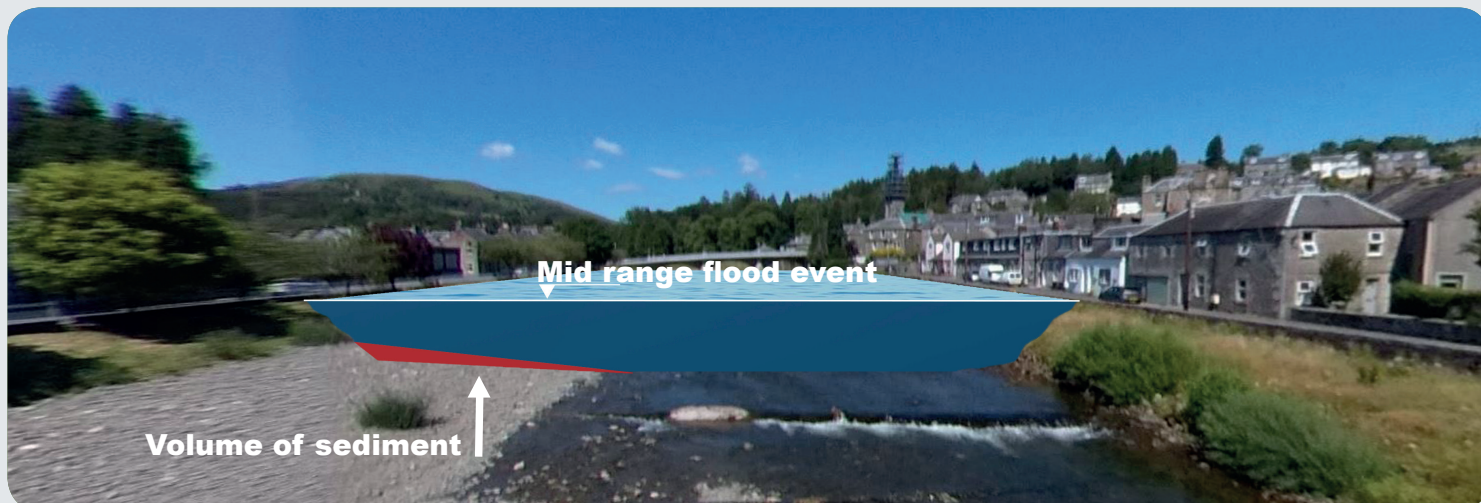


Image showing proportion of sediment in the River Esk during to a mid-range flood event

Reference was made that the river sediment appeared to have increased in recent years. Surveys undertaken in 2011 and 2019, between the Langholm (Thomas Telford) Bridge and the suspension bridge, revealed that in fact there was no significant change in bed levels over this time.

Sediment management is an ongoing process. The river will naturally carry and deposit sediment and so removal would need to be repeated on a regular basis. The removal of sediment, in addition to not being a solution for protecting Langholm in extreme flood events, will generally have a negative environmental impact on the river ecosystem resulting in a loss of wildlife and habitats.

It is acknowledged that dredging was undertaken in the past, and while this may have been undertaken to reduce bed levels at specific locations, the evidence shows that overall effects would be minimal at all but low flow events. It should also be acknowledged that another reason dredging was undertaken here, and at many other locations across the region, was for a supply of washed gravel, useful in farm drainage works or as a general source of aggregate. Further information on dredging can be seen in the document **Floods and Dredging – a reality check**.

<https://www.ciwem.org/assets/pdf/Policy/Reports/Floods-and-Dredging-a-reality-check.pdf>.

Natural Flood Management (NFM)

17 comments were made on this subject.

- Yes, but the cause of the problem needs to be looked at – forests drains.
- I believe the NFM option is the best one.
- (Steps should be taken upstream to hold back flooding) Unless steps are taken to clear overgrown trees from rivers (dead) which are falling into river and will dam the river somewhere and no wall you build will be high enough. I have pictures of flooding in summer caused by trees blocking the river.
- The short list appears very limited and unimaginative. Natural methods not covered and would be less intrusive and better keep character.
- Resources need to be directed to climate change/catchment management (dams, tree planting, peatland conservation).
- Drainage higher up the area from forestry etc has increased causing increased flow in the river. Drainage is an issue. Water comes up through drains in Elizabeth street for example. Although the river has not flooded cellars in Henry St flood.
- I feel that upstream management methods to slow or reduce water volumes should form an integral part of the scheme. Incorporating glass section of flood wall can add to visual appeal – e.g. Keswick, Wells-next-the-Sea.
- I feel that the need for and benefits of upland water management should be fully explored.
- I believe flood defences are a short-term fix for an event which may never happen. We should be concentrating on catchment management in the upper reaches of 3 rivers – dams, trees, etc. Mostly importantly, we can reverse climate change – the priority for all of us and governments worldwide to take action now. If we can't do this flood defences will be superfluous!
- Slow down water-release up valley.
- More measures should be taken upstream to hold back water. i.e. like Tweed forum damming/ flood meadows.
- Natural flood management only.
- Reducing drainage from hills up valley.
- Would prefer the NFM option.
- Do not believe an overflow channel is a valid option. Look at the increased drainage further up the valley which causes an increase flow of the river. Slow down the drainage from forestry areas.
- Now that forests and hills have been drained the river has moved from an 8-day flood river to under 24 hours. As soon as rain stops river falls. This has not been given credence in the 1 – 1000 study, needs to be rechecked.
- Langholm's biggest flood was in 1977 when the forestry in the main catchment (Eskdalemuir) was in its infancy. We have never seen any flood since that come near 1977. There are now millions of hectares of trees in Eskdalemuir and it is still increasing in size which in my opinion is the reason our river runs a lower level now than in the past. I think the proposal is not required or needs to be severely scaled down.

Project Team Response on Natural Flood Management

Natural Flood Management (NFM) uses the environment to store or slow down flood water. The planting of woodlands, wetland and storage creation and river restoration are some of the measures that can help. In addition to benefitting flood control, NFM can also increase biodiversity, water quality, and can increase resilience to climate change. Commercial Forestry Practices (tree species, drainage works, road construction and felling operations etc.) can also have an influence on flood risk and improvements to these practices can contribute towards reducing flood risk downstream during less extreme events.

NFM options have been extensively investigated and modelled but none were found to offer sufficient impact on the potential flood levels in Langholm. Modelling shows that while there might be some benefit during a minor flooding event it would not help in a major flood.

Improvements within the catchment that provide NFM opportunities can be progressed as part of the overall catchment management by those currently in control of the land. The Council along with stakeholders would support any future development in that regard. NFM does have the potential to offer minor reductions in flood risk and should be encouraged. However, their implementation will be a long term approach and would never replace the need for the proposed defences within the town.

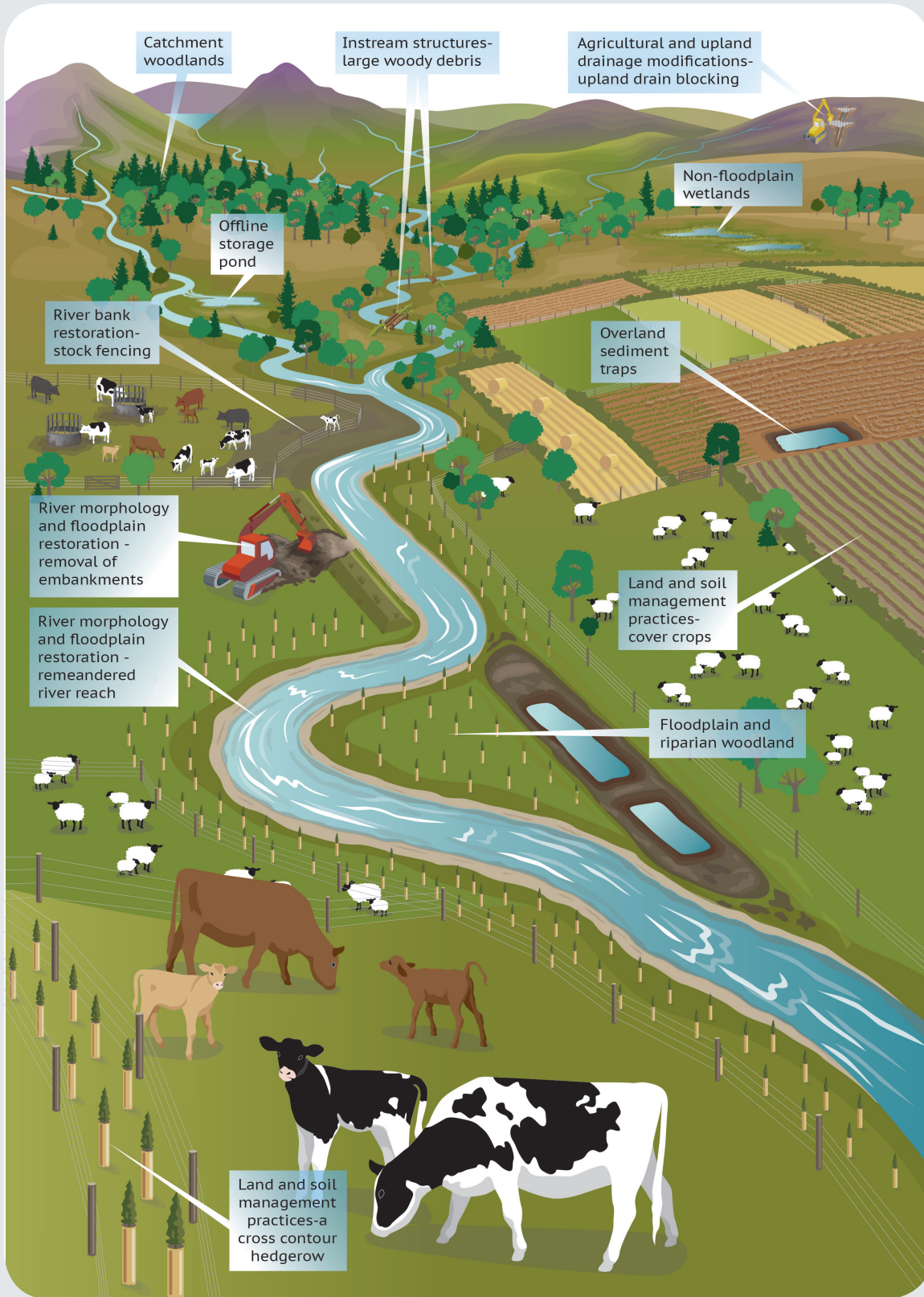


Image taken from the Scottish Environment Protection Agency's NFM Handbook

Height of Defences and Impact on Views

20 comments were made on these issues.

- Feel that the walls (defences) are too high in some places.
- Too much of a sacrifice to the natural beauty of the town + access to nature.
- Too extreme – could we have lower glass barriers and take a 1 in 100 year approach for example – very concerned re: impact on natural beauty of our town + access to the river.
- Agree with some things. As embankment in front of my home would seriously impact on my view. Would prefer a wall + window.
- Langholm needs a flood defence, but I feel 2 meters is too high.
- Less wall! Do the walls have to be so high? Can't they be glass?
- Embankments too severe and high.
- Don't think that the defences need to be as high.
- We live in Caroline St. Any walls must have glass in to keep the view.
- I like bird watching and can see them from my kitchen window – a bank would stop that.
- Do think this is necessary but not as high.
- Keep impact on residents' views/access to a minimum.
- Would prefer a glass wall instead of solid and if possible, not as high.
- Walls should not be too high to restrict views.
- Important to retain the character of the town so as much view of the river should be retained as possible, e.g. via much glass as possible.
- Would prefer clear panelled wall along the west bank. Opportunity for etched glass panels to make it a feature rather than just a defence mechanism. Etched panels could depict town heritage via artists design.
- I think a combination of solutions is the best. I don't like the 2m embankment on the water side. It's a community amenity and a lovely riverside walk. It would also spoil the amenity for people living in the bungalows. People watch birds, fish and just enjoy being by the water.
- Where direct defence walls are to be built it would look awful if they did not have the glazed panels as shown in the presentations. The glazed panels must be put in.
- Pleased the wall would have some glass in. Consideration to how it is kept 'clean' and suitably see through?
- Not keen on the thought of block walls along walkways.

Project Team Response on Height of Defences and Input on Views

The height of walls and embankments varies throughout the town to maintain a consistent 1 in 200 year standard of protection. Where there is sufficient width, the preference is usually to build an embankment, as this generally is more in keeping with the riverbank environment.

There is no doubt that in certain locations there will be a significant impact on views of the river but unfortunately this is the trade off when providing effective, long-term protection from flooding.

To assist in reducing the impact on river views glass panels can be used on top of solid walls to maintain visibility.



Artist's impression of proposed wall along Elizabeth Street

The Project Team were also asked at the event about current access routes and use of some of the river banks for recreation, fishing etc. This will form part of the detailed design process and there is certainly no intention to block off such access or use. The defences will include access points (these can for example be stepped arrangements over low walls, sloped pathways, or even gates).

Scheme Not Needed/Town Has Never Flooded

27 comments were made on these issues.

- Langholm does not flood very often.
- I live on Elizabeth St, and much admire my view of the River Esk. I have not personally been approached as a resident where this large wall is supposedly being built. I have not flooded in 24 years.
- All options are very intrusive and will alter the local area greatly. They also seem very overkill compared to the “flooding” or lack of flooding which has occurred here.
- Too ambitious. Too expensive.
- I am not convinced that flood protection is needed given the long-term trends (1960 – present). I believe flood events were more regular when river levels were higher pre forestry at Eskdalemuir.
- Have lived in Caroline St for 51 years, has never flooded even in 1977.
- I do not believe that we require the amount of defence that is being proposed. Why is this at this stage based on 95% of 96 people that wanted a flood defence.
- I think it is over engineered and am not convinced that it is entirely required.
- My opinion is that the river is unlikely to overflow to the detriment of any property. The flood of 31.10.77 has never been repeated and even this flood caused minimal damage.
- Don't create a problem until there is a problem. I have never seen highlighted areas flood bad enough for a defence system.
- No need for it as the Esk is a fast-flowing river. And there's better use of money for roads and drainage, floodgates on doors yes, I agree with but not much flooding in Langholm. 1 in 200 years not a big danger.
- Until we have been threatened in each area highlighted for flood defences then there's no need for construction in most areas.
- I feel that although climate change is absolutely and ongoing problem, I worry that the schemes shown are possibly a little extreme considering the history of past flooding problems.
- Too extreme!
- All options look to be protecting for something which has never occurred, even in 1977. There is no need for any of this.
- In 1977 we had a large flood. This did not flood Elizabeth St, Caroline St or Mary St. The floodwaters enter the Castleholm and the Park. The planned defences totally spoil our lovely town.
- All options look good, but as stated above, I don't feel we need a defence system at this time.
- Don't see reason for defences.
- It is a waste of money and local knowledge is not being used.
- Don't think it's viable – and certainly don't agree with altering the Buccleuch Park.
- I would rather there were no defences built at all.
- Don't see the need for the protection scheme.
- My brother lives in Charlotte St. This has not flooded for at least 85 years, insurance has never been a problem. 2m high walls will completely spoil amenity of the river side. All on a gamble?

Scheme Not Needed/Town Has Never Flooded (Continued):

- Too extreme.
- I have lived on Caroline street for 32 years and have never been near to being flooded.
- Langholm has never flooded. Surveys in the past aren't worth the paper they are written on.
- This level of defences 6ft/2mtrs not necessary.

Project Team Response on Scheme not Needed/Town has Never Flooded

The Project Team are aware that Langholm has never experienced any significant flood events which reached residential or business properties. However, predictions show that extreme weather and flooding will increase. The scheme is, after all, to protect against future events and not the past.

A key example we used was that Newton Stewart did not experience any significant flood events until 2012, and then again in 2015.

The Scheme was identified within the Strategic Flood Risk Appraisal carried out by the Council in 2007 which highlighted Langholm as one of the top five settlements in the region in terms of the number of properties at flood risk. SEPA also published their National Flood Risk Assessment in December 2011 which identifies Langholm as a Potentially Vulnerable Area.

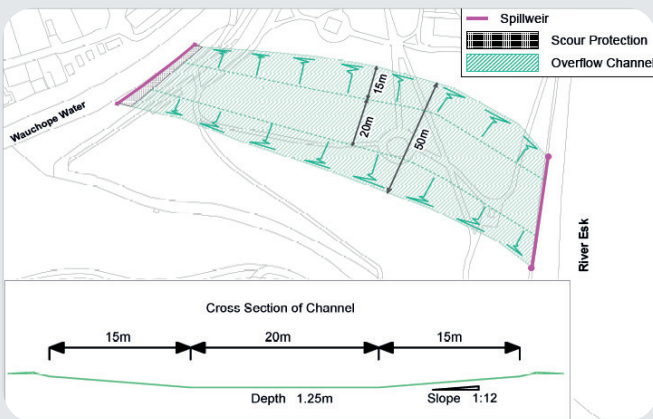
The Solway Local Flood Risk Management Plan 2016 imposes a duty on the Council to deliver a Flood Protection Scheme for Langholm. The main funding for the scheme (80%) will come from Scottish Government.

The 80% Scottish Government Funding is for use on the identified Flood Protection Schemes only and cannot be used for any other purpose.

New Buccleuch Park

8 people have commented on the effect on the park.

- Would be a shame to see the community park being damaged.
- Park will also be a danger to children.
- Concerns over Buccleuch Park.
- This will ruin the natural and local area and the play park.
- Certainly don't agree with altering the Buccleuch Park.
- As chair of Langholm Ewes and Westerkirk Community Council's Buccleuch Park Sub-Committee my opinion would be too greatly influenced by Park considerations, rather than the more important issues of domestic/business properties being protected from flooding. Consequently, I have chosen to refrain from expressing a personal preference.
- Option 2 I do not like as it will impact on what little play area Langholm has.
- I don't think it's appropriate to flood Buccleuch Park or change river courses.



Example of Overflow Channel through Buccleuch Park

Project Team Response on New Buccleuch Park

The Project Team are aware of the proposal for the new park and have worked with the Park Sub-Committee on this.

The overflow channel located within the park will be just over 1 metre deep at the lowest point. The channel would be landscaped and grassed with very shallow slopes so that it can be fully integrated into the park.

The purpose of the channel is to reduce the flow of water along the Wauchope in flood events by allowing water to cross this site earlier than it currently does. The site will be dry most of the year and is designed to come into effect only during extreme events. The purpose of this feature is to redirect some of the flood waters thereby allowing some of the wall and embankment heights in the town to be reduced.

By including the channel, the defence heights can be reduced along Elizabeth and George Street by approximately 160mm and along Caroline Street by approximately 100mm.

Planning and Future Development

5 comments were made on these issues.

- At present, Langholm is considered on a “flood plain” – will this be lifted with proposed improvements and thus encourage development and investment in Langholm?
- I would like to know if planning restrictions will be lifted when flood protection measures are in place.
- No guarantee to improve building conditions and planning permission.
- Concerned about the impact in wildlife and aquatic habitat. Concerned about the costs increasing. Would like assurance that if these defences are built, development would be allowed in places where currently it cannot because it's in the “floodplain”.
- Disappointed to hear that flood defences will not help with planning development issues.

Project Team Response on Planning and Future Development

In general, building on active floodplain is never a desirable or sensible option and will normally be the subject of an objection from SEPA and/or the Council's Flood Risk Management Team. Building on floodplains clearly puts the buildings at risk. But also, development on an active floodplain, thus reducing capacity, may result in flood waters impacting on areas previously not at risk.

New development behind defences is something which is not supported by SEPA and is likely to result in objection. The development of defences is to protect existing property and even with defences there always remains a potential such as the overtopping by a flood event greater than the scheme design. Certain development are also subject to more stringent control eg a Nursing Home should be outwith the 1 in 1000 year flood plain.

The proposed redevelopment of any existing buildings behind flood defences will be considered on a case by case basis. However, the default position will remain that the new use cannot be classed as higher risk.

It may be the case that policy and guidance could be reviewed in future to reflect the protection to land and property that a scheme provides.

Engagement and Consultation

7 comments were made on these topics.

- Better engagement. Facts based on statistically relevant data would be a start.
- Whatever we say it won't make any difference.
- How many households are deemed at risk? Have the householders been contacted individually for their views? How will residents access riverside? What are the costs? Can resilience measures be employed instead/as well? Dredging? Where/When did the origin of the plans begin?
- I was under the impression that these were suggestions and would be voted on, not a done deal.
- This has already been decided, no point in consultation.
- Very disappointed to see the presentation of the preferred option at this stage of a consultation. This is poor engagement practice and implies decisions have already been taken.
- I think you should have knocked on doors of houses that will be affected and spoken to people. Not everyone attends public consultations.

Project Team Response on Engagement and Consultation

This current session was the second event held in Langholm.

The first was held in June 2019 and at that event the long list of options (which included for example 'dredging') was considered with a short list confirmed to be taken forward.

There were several comments made that we should look at dredging as the solution at this second event, but this had been extensively modelled, discussed and discounted at the earlier event.

The Project Team made every effort to publicise the engagement events. Both the June 2019 and February 2020 events were advertised on social media, with leaflets left in public buildings. Posters were placed around the town and each property facing the river had a notification/flyer delivered 2 weeks prior to the event.

In addition to this, the options process leading to the preferred scheme was done through an 'option review' process which included the local Elected Members, representatives of Community Councils, and organisations such as SEPA and SNH.

Positive Comments

- After lengthy talks, now understand more why these are the options.
- Thank you and please push this along.
- I'm 100% in favour of the Proposed Flood Protection Scheme for Langholm. The proposed measures are sensitive to the local environment, carefully providing opportunities for locals and visitors to enjoy the scenery whilst providing protection from flooding for local residents. The proposed flood defence vastly improves the existing walkway near the bowling green and Co-op store, making the path much safer for walkers and cyclists and improving disabled access.
- 1. Marketing was good but could have been better (aware of financial constraints!). Effective, low cost options would have been (a) Banner (outside Buccleuch Centre or on bridge); (b) Sandwich Board (Do the Council have one?); (c) Greater use of local press (E&L Advertiser).
2. All things considered, an excellent exercise and a credit to the Council/RPS staff who worked so hard to prepare and deliver the event and whole style in dealing with members of the public was exemplary.
- Hope this goes ahead.
- I wish you (and Langholm) well with moving forward.
- The options were well presented. Staff very informative. We are very lucky that we haven't yet been flooded in Langholm as the water does tend rise very quickly. But never say never.
- As a wheelchair user, I was pleased to see "windows" in the wall. I love going along the riverside as I don't get out much but see the valve in the wall. I hope that at least some of the windows could be placed low enough for a wheelchair user. Well done with your plans and I wish you every success in bringing the community decision to fruition.
- Please keep things open to suggestion and continue to keep Langholm people informed on developments. Thank you.
- Having read the "Flood Risk Assessment" document, I would like to compliment you on the depth of research undertaken in the preparation of these proposals. Thank you.
- This was a very well-presented case for a much-needed facility. I hope it comes to fruition.
- A welcome addition to the town.
- This is a major thing for Langholm and the best way forward will come from those who are most affected. I hope it will get the go ahead. Langholm needs help!
- Reassuring to see the serious work that is being done to protect the community.
- Staff were very helpful. Answered any questions I had.
- I would have highlighted where the flood could reach on a board, rather than in a table as I think it would have had a greater impact. I think the video simulation was excellent + brought the designs to life.
- Staff were helpful and available – yes very.
- Staff extremely helpful and well informed.
- Many thanks to the Flood Risk Management Team and RPS for all their hard work on this project to date. Also, many thanks for their careful consideration of the community's proposed redevelopment of Buccleuch Park's facilities, with regards to Options 2&3, and their cooperative approach with the Community Council sub-group regarding this.

Positive Comments (Continued):

- Staff were helpful although busy!
- Visuals were absolutely excellent. Venue and plans/boards/TV were very accessible for those in wheelchairs. More focus might have been put on the flood plain map – which might have shocked people into being more positive about the need for some action. Nice touch to have some sweets! Very nice spread of opening hours – much better than many consultations. Good questionnaire.

Miscellaneous

- Shame that the bureaucratic processes (necessary as they are) will delay implementation by several years.
- Living outside Langholm I wanted to just know about the proposals. Purpose of visit achieved.
- No to diverting the Wauchope. That may cause more problems than it solves.
- Not 100% bad, it's just very late in the day.
- Community access to the river should be part of the plans. Wildlife + ecological considerations are also important. Design of wall should be in keeping with the town.
- Definitely do not re-route the Wauchope River – NEVER!
- A bypass for the Wauchope at the 80m contour to a depth of 10m suitably designed would provide recreational facilities and helps to speed flow when the Church Bridge is choked. Increasing flow at all restrictions as detailed below would probably obviate the need for the bypass, but we would miss the recreational opportunities. A holding area as suggested below would help everything and could, with clever design, be very cheap.
- Some abbreviations that were not obvious we had to ask about.
- The electric doors not working made it very difficult for as a wheelchair dependent person. Note previous comments re statistics.
- Plans/boards: Difficult to read but explained by staff.
- Well-presented options, but don't think D&G are listening to locals, nor do the engineers know the locale and they can't read the river which is quick to rise but equally quick to dissipate.
- Poor disabled access since doors weren't working. No refreshments.
- Staff were helpful and available – mixed information! Definitely important details were not presented accurately. This makes many residents anxious and suspicious, not only myself.
- How, if at all, will you achieve consensus plus make a decision.
- I wonder if you have been in Langholm during high rivers. The River Esk overflows into the Park behind the church. The Wauchope gets backed by the force of the Esk in full flood. Both rivers go down very quickly. This is explained to me by an elderly resident. The Esk falls a lot beyond Skippers Bridge enabling the river to go down quickly. By that I mean the actual riverbed there is much lower than above the Skippers Bridge.
- I would like to be kept informed with this scheme in the future, and not to be taken as it will be going ahead without resident compliance.
- The plans on the video appear to show very significant changes that will spoil the look of the town. The main place that floods currently (park and Castleholm) entirely missing!
- The devil will be in the detail. Implementation needs to be done sympathetically.
- 1. Wauchope should peak before Esk. 2. Area of diversion included in 0.5% AEP affected area.
- There is no flood protection at Corse Holm where the Wauchope river is. This floods onto the road every time the river rises. It is also where the dam starts, where the maintenance of the walls is non-existent. Please could you look at this area for maintenance on the walls.
- Embankments would need to be kept free of scrub and debris.
- Communities need to appreciate the time costs of accommodating objections and the likely timeline to completing works and the risks delays represent for them.

Miscellaneous (Continued):

- Electricity generation should be considered on all rivers to allow pump to be used whenever necessary. One small plant per farm or dwelling. Also, pumping water out of the river at each installation into local tanks would help & provide lots of jobs.
- Happy that individuals most affected will be fully consulted.
- There could be more areas in Langholm where this sort of time and money could be put to more use.
- Nope – Thanks for coming though.
- In 1977 the Buccleuch park was completely flooded due to the river Esk coming in by the waterside and it blocking the Wauchope by stemming the water at the Church Bridge.
- All options present substantial material changes to the core landscape and amenities of the river. Modelling is based on absolute mitigation of 200-year events – fair enough; but the impact on life within the '200' year period is disproportionate to the risks involved.
- My postcode is on the edge of your worst scenario – and that is the same level as Thomas Telford Bridge top – if that is the projection 80% of town would be flooded and over your defences.
- Flood defence for George street area only. Heighten existing sandstone wall and maintain it properly! i.e. pointing!!!
- No protection at pool corner on the Wauchope.
- They don't seem to be aware of the real problems that are presently happening on Pool Lane.
- Wildfires, flood, ice melting! A government who do too little too late! Please just make it as tourist friendly as you can, because it will take away a lot of Langholm charm.