

Flood Bulletin

Smithton & Culloden

16th January 2014

Information for residents and businesses from The Highland Council

WELCOME to our 7th Flood Bulletin, an occasional bulletin to keep you informed of developments and work in progress for alleviation of flooding in Smithton and Culloden.

BURN RESTORATION WORKS COMPLETE AT WOODSIDE OF CULLODEN

Restoration works have been completed on the Smithton Burn at Woodside of Culloden, Inverness. The works have been carried out by The Highland Council forming part of the wider Smithton and Culloden Flood Alleviation Scheme.

The construction work was contracted to Pat Munro (Alness) Ltd, with design and site supervision carried out by the Council's TEC Services.



The works involved shoring up of the affected area and the introduction of a series of step pools which allow the water to cascade down the steep section of burn, dissipating the water's energy as it flows into the pools. The weir steps installed were constructed from natural rock with rock used to reinforce the bed of the burn and the toe of the banks.

SMITHTON PARK CULVERT

Work to clean out the culvert under Smithton Park was undertaken in April/May last year. Approximately 30 tonnes of material was removed from the 240m long culvert.

The Council wish to thank the public for their patience whilst the works have been progressing, which has caused some minor disruption to access alongside the park.

FERNTOWER AVENUE

The Highland Council have carried out improvement works on the Culloden Burn West at Ferntower Avenue. The works include vegetation clearance, access improvements, creation of a machine hard standing area and the installation of a new debris screen. The new screen has been designed to accommodate flood flows whilst preventing debris from entering the culvert, thus reducing potential blockage and replaces the previous screen which did not reach current standards.



INSPECTIONS AND MAINTENANCE

Routine inspections of Smithton Burn, Culloden Burn West and Tower Burn have been taking place in accordance with an inspection regime created by the Flood Team. As a result of these inspections, clearance works have been identified and carried out on a number of culverts, as well as general removal of debris from open sections of the watercourses.

VANDALISM RISKING FLOODING

Following the flooding in 2011, The Highland Council installed flood monitors on the Smithton Burn and Tower Burn, providing live information on water levels with alarms set to warn of high water levels. These monitors provide a vital part of the Council's procedures for directing emergency maintenance during flooding events.

Unfortunately, in April of last year, the monitor on the Smithton Burn, near Murray Terrace, was damaged beyond repair. This act of vandalism not only costs the Council money which would be better used in providing new works, but also affects the Council's response time to rising water levels.

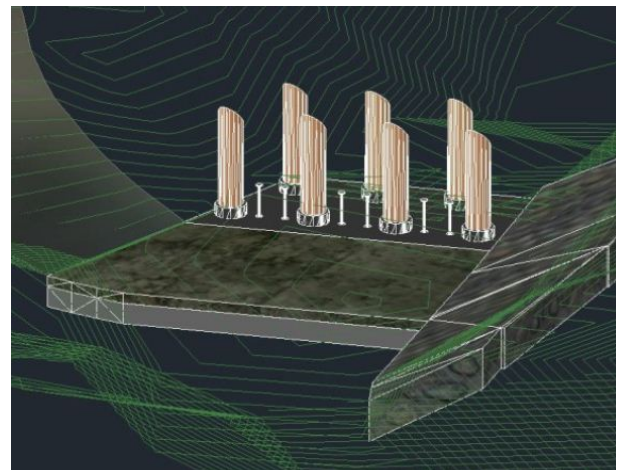
The Council has now replaced the monitor, allowing monitoring of water levels in the Smithton Burn to continue. Anyone with any information on vandalism to life saving equipment, are urged to contact the police directly.

PHASE 3A CONSTRUCTION WORKS

Over the next few months you are likely to notice work taking place at various locations in the area. These works are part of a larger scheme of works, designed by JBA Consulting, which are proposed throughout Smithton & Culloden. The construction works

will be carried out by Pat Munro (Alness) Ltd with site supervision carried out by the Council's TEC Services.

A new, 'coarse debris' trap is being constructed at Culloden Woods on the Culloden Burn West. A similar coarse debris trap will also be constructed on the Tower Burn at Rowan Grove. The coarse debris traps consist of wooden poles projecting from a concrete base which will catch coarse debris such as tree trunks and branches that may cause blockages in culverts downstream. This will help reduce potential flooding.



A new headwall and security/debris screen is also being installed at the Culloden Centre. The new screen meets current design standards and prevent blockages of the culvert inlet whilst allowing safer and easier maintenance of the screen.

Further design works are currently being progressed by JBA Consulting for Phase 3B and 4 works which were identified at the public meeting in October 2012.

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