

# Flash Flood Report

## Stonehaven 6/9/22

On Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at 11:44am, a SEPA flood alert was issued for Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City.

Heavy rain and thundery showers on Tuesday and overnight into Wednesday morning could cause flooding impacts from surface water and flooding from small rivers and watercourses. Particularly at risk are urban areas and the transport network. There may be difficult driving conditions. Due to the localised nature of the showers, impacts may be isolated, with not all locations being affected.

At approximately 2pm a deluge of rainwater fell on Stonehaven causing flash flooding in the town centre and areas in the upper parts of town due to the drainage system being overwhelmed by the sheer volume of water. Local constituents were quick to blame the drains blocked and not maintained. This opinion is easy to understand as they see drain grills with weeds growing out of them and surface debris on a regular basis.

A subsequent Met Office Yellow Warning was communicated by the K&M Area Office at 5.04pm for Councillors to put out:

The Met Office has issued a yellow warning for thunderstorms for much of central and eastern Scotland. Valid from 4pm until 11pm this evening, it warns of the potential for transport disruption, localised flooding of some homes and businesses and short-term loss of power and other services. Bands of heavy rain and thunderstorms may bring 20-25 mm in an hour and perhaps 40-60 mm in 34 hours in some places, mainly in the east and could cause flash flooding.

Lightning and hail may be additional hazards. The rain and thunderstorms are expected to move northwards overnight then ease and clear early on Wednesday morning. SSEN advises it has engineers working to restore an outstanding outage in the Fyvie area, with restoration forecast at around 6.30pm.

We are aware there was flooding of some streets in Stonehaven earlier today with some properties impacted, but water levels dissipated quickly.

We would encourage residents and businesses to be aware of the flooding risk and to take appropriate precautions to protect their properties. Sandbags are available for residents and businesses from our Roads Depots on Kirkton Road, Stonehaven and 'Silverbank', North Deeside Road, Banchory and our Housing team is on standby to assist with affected households - call 03456 081203 if your home has been impacted.

The following pages show evidence gathered from residents of Stonehaven of the flooding and damage done.

This report is compiled in order that Aberdeenshire Council can plan a proactive review and fixing of drainage issues in Stonehaven rather than being seen to be only reactive in their actions.

It is well summarised by constituent, [REDACTED]:

"We have an increasing number of heavy deluges of rain that fill up the drains and causes flash flooding then as soon as it stops the water dissipates but the damage is done. This is part of what the council are not upgrading their drainage to cope with.

## Flash Flood Report Stonehaven 6/9/22

There is a much bigger issue that the councils are ignoring which is that across Scotland the drainage system is no longer sized to cope with the increased rainfall over the next few years. There appears to be no plans or activity to upgrade the drainage system. We still hear excuses of 1 in 100yrs flooding and the system met the spec when it was installed. Considering we have been flooded 4 times, thankfully not major yet and we stay half way up a steep hill, the government/Scottish Water lack of action is worrying. “

Cllr Dawn Black

13/9/22

# Flash Flood Report Stonehaven 6/9/22

## Stonehaven Old Town

High Street



[REDACTED] High Street)

The drain beside the red car has been a problem for years. My neighbour and I do sweep the rubbish away periodically. The new very large drain at the cannon filled up yesterday because the outlet at the river is silted up. Lack of maintenance is a serious issue.



## Stonehaven Town Centre

Ann Street

[REDACTED]: taken out of my front door during the recent heavy rains. During the storm rainwater came down Bath Street across Ann Street, then down towards Rodney Street. The drains need a thorough clearing (as shown by photo). Remembering too the leaves are yet to come off

## Flash Flood Report Stonehaven 6/9/22

the trees! In addition, there is a drain under and blocked by the 'temporary' road barrier at the top of Ann Street. The road barrier needs to be moved to ensure drain is kept clear, to help mitigate against cumulative water coming down Ann Street and leading to potential flood damage. Also photo taken this morning (7/9) of drain opposite community centre at bottom of Bath Street – note the amount of solid residue brought out of the drain.



# Flash Flood Report Stonehaven 6/9/22

## Barclay Street

██████████ proprietor at new shop at 8 Barclay Street: the two photos were taken directly by our shop at 8, Barclay Street, the rainwater rose extremely quickly giving very little time to rush up to Arduithie depot to collect sandbags. There were no sandbags at the entry to the depot and it took some time to find anyone to help. To rub salt in the wound a council worker came down once the water had subsided to clear a drain on the junction of Cameron and Barclay Street's.



██████████ - No wonder Barclay Street gets Flooded and that's just three blocked drains



## Barclay / Cameron Streets

## Flash Flood Report Stonehaven 6/9/22

These were taken from our living room window as it got deeper. Luckily it receded in time for us to collect our children from school otherwise we would have had to wade them through this water that was also mixed with sewage. The smell of sewage the following morning was strong. Due to our steps at front door water didn't come into the building but I know others weren't so lucky



### Cameron Street / Barclay Street

- Stonehaven Town Centre yesterday afternoon, streets were like rivers. Drains choked yet again, Council needs to do something before shops/houses flooded yet again. Nikki's cafe was flooded before, not long open after cleaning out and renovation now closed again due to flooding.

