

Grangemouth Flood Protection Scheme Newsletter

Issue 1: Winter 2021



For digital flythroughs for the scheme, go to:
www.grangemouthfloodscheme.com



"We're delighted to provide you with this newsletter update on the Grangemouth Flood Protection Scheme. There has been a lot happening as things continue progressing and we hope you find the information useful. We will continue to provide regular updates via our website, newsletters and social media, and as always we welcome your feedback."

- Councillor Paul Garner (pictured)

Letters delivered to affected residents and businesses

Letters have been sent offering individual meetings

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Letters delivered to directly affected residents and businesses



Letters to local residents and businesses about the Grangemouth Flood Protection Scheme landed in letterboxes or inboxes in October.

The letters were sent to residents and businesses who will be directly affected by the scheme and gives them an opportunity for one-to-one discussions directly with the project team about how the scheme could impact them and address any concerns that they may have.

This is the next stage in the engagement process to inform and involve residents and businesses. There will also be further public engagement sessions in early 2022. A fifth engagement event is planned for Spring/ Summer 2022, at which point the aim is to present the final scheme design, final flood defence alignment and the proposed appearance of defences across all seven community areas. Shortly after this event the Council will commence the statutory processes to gain the consent to enable the scheme to be implemented.

Listening to local residents in the heart of our communities

Falkirk Council is delighted with the response to our third public engagement event for the Grangemouth Flood Protection Scheme held in June 2021.

Seven engagement sessions took place online via Microsoft Teams from 15th to 24th June, held virtually due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The feedback received from the engagement sessions was constructive and will be of great value to the project team as we continue to finalise the design plans for the Scheme.

The sessions were held to enable local residents to understand the impact of flooding, the proposed protection scheme, and how they may be affected by it. Presentations featured digital flythroughs, maps and artistic representations of where flood defences could be positioned and what they would look like.

Protecting local communities

Councillor Paul Garner, Falkirk Council's spokesperson for the environment, said:



"We are delighted with the uptake in our summer public consultation events. We want to make sure that everyone who may be affected by the proposed scheme understands the impact flooding could have on their area and that they are clear what the scheme

will do in protecting local communities which is at the heart of this project.

"As a Council, we are ensuring we are at the forefront of protecting our homes, businesses and livelihoods across these communities.

"The seven sessions were well attended, and we hope the attendees found them as useful as we did."

Feedback on the engagement sessions from the local community was positive, with 67% saying that they felt more informed about GFPS after the sessions and 87% of participants saying they would attend future sessions. Participants were also given the chance to see the style of the flood defences and comment on them as well as suggest any additional community benefits that could be provided by the scheme such as footpaths, landscaping, cycle paths, seating and information boards.

Residents' feedback

One resident said: "It was informative and clearly presented. Hopefully, the potential of the scheme to improve walking, cycling and water amenities for the people of the area"

Another resident added: "Great presentation. Great ideas re STEM work for kids. They are the future of this park and would like to see presentation made at schools."

Further sessions

Further engagement sessions will take place early next year with the aim of finalising the scheme's design by Spring/Summer 2022. If you missed the June engagement sessions, you can watch full recordings on our website where a full list of questions and answers can also be found - www.grangemouthfloodscheme.com



Learn More About Flooding

To help you get some more information on the Grangemouth Flood Protection Scheme and why it is needed, we have compiled some frequently asked questions we have received from members of the public.

If any of your questions are not answered below, please see our full FAQs on our website to help you further. For detailed queries do not hesitate to get in touch with our project team by emailing grangemouthfps@falkirk.gov.uk or by calling **07483 936207**.



Why is the Scheme required when there hasn't been any recent flooding?

Falkirk Council is taking a proactive approach to manage flood risks as climate change continues to cause a rise in sea-levels and increase the amount of rainfall we experience year-on-year. An absence of major floods in recent years doesn't mean there is no risk of a major event happening in the area.

Due to the low-lying land around Grangemouth, a major flooding event could cause significant damage to businesses and thousands of homes in the area. In the past decade there have been numerous instances where watercourses have been very close to breaking their banks and flooding properties.



Will the views of the public be sought on the proposed defences?

Public engagement sessions were held in 2018 and 2019 respectively. The purpose of these sessions was to get feedback from the public on the proposed Scheme.

Engagement has also taken place with elected councillors, community councils, statutory consultees, and many others. Further public engagement sessions were held in June 2021, and there will be further statutory consultation in spring 2022. Engagement will continue throughout the development and life of the Scheme.



Who is funding the Scheme?

The process of funding the Scheme involves submitting an application for funding to the Scottish Government at the point when the plans are confirmed. Funding grants of 80% of the costs are available from the Scottish Government for confirmed Schemes which meet specific technical, environmental and economic criteria.

Falkirk Council and others would then fund the remaining 20% of the total cost.



How do flood gates work?

Flood gates are to be positioned in specific areas throughout the Scheme in places where access is required through the new flood defences. Flood gates are useful where constructing a ramp over the flood defence wall isn't an option and also at existing bridges where the bridge can't be raised to accommodate the new flood defence level.

On completion of the scheme, Falkirk Council will liaise with the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) to determine the likelihood of flood and close flooding gates in preparation for a flood event.



Will the defences stop all future flooding?

In short, no – the defences can't guarantee it will stop all future flooding. There is always a risk with any Flood Protection Scheme that there will be a weather event on such a scale that it's bigger than the Scheme is designed to protect against.

The Grangemouth Flood Protection Scheme is being designed to protect against major flood events which have a 0.5% chance of occurring in any year.

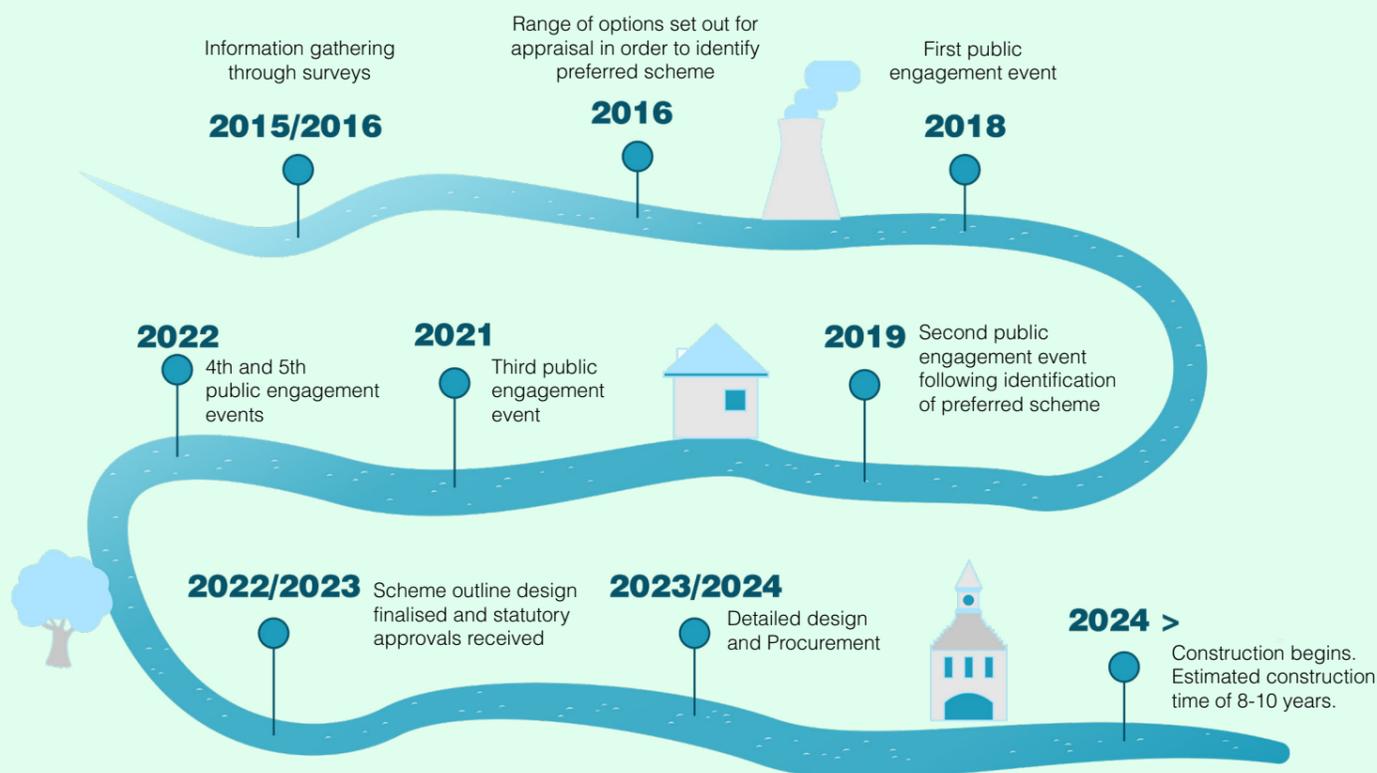


When will the Scheme be built?

The project team is currently working on finalising the design of the Scheme, with the aim of publishing the plans for consultation in 2022.

If all goes well and approval is granted, the aim is to start the work in 2024 with an estimated construction time of around 8 to 10 years.

Timeline for the Flood Protection Scheme



You said, we did!

You said...

- ◆ Following 2018 consultation event, most of those who voted on the different options, chose the option which reduced the overall length of defences along the Grange Burn. This option also defined the position of flood defences through Zetland Park.
- ◆ In 2019, you wanted to know more about the Scheme, how defences might look and be kept informed.
- ◆ You wanted to know more about the options that had been considered but discounted.
- ◆ You wanted further engagement sessions.

We did...

- ◆ The option chosen by the public was adopted.
- ◆ New website and social media channels launched.
- ◆ Details added to the website with FAQs and options considered.
- ◆ Sessions commenced in 2021.

You can keep up to date with the Scheme by visiting our website www.grangemouthfloodscheme.com

The ins and outs of the Scheme



What is the Scheme?

The Grangemouth Flood Protection Scheme is the largest flood defence project in Scotland, and is one of the biggest projects of its kind in the UK.

With climate change continuing to impact the weather in Scotland and across the globe, the risk of flooding in the local area has increased significantly due to rising sea levels and heavier, more frequent rainfall. The Scheme will help protect communities in Grangemouth, Wholeflats, Glensburgh, Langlees, Carron, Carronshore and Stirling Road, Camelon from river and tidal flooding.

Extreme flood events

If an extreme flood event were to occur in the local area, it could potentially have huge financial cost and cause major disruption. These are some of the reasons the Scheme has been identified as being of the highest priority. Even though the Grangemouth area has fortunately managed to avoid significant flooding in recent years, it is at an increased risk which the proposed Scheme will help to mitigate.

27km of defences

The Grangemouth Flood Protection Scheme will provide around 27km of flood defences. These will be provided through a combination of walls, embankments, flood gates and flow control measures, and by making greater use of the existing Flood Relief Channel. Around 5,800 people, 2,650 homes and 330 businesses are set to benefit from the protection the Scheme offers.

Construction in 2024

Falkirk Council is working with their consultants, Jacobs, to design, plan and manage the new Scheme and hope to begin construction around 2024 with the aim of completion in 2035. Works are planned along the River Carron from Stirling Road to the Port, on the Grange Burn from Beancross to the Port and on the River Avon from Wholeflats Road to the Firth of Forth with coastal defences along the estuary frontage.

Further community engagement sessions are planned for early 2022, with the aim of finalising the Scheme in Spring/Summer 2022.



STEM - calling all budding flooding engineers



Grangemouth Flood Protection Scheme will be working with local primary schools in Grangemouth and across the Scheme area to deliver a STEM education programme linked to the project.

STEM is a curriculum based on the idea of educating students in four specific disciplines — science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The programme has been developed with Falkirk Council's education department in conjunction with the Jacobs STEM team and all 12 local primary schools are being invited to take part.

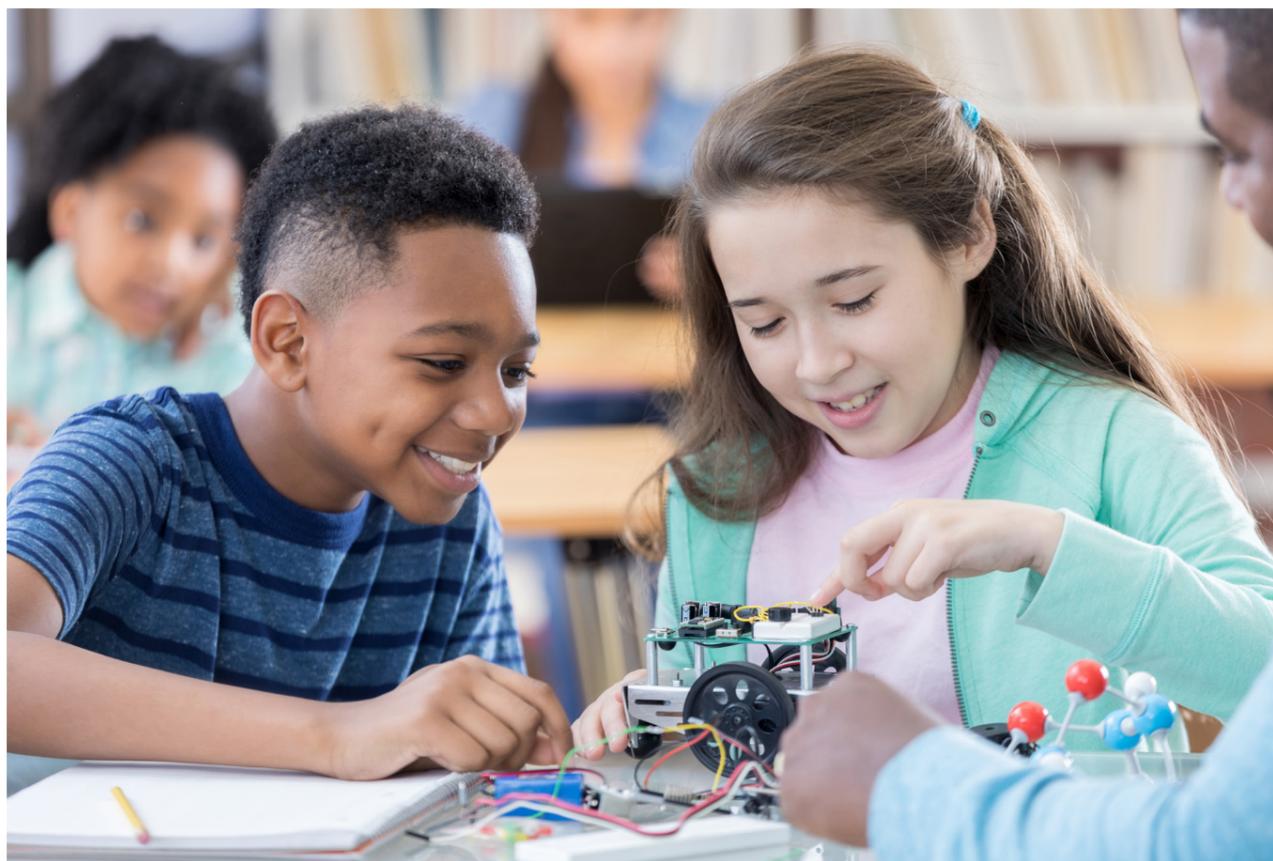
Pupils will be taught about flooding, the need for the Scheme, what solutions are available and the costs and benefits of each. They will also find out about

the kind of job roles there are within this kind of project. The programme will put pupils knowledge to the test when they have to develop and design their own flood protection solutions which they will present to industry experts at a special prize giving event at the Zetland Park Science Festival in 2022.

The aim of the programme is to get young people engaged with the Grangemouth Flood Protection Scheme programme and to help them learn about flooding and the positive impact the Flood Protection Scheme can have.

By using the Scheme as a case study, we can educate and inspire a new generation of young people who may consider a career in science, technology, engineering or mathematics in the future. We are excited about the STEM events we are developing, and we expect to launch the programme next year with the aim of engaging with 100 local school pupils in the first year.

If you or your school would like to take part contact us at grangemouthfps@falkirk.gov.uk



As the Grangemouth Flood Protection Scheme progresses, a further STEM programme will be delivered to all five local secondary schools.

We will post updates on the STEM events on our social media channels and website as they progress. To find out more about STEM, visit www.stem.org.uk/about

COP 26

Did you know that 2020 was the third warmest and fifth wettest year on record in the UK?

Experts have warned that the country has become 6% wetter and 0.9C warmer in the space of just thirty years!

Climate change is said to be one of the biggest issues we have ever faced and the spotlight was on Scotland when COP26 came to Glasgow. The eyes of the world were on us, we must all help drive through change to halt climate change.



Bat's Life

We've recently been carrying out our extensive bat surveys around the Grangemouth Flood Protection Scheme area at dawn and dusk!

Have you spotted us on the ground?

Did you know there are 18 species of bat in the UK and they are all protected under government legislation? This is an important stage in the Scheme design to protect the natural wildlife in the area and our team have been up early and out late to conduct these surveys.

Keep an eye on our social media channels and the website for further updates on our bat surveys.



GFPS Shortlisted for Award!

The ground investigations at the Lower Grange Burn and Forth Estuary, as part of the Grangemouth Flood Protection Scheme, have been shortlisted in this year's Ground Engineering Awards in the Ground Investigation Project of the Year category!

The competition for the award is fierce and we're up against some major projects based around the UK. As the largest flood protection scheme in Scotland and one of the largest in the UK as a whole, we're extremely proud to have been recognised for our work alongside our consultant, Jacobs, and supplier Dunelm Geotechnical and Environmental Ltd.

The winners will be announced on November 23rd so keep an eye out on our social media channels or for our next newsletter to find out how we got on...



Protecting communities in Grangemouth, Wholeflats, Glensburgh, Langlees, Carron and Carronshore



2,650
residential
properties



6km
roads



330
non-residential
properties



5,800
people

Extra News from Falkirk Council

Community Engagement – how are we doing?

Two years ago, Falkirk Council launched a **Strategy for Community Engagement 2019 - 2024**.

It aims to change the way we engage with local people, highlighting the steps we must take to involve them in decisions that affect their lives and in the design of the services that they use.

We are now halfway through the strategy's timeline, and Falkirk Council needs your help to review our progress so far.



SCAN ME

How can you help?

Scan this QR code to tell us:

- if you think we are meeting the strategy's objectives
- what we are doing well and where we could improve
- your experience of community engagement with Falkirk Council
- what you'd like to get involved in and how we can contact you when opportunities arise.

Then what?

As an organisation, we have made a promise to ask, listen, and act on what communities tell us and to improve how we involve you in decision making.

To help keep that promise - and ensure your views are central to decisions being made about the strategy - we will:

- publish what you told us on our website by spring 2022
- embed what we learn from the survey in our report that will go to 2 committees attended by Elected Members in early 2022
- share our report and the outcomes of the meetings with Elected Members on our website.

If you or someone you know would like a copy of this newsletter in another language or format this can be arranged by contacting our customer services centre on 01324 506070

You can keep up to date with the scheme by visiting our website

grangemouthfloodscheme.com



[grangemouthfps](https://twitter.com/grangemouthfps)



[grangemouthfps](https://www.facebook.com/grangemouthfps)



[Grangemouth Flood Protection Scheme](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=grangemouthfps)

