

## Cllr Dawn Black: Flooding update to SDCC 20<sup>th</sup> Sept 2022

I undertook to create a report with evidence of all the flooding in and around Stonehaven on 6<sup>th</sup> Sept. Submitted to Area Manager in time for 13<sup>th</sup> Sept Ward 18 meeting and has since been distributed to Roads and other pertinent departments.

Ward 18 meeting, all 4 cllrs were present and pressed for answers on various issues for the flooding that occurred.

Fundamentally, the drainage system is not fit for the amount of rain we now get in a short period of time. The gullies are attached to a 4inch pipe which can only take so much water at a time. If the system is full, there is nowhere for the water to go except back up – resulting in bubbling drains, manholes and back wash up people's drains if they do not have stop valves.

SEPA have given a guideline that the rainfall on 6<sup>th</sup> Sept was a 1 in 41 year event. Standard drainage system is designed to cope with a 1 in 30 yr event so it was inevitable that there would be some flooding and alerts were put out – indeed I posted them on my social media the day before.

### Issue areas:

Barclay Street - as soon as the rain stopped, the water drained away. Proves the system was not blocked. The gully tanker that came (of which there is only one for the K&M area) helped by removing some of the water volume into its tank – it was not “cleaning” the drains when it arrived.

As mitigation, there is planned work on Barclay Street between Margaret Street and Rodney Street to improve the old channel system. That work is due to be done in this financial year, so by the end of March 2023.

Cameron Street and area (Rachel Kennedy) - the pumps were not functioning on the new system on 6<sup>th</sup> Sept. This was due to the pumps having software and hardware issues. Work has been done to get two thirds of the pumps online and working. This has now been done so any future event should have some mitigation. Should note that until fully online no telemetry will be available. So now if the sub drain starts to fill with water the pumps will kick in. Pumping station is opposite the Carron chipper and pumps out over the water level to the east side of the Carron road bridge (by the new steps).

Arbuthnott drain – the inlet and outlet have been checked and they are working. We were assured that even with a shingle build-up the drain does seep away.

Uptown – Hunter Place, Farrochie Road, Farburn Drive, Kirkton Rod under railway Bridge. Is a know hotspot and SEPA, Scottish Water & AC have been working on the Farrochie Burn catchment study to work towards implementing a scheme to reduce flooding in this area. Same issue as downtown – overwhelmed system. This is earmarked for between now and 2028 but is subject to capital funds becoming available.

SEPA's National Flood Risk Management Plan was published in January 2022 and I can forward the Stonehaven section to the SDCC if that would be of interest.

Gully/drain cleaning – currently ALL drains scheduled for cleaning once per year. Once gully cleaner for whole K&M area. It will come out if a hotspot is reported and needs clearing. We asked for the known hotspots to be increased to twice per year. This suggestion has been taken away and will be looked at and possibly implemented. Should be noted that parked cars can hinder gully cleaning so when a schedule is in

place, it is likely that roads will have temporary no parking/waiting restrictions placed on them to allow the work to happen.

We need those in hotspots to have some level of flood resilience and AC can supply flood gates, smart air bricks, vent guards, flood sax and free sandbags to help minimise risk at a subsidised price. And we will keep pushing for improvements from the inside!