

# **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

## **DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE – 18 DECEMBER 2001**

### **FLOOD PREVENTION**

#### **Report by Director of Development Services**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To seek the Committee's approval for the publication of a report which is required under the Flood Prevention (Scotland) Act 1961 as amended.

#### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 With the introduction of the Flood Prevention and Land Drainage (Scotland) Act 1997 which amended the Flood Prevention (Scotland) Act 1961, East Ayrshire Council is required to prepare and publish a report on a two yearly interval specifying the measures required to be taken to prevent or mitigate the flooding of non-agricultural land within its area.
- 2.2 The 1961 Act as amended states that "Every Local Authority shall cause the watercourses in their area to be assessed from time to time for the purpose of ascertaining whether any such watercourse is in a condition which is likely to cause flooding of land, not being agricultural land, within or outwith their area", and "that their exercise of any power mentioned in section 2(1)(a) of this Act would substantially reduce the likelihood of such flooding, they shall exercise that power accordingly".
- 2.3 The maintenance provisions do not apply to ground or surface water run off outwith a watercourse or inadequate drainage.
- 2.4 Flood prevention measures, such as walls etc, are not a duty under the above 1961 Act as amended.

#### **3. FLOOD PREVENTION ACT –THIRD REPORT**

- 3.1 A report complying with the legislation has been compiled and is enclosed in Appendix A.
- 3.2 This report will be circulated to libraries within East Ayrshire.

#### **4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The publishing of this report is a duty under the Flood Prevention (Scotland) Act 1961 as amended.

#### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The costs will be contained within the Roads Divisions Budgets.

**6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

6.1 It is recommended that the Committee approve the report and its publication to comply with the requirements of the Flood Prevention (Scotland) Act 1961 as amended.

**Stephen Chorley**  
**Director of Development Services**

JMcR  
10/12/01

**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

**Nil**

For further information please contact John McRobert on 01563 576310

**Implementation Officer: John McRobert**

## APPENDIX A

### **FLOOD PREVENTION (SCOTLAND) ACT 1961 as amended by the FLOOD PREVENTION AND LAND DRAINAGE (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

#### **REPORT - NOVEMBER 2001**

This report is the second to be published by East Ayrshire Council following the introduction of the amendment to the above 1961 Act.

This report is required to outline:

- a) the measures which the Council consider they require to take to prevent or mitigate the flooding of non-agricultural land in their area;
- b) the measures which the Council have taken since the date of publication of the previous report to prevent or mitigate the flooding of non-agricultural land;
- c) all occurrences of flooding of such land since the previous report.

#### **a) East Ayrshire Council considers the following measures to be undertaken.**

- 1 Assess watercourses from time to time to ascertain whether they are in a condition likely to cause flooding to non-agricultural land.
- 2 Identify previous areas of flooding. Survey and consider options for possible flood prevention schemes.
- 3 Record river level and rainfall levels, made available by SEPA, for the River Irvine and Kilmarnock Water catchment areas.
- 4 Ad-hoc monitoring of weather conditions.
- 5 Identify lengths of urban culverted watercourses that may give rise to a potential flooding problem as a result of partial/complete blockage.
- 6 Discuss with Planners and Developers at an early stage the possible development of floodplain areas and the drainage requirements therein.
- 7 Inspect and record the condition of culvert headwalls and trash screens.

#### **b) Measures that East Ayrshire Council have taken since the last report.**

1. Inspection of the main watercourses through towns/villages where it is considered that there may be a risk of flooding.  
Noted during the inspections such things as:
  - general condition of river beds and banking;
  - adverse condition of any existing defences;
  - obstructions or possible obstructions to the flow of the watercourse;
  - debris, natural or otherwise, lying within the watercourse;
  - condition/efficiency of inlets and outfalls.
- 2 The Council has at several locations in the River Irvine, Kilmarnock Water and Glaisnock Water removed the build up of excessive sand/gravel beds from both mid stream and adjacent to riverbanks.
- 3 Removal of general items of waste from watercourses, identified from the river inspections and also as a result of public complaint.

- 4 Removal of tree trunks lying within watercourses, washed downstream as the result of high water.
- 5 Informed riparian owners of damage to boundary walls and riverbanks that may, if further deterioration occurs cause a potential flooding problem to the surrounding area.
- 6 Sought funding through East Ayrshire Council's Capital Programme and the Scottish Executive, and constructed significant flood defences to areas of Kilmarnock (both River Irvine and Kilmarnock Water) where serious inundation occurred in 1994 and 1995.
- 7 Actuated, from time to time as a result of the monitoring procedures indicating a possible occurrence of flooding, two floodgates on the above defences. This prevented the lower lying areas of Burnside Street and Stoddard International Ltd located in Kilmarnock from flooding. It should be noted that East Ayrshire Council has no Legislative responsibility to operate such a system.
- 8 Annual maintenance contract issued for the two floodgates and various pen stocks/sluice gates.
- 9 Cleaned out sections of urban culverted watercourses including the removal of debris from manholes.
- 10 Closed Circuit Television Surveys of some lengths of culverted watercourses.
- 11 Removal of debris from in and around culvert headwalls/trash screens highlighted as a result of the routine inspections.
- 12 Topographical surveys and soil investigation surveys of several areas previously identified as having potential to flood and preparing schemes to alleviate the problem.
- 13 Discussed with Planners and Developers, both before and as a result of Planning Applications submitted to Council.
- 14 Reviewed the Hydrological Studies previously undertaken in light of updated information and recently completed flood defences.
- 15 Engaged Specialist Consultant's for the preparation and submission to the Scottish Executive, 30 October 2001, a Flood Prevention Order for the mitigation of flooding in the Crookedholm, Riccarton/Glencairn area Kilmarnock and the Galston/Cessnock attenuation scheme.

As a result of flooding on 11 September 2000, the following specific works were undertaken:

- 16 The Barony Road Culvert Replacement, Auchinleck, contract was issued and works constructed.
- 17 Feasibility Studies for Flood Mitigation to Dalrymple adjacent Primpton Burn, Galston adjacent Burn Anne, Simon's Burn/Loreny Drive area Kilmarnock, Doonbank Crescent Patna, Greenholm Road Area Cumnock adjacent Glaisnock Water and the A713/B741 Dalmellington.
- 18 Improvements to drainage systems in Cumnock.
- 19 Improvements to river embankment, Drongan.
- 20 Repair of gabion wall and footway reconstruction, provision of armour rock, Glaisnock Water, Greenholm Road area, Cumnock

**c) Occurrences of Flooding**

Since the last report, there have been instances of inundation of water from the watercourses in the East Ayrshire Council area which require to be reported:

- 1      06 December 1999  
On the above date, after a particularly prolonged, heavy rainfall, Crookedholm and the Riccarton/Glencairn area of Kilmarnock were inundated by the River Irvine overtopping the banks affecting numerous properties. All locations were visited and the appropriate emergency action taken. The location of the overtopping occurred where there has been a history of flooding in the past and East Ayrshire Council has included these areas within the Flood Prevention Order submitted to the Scottish Executive 30 October 2001.
  
- 2      08 July 2000 Kilmarnock – Old Street  
On the above date, the low-lying areas of Old Street, Academy Street and Willock Street were affected by floodwater from a surcharging manhole. A flap valve fitted to the nearby outfall had failed to close properly causing the high river to back up and surcharge to the road. Properties, on this occasion, were not affected. The flap valve failure was reported to WOSW for action.
  
- 3      11 September 2000  
On the above date, after a particularly prolonged, heavy, localised storm, several areas within East Ayrshire experienced flooding, notably in Auchinleck, Galston, Dalrymple, Dalmellington, Drongan and Kilmarnock with various properties being inundated. The cause of which varied from roadside gullies unable to cope, surcharging manholes on both surface water and combined sewers, run off of water from high ground and the overtopping of watercourses. All locations were visited and the appropriate emergency action taken. The locations of the overtopping of watercourses were included in feasibility studies for the mitigation of flooding.
  
- 4      25 October 2000  
On the above date, after a particularly prolonged, heavy spell of rain in the upper River Irvine catchment and as a result of the River overtopping its banks, flooding occurred to Queens Drive, Little Bellsland Road, Newmill Road, Old Street areas of Kilmarnock and Main Street Crookedholm. All locations were visited and the appropriate emergency action taken. The Queens Drive and Little Bellsland Road is designed to pass flood water coming from the Academy Playing Fields.

East Ayrshire Council will continue to carry out work within the scope of the Flood Prevention (Scotland) Act 1961 as amended to lessen the likelihood of flooding to areas of non-agricultural land.