



Newsletter November 2016

Welcome to the KPFGB News Letter which we hope to send out on a regular basis from now on. The KPFGB committee has been very busy pushing forward with a number of issues, some of which are featured below, along with some items which we hope to take forward in the future.

Membership of the KPFGB – If you are not already a member of KPFGB and would like to join please ask a member of the committee for a membership form. Please note that there is no need to join the committee if you become a member or attend regular meetings but having as many residents as possible signed up will give the group increased strength when engaging with other agencies to make improvements to the flood defence situation around Kembhill Park. Committee members are Ken Ledingham, Jim Buchan, John MacNicol, Helen Chalmers, Jude Galas, Steve McGill and Alistair Gill.

Website - The committee has agreed that it would be useful to have a project website where we can publish any useful information which will be easily accessible to all residents. It is hoped that we can get this set up as soon as possible.

People without e-mail - We are aware that there are a number of people who do not have computers and that they require paper copies of information which is sent out by e-mail to other folk. Committee members are happy to deliver paper copies of such information when there is a need to do so. Please let me know if you are in this situation.

Scottish Flood Forum Survey - John MacNicol has been carrying out a survey using Scottish Flood Forum guidelines of where flooding took place in Kembhill Park including gardens, driveways, garages and outbuildings as well as to houses. In addition to the information which he has gathered, which has been sent to Scottish Water and Paul Hendy at SFF, John has produced a map showing the full extent of flood water ingress across the Kembhill Park and Bremner Way area during the January flood event. This is still a work in progress but will be very useful in our discussions with statutory bodies as it highlights all the areas where flood damage occurred.

MSP contact- The committee Chairman Ken Ledingham has been in touch with our MSP Alexander Burnett, who wrote on our behalf to the Scottish Government, Aberdeenshire Council, SEPA and Scottish Water about the flooding in Kembhill Park. Here is a summary of progress with this work.

SEPA - SEPA informed our MSP that the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 is the key piece of legislation which governs the procedure for identifying Potentially Vulnerable Areas (PVA). It limits the flood defence work that councils can undertake at this time. Ken and Alastair attended Alexander Burnett's surgery in October and discussed with him our belief that this legislation needs to be amended to allow areas which has been flooded, to be added to be reclassified as a PVAs without waiting until 2019 when then next Scotland



wide review will take place. This would permit the Council to carry out a flood risk study and implement improvement work of a permanent nature sooner than is currently possible. Mr Burnett agreed to investigate the steps necessary to change the legislation. He agreed that the present situation was ridiculous.

Aberdeenshire Council - The KPFGB committee had a joint meeting with Scottish Water and Aberdeenshire Council on the 23rd of November to discuss what both organisations propose to do to resolve the problem of our missing flood barrier. A very useful discussion took place and the Council agreed to go away and look at the possibility of building a temporary earth/rock/clay bund as an interim solution until such time as they could carry out a flood risk study. They indicated however that SEPA and the local Council Planning Department will need to approve such a project which might delay matters. In the meantime, they also agreed to fully cost and obtain approval from the Garioch Area Committee for the purchase of the Watergate flood barrier.

Scottish Water - Scottish Water indicated that they plan to undertake some work in the pumping station to improve resilience against any future flooding event. They were also keen to find out if anyone had experienced a failure in the foul water sewage system with toilets backing up and causing sewage to enter properties during the flooding. If such an event took place they wanted individual householders to report the matter to them on their customer helpline at 08000778778. On receiving any such reports, Kevin Muir from Scottish Water will visit any affected home to investigate further.

Kembhill Park Residents BBQ - This provided an opportunity for people to come together socially and get to know each other better. For some this was a first time meeting which was very enjoyable; burgers, sausages and puddings were most enjoyed by all, with many lingering to enjoy the fine weather well into the evening. The cooking and serving was provided by members of Kemnay Parish Church and Collie the butcher donated all the meat and BBQ equipment for the event which was very much appreciated. General feedback from those who attended was positive with suggestions that we should do it again next year. The committee has agreed that the event should be repeated with a small group of members being asked to volunteer and take ownership of the event to widen community involvement.

Resilience planning - The next major piece of work for the committee is to complete the Resilience Plan for KP and to carry out a survey of residents who would be willing to act as Flood Wardens and volunteers to deploy the Watergate barrier, if it is agreed that this is what the Council will provide. We will also need to identify folk with particular qualifications or skills such as qualified first aiders in KP. If there are none, we may need to identify volunteers who are willing to be trained. If you are interested in being a volunteer to help folk in any future emergency please let Ken Ledingham or another committee member know.



Fife Council flood protection - The committee has looked at flood protection measures in Fife where boxes in the community called Flood Pods are located at various sites thought to be at risk of flooding. The Pods store flood sacks which contain a chemical which soaks up water and expands the sack to act as a low level barrier. This product is better than ordinary sandbags but would not be as effective as the Watergate barrier for our situation because of the construction of houses here – which feature a water permeable gap between the foundation raft and the walls.

Public meeting 14/09/16 – The amendments which were made to the constitution at the inaugural meeting have now been incorporated into the approved version of the constitution which has now been sent to all residents in KP along with an invitation to those who had not yet joined up to become members of KPFGB.

KPFGB bank account - We now have a bank account into which any monitory grants will be deposited. Applications are being made made to various bodies for such funding and we are hopeful of a positive response. Membership fees will also be paid into the bank account and used to find ongoing running costs. A set of accounts will be maintained which will be independently audited in time for the next membership AGM.

Membership fee collection and recruitment of members - Committee members will be visiting members over the next few weeks to collect the £5.00 membership fee as well as visiting non-members to encourage them to join KPFGB.

Potential funds from Rotary Club- It has been indicated by the Kemnay and Kintore Rotary Club that they are willing to purchase items of equipment for both KP and Milton Meadows as they are keen to help folk in our two areas to be better prepared in the event of any future flooding. They have agreed to buy two foul water pumps, one for each estate and are due to hand these over shortly.

Attendance at KCC meetings - KPFGB is now being represented at the meetings of KCC and committee members attending report back on any Flood Protection matters.

Conclusion- I hope that you find the information above to be of interest and that the next newsletter will not be so late in coming out. To obtain further information about any of the topics covered, please contact either Ken Ledingham (ken-ledingham@tiscali.co.uk) or any of the committee members.

Ken Ledingham
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