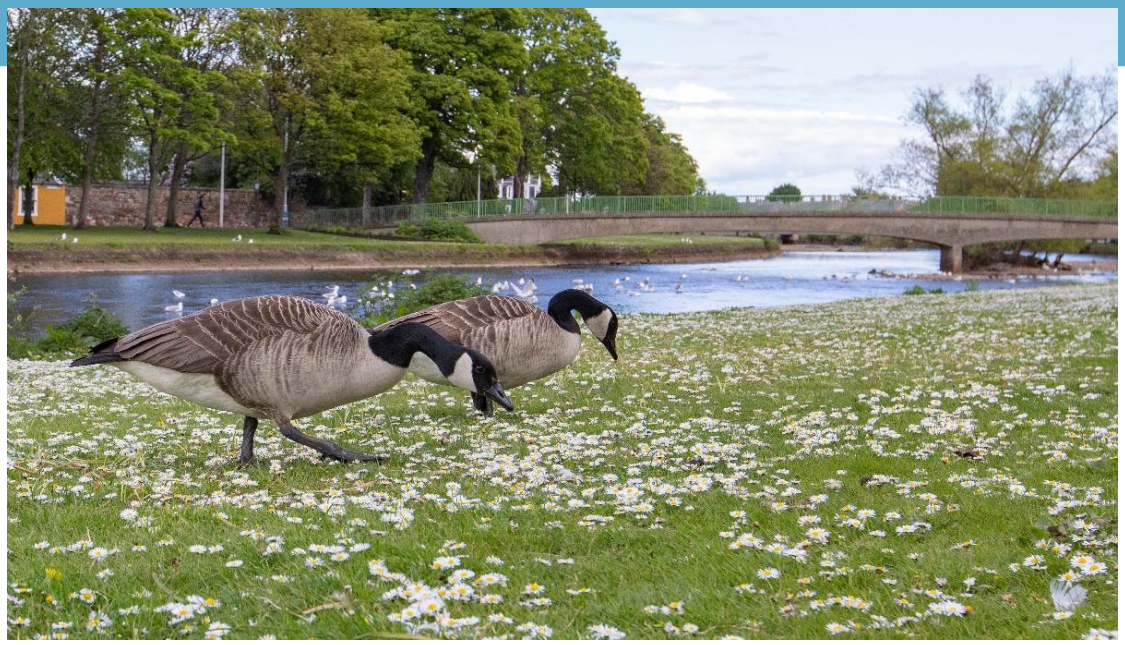
30 September 2021

Local Area Consultation Meeting No. 1 with Goosegreen Area

Summary Document

Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme



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1 Introduction

The purpose of this document is to provide a summary of the Local Area Consultation meeting undertaken with residents of the Goosegreen Area, Musselburgh in September 2021. This meeting was held in advance of the Outline Design, and after the long period of not advancing any public consultations due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The meeting is considered to be the first engagement on the design process with this area, and is intended to provide a Scheme update, whilst simultaneously working to capture the thoughts / ideas / knowledge / risks and opportunities of those who are currently in closest proximity to the location of the proposed new flood defences as defined by the Preferred Scheme in January 2020.

This document will include:

- A description of when and how the public consultation was conducted;
- A minute of the meeting covering the presentation given jointly by Conor Price (Project Manager) and Jim Baxter (Principal Designer);
- A summary of the questions asked by residents and answers provided by the project team (the Q&A Sessions); and
- An outline of the agreed next steps.

This summary document **does *not* record what transpired at the consultation verbatim**, rather it is intended to provide a helpful point of reference for the Project Team, those who attended, and those who were not able to attend but have an interest in the Scheme.

2 Background to the Consultation

East Lothian Council is in the early stages of developing a flood protection scheme for the town of Musselburgh. This project is part of the Scottish Government's Flood Protection Scheme Programme, and aspires to protect the town, and thereby in the order of 2,500 properties, against a major flood event from both the River Esk and the Firth of Forth (the sea).

The early project work involved: the establishment of a project; the assembly of the project team to advance the project; the commencement of the development of a new hydraulic flood model through which the flood risk could be assessed; and a formal option appraisal to look at all possible ways through which the flood risk to the town could be reduced. This early work concluded in January 2020 when East Lothian Council approved a "Preferred Scheme"– i.e. the assumed best combination of flood risk reduction options.

In February 2020 the Project Team commenced the next project stage – the Outline Design, however in March 2020 COVID-19 interrupted design programme. That February we also presented to the Musselburgh Community Council at the Brunton Theatre and confirmed our intention to advance the design in partnership with the people of the town and key stakeholders through an extensive design consultation process. It was then determined that this was not possible due to the COVID-19 pandemic, therefore the Outline Design did not commence in 2020, and preparations began instead from March 2021 to restart the design.

The Project Board identified a desire to engage directly with the public through community groups so that the Council's request to advance the Scheme through a process of consultation could be advanced. During the summer of 2021 the Project Team identified a number of Local Area Consultation groups. A map of these areas in available in Appendix A.

The six areas are local areas and thus in immediate proximity to both a source of flood risk and the line of the proposed physical defences. The final seventh area is the wider town and its full population in

general. This may also include others from outside the town who have an interest in the town and / or its river, coast, environment etc.

During the early stages of the project the Scheme held two significant public consultations, namely:

1. February 2019 – A two-day 'Open Day and Call for Historic Information on Flooding'; and
2. July 2019 – Public Exhibition No. 1 – which was held over 3 days and which was to present the flood risk to the town and to consult on the Options Appraisal Process.

The Project Team recognised that many residents may not have participated in either of our formal public consultation events in the Brunton held in 2019, and / or may not yet be aware of this project or its proposals.

The Project Team therefore took the decision of setting up a number of local area consultation groups through which the local residents can interact with us, and / or participate in the design process. In each area the first meeting is framed to both bring residents up-to-date on the project development to date, the flood risk assessment, and then introduce them to the new Outline Design process.

2.1 Goosegreen Area Consultation

The consultation for the Goosegreen Area took place on Thursday 30th of September 2021. The meeting started at 19:00 and concluded at approximately 21:30.

Due to the prevailing coronavirus situation locally and the restrictions still in place, it was determined that a virtual meeting would be the preferable choice. The meeting took place on Microsoft Teams, a free and secure video conferencing application.

Invitations to the consultation were hand-delivered to around 254 households and businesses in the week preceding the consultation. Where required invitations were emailed to businesses' headquarters. In certain instances it was not possible to deliver the letters by hand and these were posted First Class via Royal Mail instead.

In total, 8 residents attended which is equal to 3% of the overall total. Generally in UK projects, 3% would be considered a reasonable turnout for a public consultation event.

3 Minute of the Meeting

3.1 Meeting Details

Attendees	East Lothian Council: Dave Northcott – Senior User (DN) Turner & Townsend: Conor Price – Project Manager (CP); Gregor Moodie – Assistant Project Manager (GM) Jacobs: Jim Baxter – Principal Designer (JB) Public: 8 Residents

3.2 Minute

Item	Subject
1.	*Introduction:* 1. CP introduced the Project Team: Himself, Gregor Moodie, Dave Northcott and Jim Baxter. 2. CP opened the floor to the members of the public to introduce themselves – if they wished to do so.
2.	*Presentation by Conor Price:* Please see the Meeting Presentation which is provided in full as a pdf for your visibility. The following key points are noted. 1. CP introduced the approach to the meeting, with his presentation to be followed by JB's, a Question & Answers Session and then a collaborative / brainstorming exercise populating a 'Mural' whiteboard. 2. An introduction was provided to the Local Area Consultation process – the 6 consultation areas, explaining why and how these 6 areas had been defined why a virtual meeting format was being used. CP demonstrated the statistics showing invitations and attendance at these meetings. 3. An overview was provided of the expanded Communications Plan with some detail on the different communications tools the Project Team has been using so far and what tools are upcoming including a new Scheme Website and Scheme Newsletters. 4. Background Information was provided on how 'Flood Risk' is defined as a statistical probability known as the AEP (or Annual Event Probability). It was highlighted that the '1 in 200 year' event does not mean it would occur once every 200 years, but rather has a 0.5% statistical probability of happening every year. Examples were provided of recent major flood events in the UK such as Carlisle in 2015 and Cockermouth 2009. 5. CP discussed the history of flooding in Musselburgh showing a board with historical flood events that was first displayed at Public Exhibition No. 1 in 2019. 6. CP provided a high level overview of the science behind flood risk modelling and outlined who carries this out. 7. CP discussed the flood risk to Musselburgh and to Goosegreen Area, highlighting the new UK climate change predictions (UKCP18, December 2018). CP discussed the risk of the Coastal flood event + climate change and showed the attendees the blended flood map which shows the predicted extent of flooding from a combined coastal and fluvial event plus climate change.

Item	Subject
	8. CP explained the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009, and noted that the is being delivered under this legislation and is already approved; 9. CP demonstrated a Schematic Timeline of the project delivery. 10. The origin of the Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme was highlighted - including a history of flooding in Musselburgh. This includes a presentation slide on the actual risk of flooding from the sea backing up the River Esk during a High Tide / Storm Surge event including a photo from December 2013 when the Council deployed demountable defences by the Goosegreen Footbridge to protect the area. 11. CP showed the attendees the Scheme's Schematic Project Stage Programme to highlight the step-by-step process and to reinforce that the Scheme remains in its Project Stage 4 (The Outline Design). Finally CP concluded by presenting the key actions (Next Steps) that the Project Team intended to advance with the assumed target for completion being spring 2022. 12. CP then handed over to JB to continue the presentation with a focus on the technical elements.
3.	*Presentation by Jim Baxter:* Please see the Meeting Presentation which is provided in full as a pdf for your visibility. The following key points are noted. 1. A summary was provided of the various project stages and JB noted the project was in the Outline Design stage presently. 2. JB described what the Outline Design stage entailed – namely the collection of relevant data, consultation with stakeholders, the development of an outline design, the assessment of the outline design's impact on the environment, and the refinement of the Outline Design into a Proposed Scheme. 3. An overview was provided of the data that has been collected so far such as: Ecology Surveys; Tree Surveys. Aquatic Surveys, Investigations of Watercourses and Weirs etc. 4. An explanation was provided on what the Preferred Scheme means, along with detail on how it was arrived at – i.e. how the Options Appraisal Process (OAP) worked through over 100 options to arrive at a preferred combination of options. Further, the overarching flood risk reduction mechanisms (the component parts) that are contained within the preferred options are: (i) Attenuation; (ii) Debris Management; (iii) Conveyance Improvements; (iv) Containment; and (v) Urban Drainage. 5. JB discussed the Scheme's objective to achieve Multiple Benefits and identified the 4 potential MB partners: Fisherrow Harbour & Seafront Association; Scottish Power; East Lothian Council Roads Department; and Musselburgh Active Toun project.

Item	Subject
	6. JB described the public consultation that had been undertaken so far, including the 2-day 'Public Open Day and Call for Historic Information' and the Public Exhibition No. 1 where a questionnaire was provided – he noted that the response to the question relating to support for a flood protection scheme for Musselburgh identified a very high desire to see the town's flood risk reduced – 94% indicating favour. 7. JB highlighted that the Outline Design is not a finished design, instead it is a collection of concepts that provide sufficient detail so that people know where defences are, what size they are, and their general appearance. 8. JB gave an overview of the Proposed Scheme for the whole town and for the Goosegreen area specifically. JB highlighted some of the constraints in the local area e.g. the underground services near the river's edge. 9. JB discussed the logics associated with the determination of the flood defence levels required at Goosegreen. 10. JB discussed the an approach to provide the proposed defence in front of the existing river wall, and the opportunity for the public to decide how the final landscaping at this location would be finished due to the extended verge.

4 Question & Answer Session

Individual	Question / Comment	Answer / Response
Resident	How much would the existing verge be extended out into the river? [This question is based on the assumption that a design like the concept visualised in JB's slides is advanced]	JB – Extending the verge enables the building of the defences in the river, this saves demolishing the existing retaining wall which houses many services and may lead to erosion of the bank. We would expect that the verge would be extended by approximately 1 to 2 metres.
Resident	To what extent will residents have their say on landscaping?	CP – Through the consultations there will be extensive opportunity to have your say on landscaping; we know from the modelling that a physical defence is needed and at Goosegreen will almost certainly need to be a wall due to the limitations in space and the challenges of dealing with connecting to the existing Scottish Power Seawall, the Cadets Facility and the utilities in the grass verge.

		JB – To give an indication of height – the existing railings alongside the river are approximately 1.0m – it is assumes a new wall in the same location would be in the order of 1.1m to 1.3m high.
Resident	You mentioned replacing the bridges, the wall next to the footbridge is approximately 1.3m, how much higher would a replacement bridge need to be?	JB – To mitigate flood risk the underside of the bridge would need to be in line with the top of the flood defences, from here you would then have the thickness of the deck which varies dependant on construction type. We hope that by the next consultation we will have a clearer idea of the size and thickness.
Resident	**Comment:** Would not support turning the grass verge into dedicated parking space. And the challenge of car parking in the area was highlighted.	CP – Noted.
Resident	How big would any wall be relative to the existing stub wall by the Goosegreen Footbridge? What about the replacement of the footbridges?	CP – Confirmed that the Project Team would need to check the exact height of the existing wall and thereby the difference – this can be addressed at the next meeting of the Goosegreen LAC Area – however based on memory the new wall would be about the same height at this location. JB – Apologies for forgetting to prepare a slide / info on the footbridges – this can be addressed at the next meeting of the Goosegreen LAC Area, but highlighted that the underside of a new footbridge would be above any new defences to ensure the flood waters can flow through without becoming impacted by the bridge => probably up 1.3m from ground-level today. JB – Noted that there are two bridges at this location today and that just now both these bridges needed to be replaced. It was also highlighted that the Musselburgh Active Toun project had an objective of replacing the Goosegreen Footbridge and providing a new Footbridge at the mouth of the River Esk.

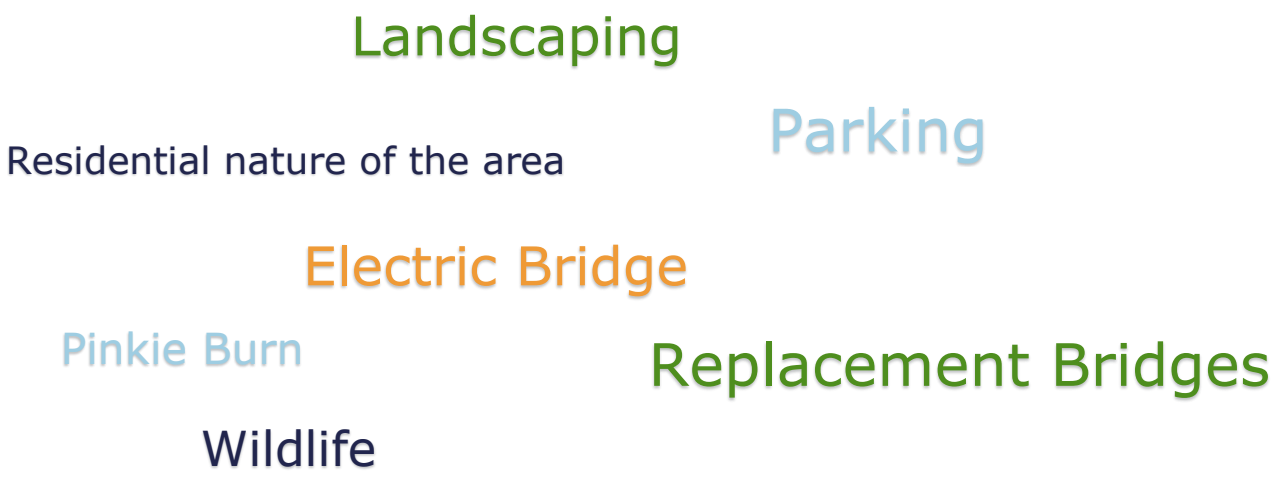
Resident	Would construction work start at the Fisherrow end or at the River Esk?	CP – This would depend on what is being constructed, we would need to consider what construction plant / machinery or materials are required to construct the defence. We must also consider the location of the site compound, for example this could be at Fisherrow Links or alternatively on the land near the Cadet huts. JB – usually the construction works contractor is responsible for programming the construction works. We can influence this but imposing limitations such as this on the contractor usually results in a higher cost for construction. These decisions will not be taken until years from now. First we must agree on a form of defence and design it.
Resident	Where does the Pinkie Burn run in the Goosegreen area?	CP – Provided an overview of this through a diagram of the route of the Pinkie Burn. GM – Requested that the resident email him directly so that the Scheme cold follow up with them on the location of the Pinkie Burn.
Resident	**Comment:** I have seen the water up on the banks several times, especially near the nursery.	CP – Noted.
CP	Is there any preference among those here on the most appropriate type of defence?	Resident – If it could be somehow camouflaged into the landscape, perhaps with planting or soft landscaping rather than a single stretch of wall this would be preferable. (Several Residents agreed with the above) JB – Within the design team at Jacobs there are expert Landscape Architects who will be working with the engineers to shape the Scheme's appearance
Resident	**Comment:** I think there is great potential to actually create something beautiful in the area.	(Another resident agreed with this statement)

CP	What is the experience of traffic and parking within the area?	(There was general agreement among the residents that additional parking on the verge would not be welcome)
Resident	We received a leaflet from Musselburgh Active Toun proposing that the replaced electric bridge would be used for road traffic – is this the plan?	CP – This is absolutely not the case as is understood by CP. We have no understanding of the Electric Bridge being turned into a part of the Adopted Road Network, and that logically this would seem counterproductive for that project. That said, CP could not comment on any leaflet that the MAT project distributed but will check this out – this can be addressed at the next meeting of the Goosegreen LAC Area.
Resident	**Comment:** I wouldn't support using the Electric Bridge as a road bridge as it would lead to increased traffic and parking which would damage the quiet residential nature of the area.	(Several residents agreed with this) CP – Noted.

Following the Q&A Session Jim Baxter introduced the Mural collaborative whiteboard tool. This allows people in the meeting to apply digital sticky notes to a board detailing their thoughts on three areas: (i) Experience of Flooding; (ii) Issues in their area; and (iii) Opportunities in their area. Due to a technical issue, the whiteboard sticky notes were populated by the Project Team based on residents' input. This board will be available on the Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme website on the Local Area Consultation – Goosegreen page.

5 Key Themes

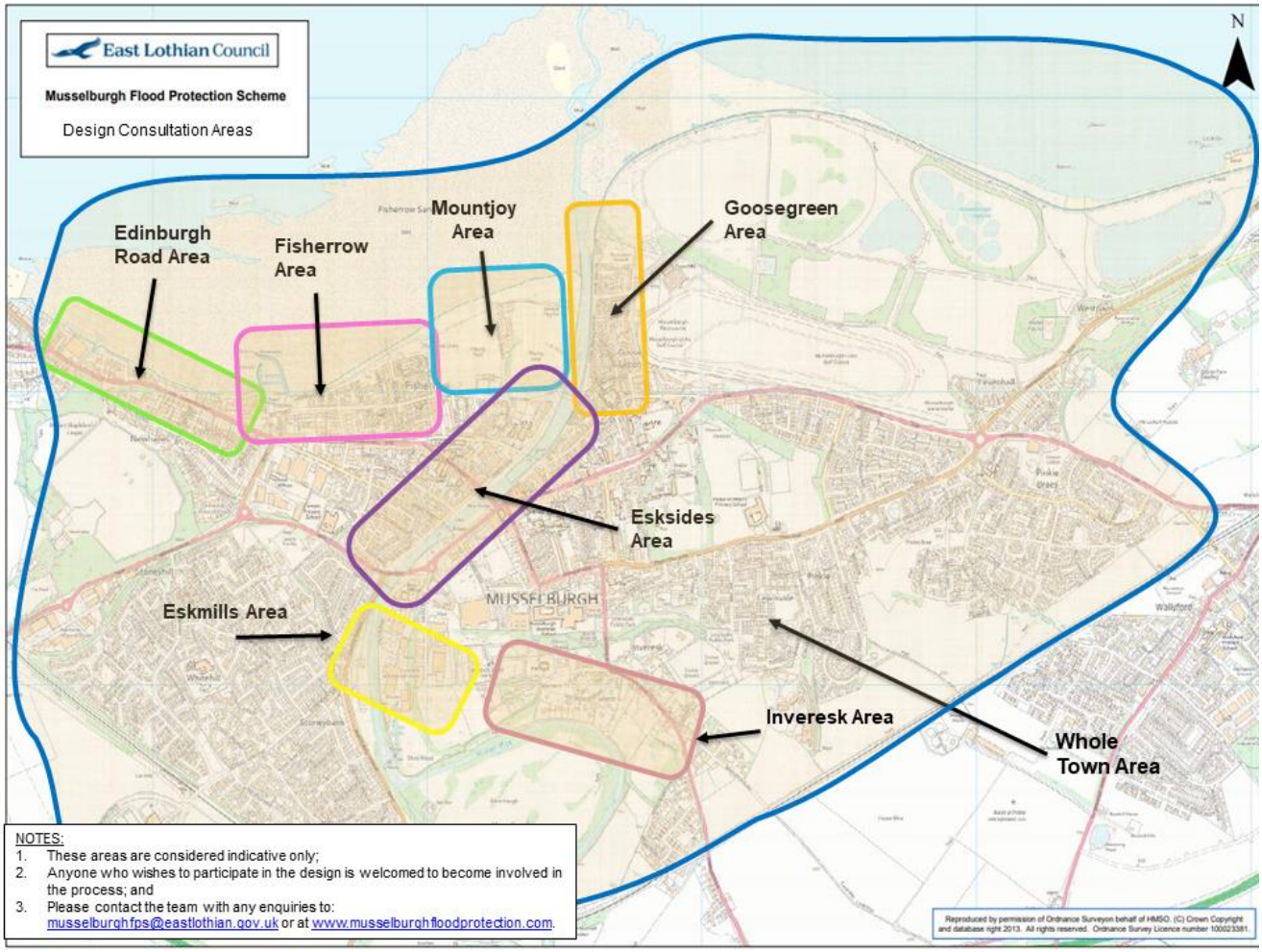
The below key themes have been identified from the meeting, please note that sizing of the words is purely stylistic and does not reflect relative weighting of importance.



6 Agreed Next Steps

It was agreed that the Scheme would reconvene a public meeting either in the current area format or in a merged forum dependant on demand and turnout. Whether it is in person or virtual will depend on the Project Team's assessment of the COVID-19 situation at the time. This is expected in the first quarter of 2022.

Appendix A – Overview of Outline Design Consultation Areas



1: N.B. Inveresk Area added after this meeting occurred.