

**Argyll and Lochaber Local/Area Advisory Group
Minutes of meeting on 20/06/2017**

SNH, Cameron House, Albany Street, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4AE

Attendees

Lorraine Holdstock	Argyll and Bute Council
Paul Convery	Argyll and Bute Council
Jenny Davies	SEPA, RBMP coordinator (chair)
Iris Krammer	SEPA, Flood Policy (Minutes)
Steve McFarland	SEPA, Flood Policy
Arthur McCulloch	Argyll and Bute Council
Elaine Jamieson	Forestry Commission Scotland
Fiona Mills	Clyde Marine Plan – VC from Clydebank
Corrina Mertens	SNH

Apologies

Jim Frame	SEPA
Derek Manson	Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park
Alan Kettle-White	Argyll Fisheries Trust
Matt Smith	The Highland Council
Paul Hendy	Scottish Flood Forum
Andy Robinson	RSPB

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies (Jenny)

Jenny welcomed the group and conveyed apologies as listed above. Everyone introduced themselves around the table.

2. Minutes and actions from previous meeting (Jenny)

The group approved the minutes of the previous meeting. Only one action is outstanding – see action table.

Jenny agreed to check if the Crinan Canal has a reservoir license (**Action 8.1**).

The group discussed flooding in Clachan. The local community has experienced flooding on several occasions and is concerned about the impacts of forestry on flood risk. This includes existing forestry management and proposals for an area of new forest in the catchment. The local community is keen to be involved in forestry plans. Elaine is planning a site visit with SEPA. Following the site visit further discussions between Argyll and Bute Council, SEPA and Forestry Commission Scotland, as well as involvement with the local community are required. There is a historic fish barrier which is believed to raise the bed of the burn through the village, but any changes to it need to be considered carefully to avoid inadvertently increasing flood risk and bank erosion. There may be an issue around ownership of the weir.

Elaine explained that felling licenses last 5 years and forestry plans are for 10 year periods and include felling licenses. Councils can provide information on known catchments with flooding issues to Forestry Commission Scotland, so that these can be highlighted for forestry plans and felling licenses.

3. Flood Risk Management action implementation update (Arthur)

Arthur updated the group on the progress of implementing actions within Argyll and Lochaber set out in the [Flood Risk Management Strategy](#) and [Local Flood Risk Management Plan](#) for the Highland and Argyll Local Plan District. Details in paper 2 – provided in advance of the meeting.

- Argyll and Bute Council is progressing the Campbeltown flood protection scheme and surface water management plan.
- Subject to funding approval the tender for the Oban study and surface water management plan, Lochgilphead study and Tarbert study will be prepared this year.
- The Highland Council will go out for public consultation on the Caol flood protection scheme in summer 2017.
- SEPA completed the flood map improvements of the River Nant, but there are potential for future improvements if details of the hydropower scheme become available.
- Scottish Water is progressing the S16 risk from sewer flooding assessments.
- No updates from Transport Scotland are available.

In addition to these actions, Highlands and Islands Airport (HIAL) commissioned Pick Everad to undertake a flood study to address flood risk to the terminal building at Islay airport from the Glenegedale River.

4. Clyde Marine Plan (Fiona)

Fiona introduced the group to the Clyde marine plan. There is an overlap between marine and terrestrial planning, as the marine plan covers the area to mean high water, while terrestrial planning covers the area to mean low water. There are additional overlaps with flood risk management and river basin management. More than 20 organisations are members of the Clyde marine plan partnership. The partnership received direction from Scottish Ministers and has three years to prepare the marine plan. The first stage, the assessment on the state of the region, will be published in August 2017. The group looked the impacts of sea level rise, including potential risk to infrastructure, people and nature. LiDAR data is not available for all areas, but was used for Lochgilphead and Campbeltown. On average, sea level is expected to increase by 0.47m in the Clyde area by 2080 using the high emissions scenario. Note the UKCP18 projections for sea level rise are likely to be greater as a result of inclusion of the melting of glaciers on land. Find out more here: <http://www.clydemarineplan.scot/>. The pre-consultation draft plan is expected to be available in summer 2018.

The group discussed questions around allocating land for development that may not currently be at risk of flooding, but could be in future. This is not

currently considered by the planning system. However, new guidance on climate change and flood risk is currently being produced.

5. Updates from group members

The group discussed marine planning applications and concerns around refusing them due to flood risk. In addition preparing early for sea level rise and building defences now, rather than later was discussed. The need to consider adaptation (moving assets away from at risk areas and increasing resilience)

The group discussed the Glenshellach development in Oban and the problem around incremental site expansion. There is a lack of a cumulative assessment method, as individual properties can exacerbate the flooding problem. There are lessons to be learnt for master planning.

The group noted the Alcan smelter at Fort William buy-out and plans for its significant expansion with potential for increased surface water runoff in the town. SNH and SEPA confirmed they are involved in the site consultation.

The group mentioned the Glen Creran Quarry proposal, which is awaiting a response from SEPA.

6. SEPA flood risk management update (Steve)

2nd National Flood Risk Assessment (NFRA2)

SEPA is preparing the 2nd NFRA, which will support the next Flood Risk Management Strategies and Local Flood Risk Management Plans. The methodology has been updated, with communities being at the centre of the assessment. Several of the input data sets have been updated – significantly the properties data now includes many more properties and categories. The methodology is currently undergoing peer review. There will also be a greater emphasis on climate change and risk to life / wellbeing. RPS has been awarded a contract to write model scripts to run the NFRA.

The NFRA outputs will also underpin the designation of Potentially Vulnerable Areas (PVAs). Therefore it is very important that the outputs are scrutinised. SEPA will engage with local authorities December 2017 – March 2018 and with the public in spring 2018 on the NFRA outputs and draft Potentially Vulnerable Areas. This will most likely be through an online portal. The NFRA will be published in December 2018.

SEPA's flood risk and hazard maps

SEPA strives to update the flood risk and hazard maps annually with new information (for example from studies or other improvements). However, the December 2016 update has been delayed due to issues with packaging the data. Therefore, the currently available data should still be used.

Improvements to the coastal flood maps are planned to coincide with coastal flood warning improvements. In addition, the coastal flood boundaries for Mainland UK and the Islands dataset and the offshore wind and wave datasets are being updated.

National Coastal Change Assessment (NCCA)

The NCCA looks at past erosion/accretion rates to project future rates of change on Scotland's soft coasts. The NCCA can be used to inform flood risk management and planning advice. A series of regional reports will be available. This will be officially launched in July. Information is available on www.dynamiccoast.com

Artificial structure and natural features

SEPA established a steering group to start developing the maps of artificial and natural features providing flood risk management. Currently an engagement plan is being produced.

Land use planning

SEPA has engaged with land use planners within SEPA and local authorities to improve flood risk management through land use planning. Further work will be taken forward to improve the linkages between the two fields.

Flood study check-list

Steve reminded the local authorities that version 2 of the flood study check list is now available in addition to the [flood modelling guidance](#) to support local authorities' flood studies and integration of study outputs with SEPA's flood maps.

7. River Basin Management update (Jenny)

The group discussed the Loch Awe Fish Continuity Project, which is to be run in September by Argyll Fisheries Trust. Jenny to share info (**Action 8.2**).

A full update is available in a presentation form at;

<https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/water/river-basin-management-planning/who-is-involved-with-rbmp/area-advisory-groups/argyll-and-lochaber/>

There are water quality issues in Kintyre, which are currently down to unknown sources. This may be linked to agriculture, but it is possible that it is down to historic phosphorus applications to forestry. Elaine is to check if there are records within Forest Enterprise Scotland on historic phosphorus applications (**Action 8.3**).

SEPA is working with Food Standards Scotland to improve understanding of the downgrades for over 50 Shellfish Water Protected Areas. FSS collect data but they base their assessments on worst case scenarios to protect human health. For SEPA this information is difficult to use for proportionate regulation thus work is ongoing to resolve assessment of shellfish waters. New DNA monitoring can help pinpoint the sources of E-coli, which are often the cause of failing shellfish waters.

8. Any other business

Steve highlighted that Oxford Martin published an NFM re-statement. This provides a summary of our current scientific knowledge of natural flood management. The paper is available here:

http://www.oxfordmartin.ox.ac.uk/downloads/academic/Oxford_Martin_Restatement4_Natural_Flood_Management.pdf

Actions arising from the Local Advisory Group meeting

Action Number	Action	Owner	Complete by	Update
7.12	Speak to Anne to speak to Terry to arrange CEO talks between SEPA and Argyll and Bute Council	Jim	30/06/2016	June 2017: Outstanding. There may be an opportunity to link in with Clachan.
8.1	Find out if Crinan Canal has reservoir license	Jenny	28/07/2017	
8.2	Share information on Loch Awe Fish Continuity Project	Jenny	28/07/2017	
8.3	Check if records on historic phosphorus applications are available from Forest Enterprise to support water quality assessments.	Elaine	28/07/2017	