

Flood Bulletin

Smithton & Culloden

November 2016

Information for residents and businesses from The Highland Council

WELCOME to our 9th Flood Bulletin, an occasional bulletin to keep you informed of developments and work in progress for alleviation of flooding in Smithton and Culloden. All bulletins can be viewed using the following link:

http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/1210/environment/80/flood_alleviation_schemes/3. If you require a paper copy of future bulletins, please use the contact details at the end of the bulletin to provide us with your address.

PHASE 4 SCHEME CONFIRMATION



The Smithton & Culloden Flood Protection Scheme was confirmed by The Highland Council's Planning, Development and Infrastructure Committee on 2nd November 2016. Confirmation by the Committee provides the formal approval required to allow progression of the scheme to construction.

Confirmation of the scheme follows public consultation and a formal notification process. During this process one valid objection was received. Subsequent discussions and assurances on tree retention and replanting resulted in removal of the objection prior to the scheme being brought to the PDI Committee.

This marks a major milestone in the progression of Phase 4 of the flood scheme and follows construction of smaller scale operations in previous phases.

DETAILED DESIGN ACTIVITIES

JBA Consulting are well underway with the detailed design of the Phase 4 operations. Included within the detailed design is the production of contract documents and drawings to allow the Council to proceed with a tendering process to find a contractor to construct the scheme. It is anticipated that the procurement of a Contractor will take place later in 2017.

During this period, consultation and a formal application have resulted in SEPA granting authorisation of a complex licence. This licence authorises activities to be undertaken in the watercourses and is an essential requirement for undertaking such a scheme.



MAIN CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION

It is currently estimated that the main construction contract will not be awarded until the start of 2018, with works beginning on site around Easter 2018. As there are a number of activities to be undertaken before that point, this date is only a best estimate at the moment and is subject to change.

Construction of the whole of Phase 4 is anticipated to last for 18-24 months. Due to the size of the scheme and the complexities of working within a built up area, there will undoubtedly be major disruptions to traffic, pedestrian routes and use of amenity facilities during that time. The Council are working on plans to reduce the impact that construction will have and to ensure measures are put in place to allow residents to go about their daily activities without too much disruption.

ENABLING WORKS



In order to allow the main contract works to be progressed as efficiently as possible, there will be a number of enabling works carried out in the coming year. Enabling works will be relatively small scale works, which will be undertaken in advance of the main contract. These works will include tree felling outwith bird nesting seasons and some utility diversion works. There may also be some localised inspection pits excavated to provide confirmation of the location and depth of various public utilities which may require to be diverted or protected as part of the scheme.

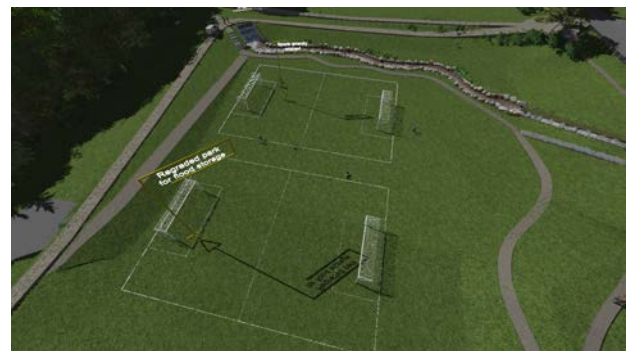
This winter, the Monterey Cypress trees at the top of Smithton (Metal) Park will be felled to allow necessary utility diversion works which we propose to undertake later in 2017. The tree felling work will require closure of the playpark for short durations to ensure safety.

It is planned that the upgraded playpark facilities at Smithton Park will be provided in advance of the main construction project, allowing use of this new facility throughout the main construction activities. Consultation on the design of the playpark is currently ongoing with the Smithton & Cullochen Community Council and the Smithton Residents Association.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Scheme drawings and reports can be found on the Council's website using the following link - http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/1210/environment/80/flood_alleviation_schemes/3. You will also find there a link to view the fly through video of the proposed scheme and some visualisation drawings which provide an indication of what the scheme may look like once constructed.

Any queries regarding the scheme can be made to the Council project team by emailing S&C.FPS@highland.gov.uk.



EMERGENCY CONTACT

For detailed information on how to contact the Council during an emergency or how to prepare for flooding, please go to www.highland.gov.uk and enter 'Managing Flood Risk in the Highlands' where you will get access to a useful download. Alternatively, contact us on the details below and we can send you a copy by mail.

The Highland Council Flood Risk Management Team

☎ 01349 868800 ✉ FRM@highland.gov.uk

Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)

☎ 0845 9881188 (Floodline) www.sepa.org.uk