

## Public Statement 27/04/2022 Ballater Flood Scheme

A public meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> April was arranged by BCCC to review the process for Aberdeenshire Council's Option 3A should funding from Scottish Government be forthcoming.

The meeting was attended by around 100 Ballater residents and by an Aberdeenshire Council Principal Engineer, a CNPA director, Local Councillors & chaired by the MSP - SEPA were unable to attend, but sent a statement.

BCCC has, until now, represented the community view by supporting Option 3A conditional upon the legitimate concerns of the community being met.

Those residents who attended expressed disappointment regarding the previous engagement around Option 3 and remained unconvinced that their concerns around the proposals would be factored into the finalised designs.

Representatives of BCCC have subsequently met and discussed with senior management at Aberdeenshire Council the views of the community expressed at the public meeting.

The council now intends to do further work to develop a more robust understanding of the views of the community on Option 3a as a matter of urgency. This will include direct engagement with impacted stakeholders, including the Golf Club and the Caravan Park, to understand what may be possible to mitigate the negative impacts.

At a later point an engagement exercise will be held with the wider community, which may include the development of rendered images of the proposals and the line being marked out on the ground.

Alan Wood, Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services, explained: "Through the community council, we will continue to engage with those impacted stakeholders - including the golf club and caravan park which are critical to the town. We are very keen to understand how the flexibility of the current proposed corridor can be nuanced to mitigate the negative impacts, accepting that removing them completely may not be possible.

"We understand that the flood protection proposal will have impacts on the town, but so does major flooding, and the scheme has been proposed to offer added protection during extreme weather events. However, we will continue to work with the community, through the Community Council, to develop our mutual understanding of the pros and cons of developing robust flood protection proposals for the town of Ballater."