

# Newton Stewart

## FLOOD PROTECTION SCHEME

Newsletter

Issue No 3

**Welcome to our third newsletter which provides an update on the Newton Stewart Flood Protection Scheme and the Installation of a New Pedestrian Bridge to replace the Sparling Bridge.**

### Flood Protection Scheme

In August 2017 Dumfries and Galloway Council, SWECO and Kaya Consulting held a meeting (VM1 meeting) with Elected Members, the Cree Valley Community Council and Flood Action Group, SEPA, Scottish Natural Heritage, Forestry Commission Scotland, Galloway Fisheries Trust and the RSPB to consider 24 options which had been put forward as solutions to the flooding in Newton Stewart.

Each of these options were considered and discussed with regard to their effectiveness and feasibility and the outcome was that the following 10 options were selected as suitable to be taken forward;

- Option 2 - Upstream Storage at Linloskin Bridge
- Option 4 - Obstructions on River Cree
- Option 6 - Construction of Direct Defences
- Option 7 - Increase Flow Area beneath A75 Bridge
- Option 9 - Increase A75 Flood Relief Culvert Size/Number
- Option 19 - Reprofile Land at Broomisle
- Option 20 - Reinstate Flood Storage Area at Water of Minnoch
- Option 21 - Upstream Storage Area at the Ghyll
- Option 22 - Upstream Storage in River Cree Tributaries
- Option 24 - Reprofile Land around Pumping Station

These options will now be subject to further modelling work, investigation, and economic analysis to assess their feasibility and to decide which option (or combination of options) will provide optimum benefit for Newton Stewart. They will then be considered at a VM2 meeting to decide upon a preferred option.



*Attendees at VM1 Meeting*

## Current Timeline

- October 2017 - Further assessment of short list of 10 options.
- Early November 2017 - VM2 meeting to decide upon preferred option/options.
- Late November 2017 - 1st Public Engagement Event.
- November 2017 to February 2018 - Outline Design of Preferred Option (plus Environmental Assessment and VM3 Meeting late February 2018).
- January 2018 - Report to EEIC to confirm preferred option following VM2 and update on public engagement event.
- March 2018 - 2nd Public Engagement Event.
- April 2018 - Final Scheme Documents and Drawings.
- May 2018 - Report to EEIC to authorise publication of the scheme.
- May 2018 - Publish Flood Order.



*Consideration of the Long List of Options at VM1 Meeting*

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## Proposed Replacement of Pedestrian Bridge (formerly Sparling Bridge)

Sparling Bridge was removed in November 2016 following the severe flooding and plans were put in place to have it re-located by late 2017.

However as a result of recent discussions and correspondence received from the Community Council, Dumfries and Galloway Council are now developing the request for a new pedestrian bridge at Newton Stewart.

The provision of a new bridge will, however, have time implications for the provision of the crossing and we are aware that the local community is expecting the replacement bridge to be in position soon. Unfortunately the work involved in planning and costing for a new bridge will mean that the earliest work can commence will be May 2018, with installation then taking 3-4 months, and a completion date of mid to late summer 2018.

The additional time now gives us an opportunity to apply for match funding for a new improved bridge which would be of a standard suitable for both pedestrians and cyclists (given that it forms part of the National Cycle Network).

The Council will also work with SWECO to align the design of the new bridge structure with any preferred flood protection scheme.

The Project Team recently met with colleagues from another Council who have undertaken a similar exercise as part of their flood protection scheme. They too replaced an old Bailey Bridge with a new structure. As this was part of the overall flood scheme, this was part funded by Scottish Government and attracted match funding as the new bridge is a cycle/pedestrian bridge to link a National Cycle Network.

We recognise that the delay in replacing the bridge may not be welcomed by some of the local community, but through working with the Community Council there is now an opportunity to provide a modern, attractive crossing which is fit for purpose, is more cost effective, and has the potential to be integrated into an overall flood protection scheme for Newton Stewart.

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## Further information

If you require further information on the project, or wish to see the full list of options considered, please check the Council's website at [www.dumgal.gov.uk](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk)

Alternatively you can email the Project Team at [newtonstewartFPS@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:newtonstewartFPS@dumgal.gov.uk)

Or telephone **030 33 33 3000**.