



August 2018 Newsletter

Dear resident/member,

My apologies but what with other tasks it has been some time since we have managed to put together a newsletter to advise you about what has been happening with KPFGB. For those of you who have internet access you will have been able to keep track of our activities by checking our website at www.kpfg.org.uk. There you will have seen copies of the minutes of our monthly meetings as well as other documents. Recently we have been working on policies and procedures in order to comply with the new General Data Protection Regulations which came into force a few months ago. If you have not already done so I would encourage you to look at the website in order to see how we handle confidential information and get some idea of what is required for KPFGB to comply with the current regulations. If you do not have internet access and would like a copy of the GDPR documents please let me know and I will arrange for the information to be provided to you.

PVA Status

Our committee has also been working hard this year to make sure that Kemnay is recognised by the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency, (SEPA), as a "Potentially Vulnerable Area". We require this status before Aberdeenshire Council can start work on permanent flood protection measures in Kemnay. I am pleased to say that it looks like Kemnay will be added to the PVA list for Scotland when the results of SEPA's survey are announced later this year.

Our next step once we have achieved PVA status however is to persuade Aberdeenshire Council that Kemnay should be included as a priority area for permanent flood prevention measures in their next work cycle which is due to start in 2022. Currently the Council are fully committed to the five priority areas of Ballater, Ellon, Stonehaven, Inverurie/Port Elphinstone and Insch which were already recognised as PVAs before the floods of 2016. These areas were selected before 2016 from a total of 12 PVAs in Aberdeenshire. We need as many residents as possible therefore to support our case to the Council on giving Kemnay priority so if you have not already thought about joining KPFGB please do so and help us with our work.

Watergate

In the mean-time KPFG has had numerous meetings with Council staff to make sure that arrangements for the deployment of the temporary Watergate barrier are well in hand before there is the threat of any future flooding. Currently we are waiting to hear about the appointment of a standby contractor whose job it will be to deploy the Watergate barrier from its storage container at Birley Bush in Kemnay. We would hope to hear the results of the Council's tendering process by the end of this month and look forward to reporting about this appointment in the not too distant future. As well as deploying the barrier the contractor will also have to supply at least three high volume pumps which will be located at strategic places round Kembhill Park and Bremner Way together with floodlights and generators. The contractor will also supply Kembhill Park with sufficient sandbags to plug any gaps in our defences which may be necessary. It is also proposed that a dry run will be carried out of the barrier being deployed once the contractor is appointed and when we have the details we will let folk know.

Emergency Equipment

In addition to Council and contractor equipment KPFG has purchased a number of items which it is hoped will prove useful if we are ever faced with a flooding emergency in the future. We now have four walkie-talkies with which to communicate both with KPFG volunteer co-ordinators as well as volunteers from Milton Meadows who have agreed to help out at Kembhill Park should it be necessary. We are also in the process of purchasing self-inflating flood sacks which are filled with a gel which expands when it is immersed in water as well as flood snakes which act on the same principle and can be deployed where-ever they are needed.

If any one is interested in acting as a volunteer to operate our own small pump donated by the Rotary Club of Kintore and Kemnay we would like to hear from you. The pump is stored at present in Kembhill Park in the garage of one of our members. We are most grateful for their assistance. We plan to have a "dry run" of this pump in the near future and will let folk know when this is to happen.

Membership

If you are not already a member could I ask you to seriously consider joining KPFG. The Council are only going to give Kembhill Park priority for permanent flood defence work if they see that the community is 100% behind the need for money to be spent here rather than elsewhere in Aberdeenshire. If they think that it is only a small group of residents who they have to deal with they are less likely to listen to what KPFG has to say. We have achieved a great deal during the last two years but we need your

support if we are going to be successful in gaining priority for Kemnay and Kembhill Park in particular. Application forms for membership, which costs five pounds a year at present, can be sent to you electronically if you do not already have one. Hard copies can also be supplied for those without internet access.

Annual General Meeting

Finally could I say a word about our upcoming AGM which will be held on the 20th of September at Kemnay Academy starting at 7.00pm. Only fully paid up members are entitled to vote at the AGM so if you are not already a member please make sure that you complete an application form and return it with your fee to the address given on the form before the AGM.

I look forward to seeing a good turnout of old and new members at the AGM. In the mean-time my thanks to you all for your continued support.

Ken Ledingham

Chairman

Kembhill Park Flood Group

Charity Number SCO478