

Notes from Flood Defence Proposal Meeting – Albert Hall 19th Sept 2019
114 attendees

Panel consisted of:

Michael Coletta – BBA & Chair of BFPRG

Jim Anderson – BCCC Chair

Tony Cox – Ballater Flood Group

Bill Braid – BCCC

Pat Downie – BCCC

Fiona Presslie – BCCC Secretary

Cllr Paul Gibb – Aberdeenshire Council

Colin Smith – Ballater Golf Club

Angus McNicoll – Invercauld Estate

Jim Hunter – Golf Club

John Bolton – Resident

Michael Coletta explained formation of group. Explained timeline - Proposal needs to be submitted to Scot Govt by 31st December to meet 2020 funding round, next funding will be 2026.

Explained purpose of meeting; to inform people of latest situation ahead of public consultation on the 25th September.

Tony Cox explained that flood study and public consultation will be submitted. Govt will decide on award. He then provided some background:

- Ballater must have flood defences.
- Flood Group managed to escalate process for Ballater
- There has been a lack of consultation to date.
- What caused pulse event? – BFG maintains the belief that the Red Braes collapse was significant in contributing to the flood pulse'
- If we miss this award flood defences not in place until 2034
- Flood Group has proposed an alternate solution. Build an internal bund wall around the golf course and on to water treatment works. Peter Argyll was supportive of the proposal to submit an alternate plan.

Cllr Paul Gibb explained the selection process. Clarified that Infrastructure & Services Committee on 28th Nov will review options based on technical reports. Papers will need to be ready for Marr Area Committee.

He suggested that a list of questions be submitted to the Marr Area Com, also encourage residents to attend meeting. Paul will confirm date.

Provided some guidance for input to 25th consultation:

Express your concerns, highlight what's missing.

Questions/Comments from the floor:

Why rush through?

How can we be assured we will have input into final scheme?

How will decision be taken?

Does Council have resources to undertake an internal peer review of consultant's study?

Lots of other methods to control, not thinking out of the box. Redo the bund further, build dams?

No reason to believe further consultation would happen.

What happens at Bridge, protection proposal doesn't work?

None acceptable. All will have knock on impact e.g. roads.

Can an award application be made that is broader than currently drafted? Can it be more flexible?

Request that alternative solution is available for 25th? **Response** Further work needs to be done.

Does the alternative protect the caravan park, the Caravan park is important.

One of the suggestions does not cut the golf course in half-way, why was that not selected.

Response Probably economics.

Concern that drop in is not right forum.

Why was Inverurie fixed in few months?

Has council done work studying economic full impact of proposal? **Response** No

Golf club will not survive being divided in half.

Cannot trust council to work with us to meet caveats.

Concern that if funding is awarded based on proposal, will not be possible to change funding to an alternative.

What is the process to develop alternative? **Response** Needs mapping data, need to use flood model that consultant has used.

Current proposal not properly peer reviewed.

Has anything be done to stabilise Red Brae **Response** No

Show of hands: Majority of people in room against the proposal, but not all

Why can Red Brae's not be stabilised?

Replace field in front of Glen Muick house

Proposal does not look at other side of the river and also beyond the bridge.

Will the alternative protect the caravan park?

If we are likely to miss the 2020 funding, why rush.

Can application be made and then the line be changed as long as not more expensive.

Agreement that a follow up meeting is necessary.

Can precedents be found where an application is awarded and then changed.

Discussion required on risk and impact of climate change.

Why was alternative only suggested now. **Response** It was thought of 18 months ago.

