

DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY

Shoreline Management Plan



DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY SMP– SUMMARY OF FIRST PUBLIC & STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Total number of questionnaires completed: 10

(7 Elected Member and 29 members of the community attended the initial round of Shoreline Management Plan Engagement Events at Port Logan, Kirkcudbright, Kirkbean and Annan).

What is your experience of coastal flooding &/or erosion? Please give brief details including information about locations and nature of flooding &/or erosion that you may be experiencing or experienced.

The majority of responses described flooding and erosion at Southernness and Carsethorn. Nun Mill/Goatwell Bay, Knockbrex Bay and Sandgreen/Airds Bay were also mentioned.

What issues or concerns do you have on how your local coastline is managed?

- The coast does not appear to be managed by authorities but rather left to individuals.
- There is no interest in Southernness, when the Council tried to help they were threatened with prosecution. Funding was re-directed to roads instead.
- There are 18th Century cottages located along the edge of Southernness, just behind the lighthouse. The defences here are all privately owned and maintained. Some residents mentioned that they are unable to finance these any longer. Residents are concerned regarding the sinking of coastal defences with water undercutting them.
- Carsethorn is affected by strong erosion. The community receives little official guidance and/or advice on how to deal with this and attract funding (funding not expected from the cash strapped council). Climate change makes this even more uncertain. The good will of the Dumfries and Galloway Council is appreciated but more moral technical and initiative buoyancy would be preferred.
- The future of Carsethorn is a major concern. If future sea level rise occurs, the village will experience more flooding and erosion in the future without better coastal defence.
- SGN gas utilities potentially could be exposed, if the line is not held.
- The Parkdean Sewage Treatment Plant located at the head of Gillfoot Bay could potentially get flooded and pollute the surrounding habitat of the rare and protected Natterjack Toad.
- There is a lack of urgency to deal with any coastal flooding or erosion issues.

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What would you like to see included in the plan?

- A full and detailed erosion survey that considers the influence of isolated sea defences.
- An infrastructure risk assessment.
- Priority given to areas where houses are directly affected.
- Consider a Flood warning system that is accessible to all – There is a large elderly population, many of whom struggle with internet and technology.
- More prominent individual or Council help is desired.
- We would obviously like to see our specific situation clearly resourced. We are aware of the brief of the plan and are keen to see a clear exposition of forecasting in the light of climate change. In your maps you designate potential flooding as still water: it would be good to see possible extent of wave overspill.
- An exploration of simple ways to stem the erosion, have the use of groynes been looked at?
- Public disabled access to the beach at Carsethorn should be considered.
- A reference to Gas infrastructure should be included within the SMP.

Additional comments/information provided during Consultation

- Consider dredging the Solway to deepen the channel, thereby reducing the width of the Solway, but making it deeper.
- There seems to be a conflict of interest in some areas. As an example - Our local landowner removed gorse bushes which were doing a very good job of reinforcing the line to the merse at Carsethorn. Presumably to attain government grants in conjunction with keeping sheep (2 of them I may add). Consequently, metres and metres of field have been washed away and continue to be. All the while changing the shape and stress areas constantly. The officials charged with research need to press home the importance of saving houses and coastline as a priority over saving the NatterJack Toad, which was the reason for said sheep.
- A716 Drumore Road: When this road is closed due to high sea levels and wave overtopping, the public are advised to take the alternative route. A couple already lost their lives, when they were washed out to sea during a storm and overwashing incident. Residents currently don't like the alternative route during the closure of the A716 along the Kilstay section. The alternative routes along small B and minor roads inconvenience local residents and the community. This adds an extra half hour onto journey time. Also, the safety of this alternative route is a major concern, due to the lack of passing spaces. It is used by large vehicles such as 'Milk Tankers', that are seen to present a hazard to other users.

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Additional comments/information provided during Consultation (Continued)

- Concern was raised regarding the 'state' of coastal defences that currently protect the A716, Kilstay Road/Bay Section. There is opposition to the potential option of moving this road landwards as this will remove the protection that it provides to 2 properties located along this road. The concerned resident, provided an opinion regarding their preferred option for additional 'rock armour'.
- Tongland and Ringford Community Council, provided information regarding the presence of Reed habitat located at the tidal lower reaches of the River Dee. They also mentioned the presence of a local walk-way that is used by the public to appreciate this special habitat, with bird watching opportunities. The walk currently runs from around McLellan's Castle to Tongland.
- A Brighthouse Bay reference was made to Rockvale Cottage, being affected by wave overtopping. It was mentioned that this cottage is over 200years old, and is defended by the presence of a breakwater/jetty.
- RSPB attended the public consultation meetings and provided information relating to the Baldoon and Mersehead Reserves.
- MoD attended the public consultation meeting. No issues or concerns were identified.
- Corepath 181 was described as being overgrown: This provides access to the C'Alice Holiday Park: At Barr Hill it is estimated that the shoreline is receding at 1m per year.
- Flooding at Powfoot was reported.
- Coastal erosion at Browhouses was described, including the undercutting of a private defence asset.
- The coastal flooding at Annan Harbour was described as a frequent and annual occurrence. The worst flooding in living memory occurred following Storm Frank in January 2016.
- It is important for us to be included. Thank you for your efforts.

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Post event Information to Address the Main Concerns

All information provided by the community and key stakeholders is appreciated and will be considered by the Project Team in the development of the new Shoreline Management Plan.

Some specific issues mentioned included:

Risk Assessment of infrastructure: As part of updating the Plan, surveys were undertaken throughout September / October 2019 to identify existing coastal defences and assess their current condition.

A Full Survey, timescale and measurement of erosion: The Shoreline Management Plan will establish a robust, evidence-based and long-term sustainable approach for managing the risk of coastal flooding and erosion. It aims to set out an understanding of the coastal processes affecting Dumfries and Galloway's coast, and that includes erosion. It is, however, noted that there are limitations to assessing coastal erosion as often assessors depend on historical data to do so and the dynamic processes occurring on the coast (for example, the loss and rebuild processes that take place in between storms) can impose challenges to accurate assessments.

Conflicts involving private assets: While it is noted that poorly maintained defences may have a detrimental effect on neighbouring properties, it is not under the Council's statutory duties to maintain private defences.

Sewage treatment works at Gilfoot Bay: According to information provided by SEPA and forwarded to the Project Team by a key Stakeholder "even if a tidal surge was to breach the Parkdean Sewage Treatment Plant's wall there is unlikely to be any spillage of untreated sewage. The plant is maintained & inspected to high standards and the outlet pipes are fitted with non-return valves".

Kilstay Coastal Defences: We have listened to the concerns of the residents relating to coastal flooding along the Kilstay Road. We have reviewed the existing Shoreline Management Policy using all available information and have advocated a safer and longer-term sustainable option.

Core Paths: An investigation of Core Paths was undertaken, to assess the present day and future coastal flooding and erosion.

SGN gas utilities: Concerns regarding the exposure of SGN gas utilities was investigated. The 2016 document 'Climate Change Adaptation Second Round Adaptation Response National Grid Gas was consulted concerning present day and future coastal flooding of SGN gas utilities. NCCA information was used to identify the present and future coastal erosion risk, no concerns or issues have been identified.

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Post event Information to Address the Main Concerns (Continued)

It should be noted that a Shoreline Management (SMP) is a large-scale assessment of the risks associated with coastal processes. The plan will establish a robust, evidence-based and long-term sustainable approach for managing the risk of coastal flooding and erosion along each part of the Dumfries and Galloway coast.

The information gathered in the questionnaires and from the discussions at the events will be used to improve and assist with the development of the plan. The Project Team are progressing the plan and a further series of engagement events will be held at key stages in the plan development (details will be put onto the webpage at <https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/SMP>)

We would like to express our thanks and appreciation to all who attended.

Future Engagement

COVID19 social distancing and lockdown procedure have been implemented to varying degrees within the UK and continue to evolve. Consequently future engagement may take place digitally/virtually. Details to will be posted at <https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/SMP>.

Facebook

Please note that there is a Facebook page dedicated to the development and update of the Shoreline Management Plan.