

Flood Resilience Group

Minutes 24th of May 2024

1) Welcome

2) Attendees:

Andy Heer [Auchtermuchty] , George Orr [Gateside] , John Brown [Falkland] , Annette Scott [Auchtermuchty] , Ewan Band [Auchtermuchty], Julia Sutherland [Auchtermuchty] Maaike Cook [Strathmiglo]

Apologies:

Kasha Jarosz, Catriona McDonald, John Smith, Fiona Smith, Bill Torrance

3) Notes last meeting

Accepted, George Orr gave short extra information in A.O.B.

4) Chair's report:

Clarify Membership & Organisation:

The resilience-group is not 'open to the public'.

All agree to have their e-mail address shared, so contacts can be short.

MoM will not be spread, only within the group.

Invites for discussions will only be send to people that can add knowledge and experience to the group.

A contact-person (Rep) to be appointed in each Village to report to the Chair, if problems arise.

Gateside:

Dunshalt:

Auchtermuchty: Annette & Julia

Strathmiglo: Maaike

5) Fife Council Liaison

* Rick Haynes Left Fife Council for Perth Council, is temp. replaced with Moir Gibson, who works part-time, until new Employee has been found.

* Cllr. Donald Lothian has given good news that a new field drain, pipes and a ditch, leading to the culvert under the road will be built to alleviate flooding of the substation and water flowing on to the High Road. Thsi should also help to alleviate flooding in Westbank.

* Flood-pods beside Fire-station and in Dunshalt are to be placed, hopefully before the end of May.

* Proposal to 'Co-opt' Ewan Band as Community Councillor, in order to get access to recorded drawings for culverts, flood defence systems in Auchtermuchty will be taken to the CC.

6) The Stables Exhibition

Positive results, with the next event; please Share the info with all, it can be put on the several Social Media to attract more attention.

7) River Eden Sustainability Project report:

The Project is run by several groups, to improve the stream from river Eden.

Farmers, Landowners and several other groups are involved in this

Maintenance is needed downstream from Dunshalt and Cupar.

Canalisation in 1800s needs to be changed into meandering, to avoid 'high peaks' of water after severe rainfall.

Ewan Brand and George Orr in slight discussion about meandering versus canalisation.

Flooding can be reduced by maintenance from grills, debris to be removed asap.

Farmers used to dredge in the past, to keep the Eden clean. Sepa is against this...

Forth Rivers Group and River Eden Sustainability project want to do survey with drones, along the river Eden up- and downstream to get a proper overview.

The groups are informed to avoid drones right now due to the current lambing time and avoid distress for animals and farmers.

Leave those 2 groups to this, and ask for updates on the projects

'Eden Springs' project, fishery at the old quarry by Melville Lodge is planning 75 cabins, and volunteered to put drainage in, to have water-level dropped at Letham Pond.

Ewan protests against this, Letham pond should be left as water-buffer, changes there can cause trouble.

Letham Community Council should keep an eye on this planning application. Andy Heer to give Ewan email for Letham CC.

8) Local Issues (Blocked drains and gullies)

These are to be reported on the FC Website.

3 areas in Auchtermuchty vulnerable, Orchardflat, West Banks and Upper Green.

1 drain seemed to be blocked but turned out to be dropped (old Clay pipe) this needs to be replaced.

Drainage High Road is starting to be improved, other parts of Auchtermuchty need to wait, this causes irritation and envy.....(Muchty Rant)

Reports of Cement in Gullies in Strathmiglo.

An advisory Leaflet should be made, to make people aware what they can do to avoid blocked gullies, and how to prevent flooding of their premisses, where to buy materials to make houses flood-resistant, Inform about the Scottish Flood Forum etc. Maaikie to make a start with this. (will take some time).

This could be delivered house to house, or put on websites and in the local

Newsletters

Resilience Group to make a list of issues coming up during the meetings, and tick these off on the list to avoid 'rehashing' items.

9. Any other Business

George Orr referred to remarks in MoM made about stone walls being removed only for 'farmer's gain'.

He explains after a lethal accident, walls were removed, 'internal' roads put in the fields as well as hedgerows and grass edging.

The 'internal' roads to make work for employees easier and get better access to crops. By doing this, discovering to his surprise that he saves 1/3 of fuel, decreasing the carbon footprint.

10. Next Meeting

Monday 24th of June 14.00 hrs Auchtermuchty Church Session House