



A reminder of the importance of the River Ness Flood Scheme works.

Learning through history

Most may remember but, for the younger generation, in 1989 the Ness Viaduct (pictured above), the only rail connection to the North of Scotland, collapsed thus demonstrating the power of nature. Luckily it was reported that all locomotives were in the Inverness depot at the time of the incident so no one was harmed.

We can also look to more recent events such as the severe flooding in the South of England where over 1700 homes were flooded and residents had to be evacuated by boat (pictured top right)

One great use of history is that we can learn from it. It has already been highlighted the dangers the river holds as there have been occasions of high tides and surges on the River Ness recently, but thanks to quick thinking, fast acting and team work, damage was kept to a minimum.

Morgan Sindall will strive forward and continue to work as hard as possible to complete the flood works throughout the year to ensure that all your homes and businesses are kept safe and that they don't succumb to a similar fate to the Ness Viaduct. Not just for now but for the long term future.

Positive times ahead

As we head into the last month of winter and the days start to lengthen, brighten (and hopefully be warmer!) you will soon start to see the exciting landscaping and flood wall construction take place which will give you an idea of how the river and it's surroundings will look upon completion.

Through these times we would like to thank you for your continued patience and we will continue to do our utmost to accommodate your needs when and where possible.

Community Engagement

It was the turn of Bishop Eden and Merkinch Primary schools as well as Inverness High School who were treated to a visit in January. The pupils were taken through several presentations such as promoting Health & Safety, How to Prepare for Flooding and how the current works taking will help prevent flooding.

The pupils were then taken on a site visit to see the works so they could experience for themselves what it is like to be around a site and see the wide range of machinery, tools, materials and man power it requires by members of the River Ness Flood Scheme project, SEPA and Mott Macdonald.

Looking ahead

Kessock Bridge works will start on the 10 February and run until 31 July 2014. **Bank Street** will remain closed until further notice and access will only be available to authorised vehicles during this time.

Huntly Street will remain closed between **Young Street** and **Greig Street** and also between **Celt Street** and **Balnain Street** due to Flood Wall construction.

Douglas Row will remain closed until further notice due to drainage works.

Emergency Number

If you have any queries relating to the River Ness Flood Alleviation Scheme then please call our helpline on 07557 744442 or email RivernessFAS@highland.gov.uk

The River Ness Flood Alleviation Scheme page on **The Highland Council** website at www.highland.gov.uk is where you will find a host of useful information about the project.