

From: [Morrison, Duncan](#)
To: [Jennifer Wilson](#)
Cc: [Emergency Planning](#); rachael.hamilton.msp@parliament.scot; [Barbara Elborn](#); john.lamont.mp@parliament.uk; [McAteer, Watson](#); dianeadamson@btinternet.com; denismackeen@yahoo.co.uk; [Greg Cuthbert](#); pauline.m.elliott1969@gmail.com; [Barry Jackson](#); johndscott54@btinternet.com; nick.elliott18@gmail.com; irnichol@hotmail.com; vikkipounder1@btinternet.com; [Smart, Annette](#); [Cox, Jane](#); [Jardine, Euan](#); [Curry, John](#)
Subject: [OFFICIAL] RE: Newcastleton Flood Defence
Date: 05 December 2022 12:40:37

Dear Jenny,

Thanks for your email.

Firstly can I reassure you that Newcastleton will not be forgotten about by Scottish Borders Council and in particular the Flood & Coastal Management service. As a bit of background and to help update those cc'd into your initial email I thought it would be worthwhile giving everyone an overview of the work done in Newcastleton and other areas in the Scottish Borders in relation to flood risk during the first flood risk management cycle 2016 – 2022, not including the formal flood protection schemes at Selkirk and Hawick.

Project	Cost
Newcastleton Flood Study	£118k
Newcastleton Ground Investigation	£150k
Newcastleton small scale flood mitigation and erosion control study	£18k
Newcastleton small scale flood bund	£100k
Newcastleton subsidised property level protection	£36k
Newcastleton Post Flood Survey	£8k
Peebles/Innerleithen/Broughton Flood Study	£485k
Peebles Property Level Protection Scheme	£245k funded from Scottish Government Flood Grant Funding)
Earlston Flood Study	£88k
Eyemouth Coastal Flood Study & Berwickshire Shoreline Management Plan	£210k
Lindean Flood Study	£50k
Ettrick Valley Flood Study	£39k
Slitrig Flood Study	£80k
Whitlaw & Crowbyres small scale flood works	£200k

One of the most recent projects undertaken by the Council in Newcastleton is the temporary bund (500mm HIGH) which is now in place and will assist in reducing the impacts from flooding on South Liddel Street and adjoining streets up to the 1 in 30 year event, the bund continues to help reduce impacts from flooding to higher return periods but the benefit reduces as the flood events become larger. The bund has been delivered as detailed in our public exhibition event that was held in Newcastleton in Spring 2022.

At the exhibition event the community also asked us to look into what demountable flood barrier

solutions could be utilised to provide further flood risk mitigation to a wider area of the village. We engaged our consultant to do this with the results showing there is greater flood mitigation from installing a demountable solution from the north end of the temporary flood bund along the length of the road for a distance of approximately 90m, unfortunately this was not the case at the south end of the bund where installing demountable barriers had no benefit and in some instances creates a negative impact. As stated in previous discussions we will work with you to determine what is the best demountable solution for the 90m stretch mentioned above, this work has now commenced.

For ease of reference I have numbered the points you have raised in your email and provided feedback below.

1. Sandbag request

Having discussed this onsite with you and John Scott I am aware that you would like to put something in place that will provide some extra reassurance to residents in Walter Street. This would run from the end of the flood bund towards the gate to the polysport. As discussed and mentioned above this will not necessarily provide any additional benefits in terms of flood risk mitigation but I do understand the reasons for this request. I will arrange for sandbags to be dropped off until such time we determine the best demountable flood barriers to be used.

2. Low spot at the end of Whitchester Street

I am happy to look into this but first I have to inspect the river bank at this location. I don't know if you are aware but an issue has been raised regarding the banking here, a void has appeared in the river bank at this location which may be contributing to the localised low spot on the edge of the road. Our roads inspectors have asked for a second opinion so I need to inspect this, preferably from the river to determine if there is any undercutting of the banking which is compromising the road. I hope to do this before the Christmas break.

3. Spare demountable barriers

Unfortunately, we don't have any spare barriers that I can send across. The barriers associated with the Hawick Scheme are required for emergency response, given the defences are reduced in the town at the moment due to on-going construction of the Flood Scheme. As you know the situation in Hawick is changing weekly with flood defences being built etc. If any barriers do become spare I will ensure they are sent to Newcastleton. There is around 80m of Barriers at Eyemouth but again these are specifically used for emergency response to coastal flooding.

4. Fencing at North end of the village

I am happy to look into this with you, to determine what might be achievable.

5. Willow growth

Sorry I am unaware of this request, what location is this? I have spoken with Greg Cuthbert in the past about the trees and vegetation on the left bank upstream of the bridge, as this is not trust land he was going to ask the landowner if they would clear their banking. If this was an issue I asked him to come back to me and I would try and assist, to date I have not heard back from him.

On behalf of the trust Greg has asked me for assistance on how they clear the right riverbank which the trust own. We have an action to meet with tree surgeons to try and gauge the extent and costs of undertaking such a task. We also have to consider the conservation area, which some of the trees are located on the edge of. Separate permissions may be needed from other services within the Council prior to carrying out the clearance.

I hope the above proves helpful and highlights the ongoing commitment from the Council to assist Newcastleton as much as we can.

Kind regards
Duncan

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From: Jennifer Wilson <59jnwilson@gmail.com>
Sent: 26 November 2022 18:38
To: Morrison, Duncan <DMorrison@scotborders.gov.uk>
Subject: Fwd: Newcastleton Flood Defence

CAUTION: External Email

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jennifer Wilson <59jnwilson@gmail.com>
Date: 26 November 2022 at 18:28:19 GMT
To: Duncan.morrison@scotborders.gov.uk
Cc:, MSP Hamilton R <>, John LAMONT <>, Barbara Elborn <[k](#)>, , Greg Cuthbert <>, Diane <>, Pauline Elliot <[m](#)>, Gillian Scott <>, Barry Jackson <jackson3lrfc@yahoo.co.uk>, John Scott <johndscott54@btinternet.com>, Nichol Elliot <nick.elliott18@gmail.com>, ian nichol <irnichol@hotmail.com>, Vikki Pounder <vikipounder1@btinternet.com>, Annette.smart@scotborders.gov.uk, Jane.cox@scotborders.gov.uk, Euan.Jardine@scotborders.gov.uk
Subject: Newcastleton Flood Defence

Dear Duncan

27/11/2022

On behalf of the volunteer flood group in Newcastleton it is with the utmost urgency that we would like you to help us protect our village. I understand you are busy, short staffed and financially restricted but unfortunately the worst of the winter weather is now almost upon us.

After a site meeting within our group, the most urgent of requests are could the SBC please deliver 300 sandbags on a pallet to South Manse, Walter Street, Newcastleton. This request is URGENT so we can build a defence at the south end of the bund.

Secondly, could the SBC please block a 6 metre stretch alongside the fence at the bottom of Whitchester Street where the river broke through in the previous 2 floods. This would be quite easily and cheaply done with either high kerb paving block or wooden sarking board. This would give huge reassurance to residents around this area.

These two small affordable and achievable requests are not a lot to ask for in the huge scheme of flood defences within SBC area. Please can you make this happen within the next week.

Duncan you said that there are no spare demountables available from Hawick and I presume that this includes within the whole of the Scottish Borders. Can you please check that there are no spare ones available in other communities. We look forward to hear about your costings and meet with you regarding new demountables.

After prioritising the above mentioned request, the next plan is to secure the north end of the village from the bottom of Henry Street to the end of the bund. We would like to fence and board this length. The sarking boards would only need to be 30 to 50cm high and the fence in situ at present is viable with the exception of a few posts. Could the council please help us to achieve this? If you cannot then can you please supply the materials at least?

And finally, the growth of dense willow along the riverside which the SBC were meant to cut down has not been done yet so volunteers are going to do this task now.

Please can you respond as soon as possible so everyone knows SBC are going to help Newcastleton and that we are not being forgotten about.

Yours sincerely

Jenny Wilson

Secretary of NVFG

Contact details:

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Mobile; 07415725553

Sent from my iPad

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