

Flood Bulletin

Culloden, Smithton & Balloch

23rd March 2012

Information for residents and businesses from The Highland Council, the Scottish Flood Forum and SEPA

WELCOME to our 5th Flood Bulletin. The purpose of this occasional bulletin is to keep you informed of developments and work in progress following the floods to the east of Inverness in July and August 2011.

‘INVERNESS EAST-POST FLOOD REPORT’ produced by JBA Consulting for The Highland Council has now been finalised. The report focuses on the impacts of the flooding associated with Smithton Burn and Culloden Burn West and identifies the flood risks and issues associated with these watercourses. The report concludes with both general and specific recommendations for The Highland Council to consider in its endeavours to reduce flood risk in the future. A digital copy of the report will be uploaded onto our website (www.highland.gov.uk/yourenvironment/flooding) in due course.

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL CAPITAL PROGRAMME

Building on the findings of the ‘Post Flood Report’ JBA has been commissioned to expand their study to include Tower Burn, Cairnlaw Burn and Culloden Burn North in order to develop strategic options for alleviating flooding in the east of Inverness. The Highland Council has recently committed to promote a scheme/ number of schemes in the area in its Flood Alleviation Capital Programme. Possible schemes will be developed in consultation with The Highland Council, all relevant stakeholders and the local community.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE FORESTRY COMMISSION AND SEPA

The Highland Council has been working closely with the Forestry Commission and SEPA to agree works which will alleviate recent flooding which affected Moray Park Wynd (from Culloden Burn East) and Newlands of Culloden. Details are currently being developed which will attenuate flows upstream and divert flows away from the location of flooding. Consultations with affected landowners are ongoing.

REMOVAL OF SCREEN

The Highland Council has removed the debris screen upstream of a culvert on Culloden Burn West which caused the flooding in July/August 2011. These works were undertaken as per JBA’s recommendation and should greatly reduce flood risk at this location by avoiding a repeat of the previous flood incident due to blockage of the screen.

MAINTENANCE IMPROVEMENTS

The Highland Council are in the process of taking ownership of land adjacent to debris screens to improve maintenance arrangements on Culloden Burn West at Ferntower Avenue and Smithton Burn at Woodside Court. Once ownership is secured The Highland Council intends to formalise access making it safer and easier for Area Roads & Community Works teams to clear debris. Improved screen designs are also intended at these locations to reduce the frequency of blockage/ maintenance.

ROUTINE INSPECTIONS of Smithton Burn, Culloden Burn West and structures in/over or adjacent to these watercourses such as culverts, pipes, bridges, trees etc. which may cause a flood risk are now taking place in accordance with an inspection regime created by the Flood Team. The inspection regimes for these two watercourses were developed in line with the Flood Team's Watercourse Assessment Strategy and follow a risk based approach. Areas posing the highest risk of flooding (e.g. as a result of blockage) are inspected most frequently and those posing a lower risk less frequently. This approach will ensure that resources are targeted effectively and where it's needed most. The Flood Team's Watercourse Assessment Strategy makes provision for inspections to take place on a monthly, 3-monthly, 6-monthly or yearly basis which ensures that all of Smithton Burn and Culloden Burn West within urban areas are inspected at least once every year.

LIFE DOESN'T ALWAYS GIVE YOU ADVANCE WARNING... BUT FLOODLINE CAN

As a resident you will know that Scotland has experienced increased rainfall in recent years, and with this, the risk of flooding is also on the rise. In fact there are now approximately 100,000 properties throughout Scotland at risk from flooding from rivers and the sea. Your

property is your responsibility – but help is available. Although flooding cannot always be prevented, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) can provide you with advance warning about when floods are likely to occur through the Floodline service. Giving you time to take the necessary action to limit the damage to your home or business, should flooding occur.

Getting signed up: you can now sign up to receive free Flood Alert messages direct to your phone that will notify you when SEPA has issued a Flood Alert for your area. Culloden Smithton and Balloch are in the 'Easter Ross and the Great Glen' Alert Area. The messages will direct you to the website or the Floodline recorded telephone service for more detailed information on what is happening in the local area and what you can do to prepare. Sign up now to receive free flood warning messages straight to your phone at www.floodlinescotland.org.uk or call Floodline 0845 988 1188.

SCOTTISH FLOOD FORUM UPDATE

Although the weekly drop-in sessions are no longer taking place the SFF remains actively involved with the local community. Paul Hendy (contact details below) can be contacted at any time with any queries and visits can be arranged by appointment.

CONTACT DETAILS

The Scottish Flood Forum

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The Highland Council Flood Team

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Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)

☎ 0845 988 1188 (FloodLine)

www.sepa.org.uk