

Comments & Points Raised at Meeting
Town Hall Meeting
Flooding Bill Consultation

Location: McMillan Hall
Dashwood
Square
Newton Stewart
Dumfries &
Galloway

Date/Time: 24 April 2008,
20:00 – 21:30

PANEL MEMBERS

Judith Tracey	Scottish Government
Fiona Quinn	Scottish Government
Alistair Speedie	Dumfries & Galloway Council
Jonathon Warren	Scottish Natural Heritage
Steven Herriot	Dumfries & Galloway Council
David Faichney	SEPA

MINUTES

Fiona Quinn	Scottish Government
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SYNOPSIS OF COMMENTS RAISED

- Concern was expressed that flood defences' which have been re-designated for another purpose, such as a footpath would not be covered by the Bill;
- There is a need for more joined up working;
- SEPA needs to have a stronger role and be in a position to enforce new requirements, they need to be able to impose sanctions to make things happen;
- The possibility of creating solutions through natural measures upstream should be considered more often;
- SEPA are the most appropriate organisation to enforce flooding requirement;
- SEPA will require sufficient funding to effectively police flooding regulations;

- The Flooding Bill will need to interact with new planning legislation and prevent new development on flood plains;
- Concerned that the Scotland Rural Development Programme may all be spent on flood alleviation measures;
- The council were concerned that under the Bill proposals, that councils will now be responsible for protecting agricultural land from flooding as well as non agricultural. It was felt that this could be extremely costly;
- It was suggested that forestry plantations in the past had increased flooding risk for some areas and that encouraging better natural management upstream and getting the forestry Commission and land owners to work with Councils upstream was the right approach as long as land owners were fairly compensated for lost income;
- Concern was expressed that funding to Local Authorities would be subject to competing demands and difficult decisions would be required. If an overarching body had the ability to impose sanctions if flood risk management wasn't undertaken this would be more effective.
- A catchment based approach was welcome;
- Will flooding plans be linked to measures/plans to alleviate droughts as this can be a problem too;
- Concern was expressed that cross border issues do not seem to be covered in the consultation;
- It was suggested that to encourage land managers to carry out natural flood management measures, a longer term financial incentive would need to be offered rather than the current 5 year agri-environment agreements.
- Is there any European funding to assist with the cost of implementing the Directive;
- The definition of flooding is really important so that no types of flooding are excluded including tidal flooding.
- It was suggested that insurance companies could fund flood prevention measures
- It was suggested that sometimes spending a small amount of money could make a big difference and concern was expressed why some of these projects which had been identified as beneficial had not been undertaken locally.
- Concern was expressed about flooding prevention funding and how it will be allocated and prioritised in the future. It is impossible for councils to address flooding issues without funding.

- Concern was expressed about new developments and the SUDS which are being created not being of a sufficient capacity to cope with flooding events.