

E News February 2022



Supporting Flood Risk Communities



Welcome to the first 2022 edition of the SFF newsletter.

A happy New Year to everyone from the SFF!

I would like to start by thanking everyone who participated in our webinars about the Flood Risk Management Plans Consultation. Over 650 responses were received from individuals and community groups and the SFF submitted its own response that reflected community views. A full report on the responses will be published in Spring and we look forward to the publication of the new flood risk management plans later this year.

As you read through the newsletter many of the experiences of individuals and new community groups may resonate with you. If you have any helpful hints and tips for new Community Flood Groups do share these with us at: admin@scottishfloodforum.org

No one is alone on this journey and the SFF family is there to offer our support. Like the best of families we want to see your pictures and hear your stories so do share them with us and follow us @ Twitter and Instagram.

Best Wishes

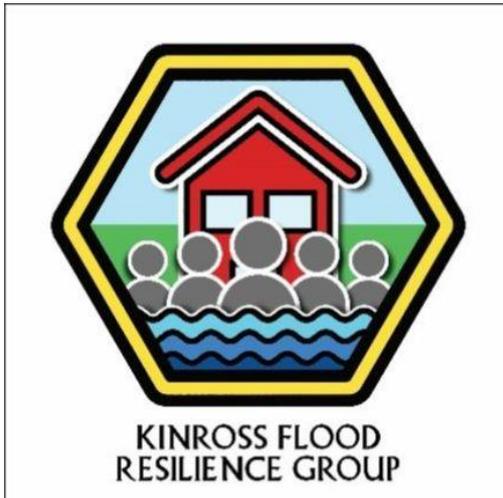
Carol Raeburn, SFF Director.

It Happened Again! Lorraine.



"We flooded again and this time the water in the house was over one meter and the devastation just broke my heart, the tears followed. I contacted the SFF as I had nobody to turn to for help, they listened and understood what we were going through and helped me access support and get emergency work and drying started in the house. The advice and support from the SFF is first class, I can honestly say we would have been lost without hope, you are our angels. I could not access insurance due to repeat flooding and the sky high cost of premiums. Being flooded with insurance is terrible, but to experience it without any insurance can be a living nightmare as your life is washed away. The support the SFF provided to help me and our community recover was excellent so on behalf of me and my family. Thank you for saving our Christmas".

Kinross Flood Resilience Group (Perth & Kinross)

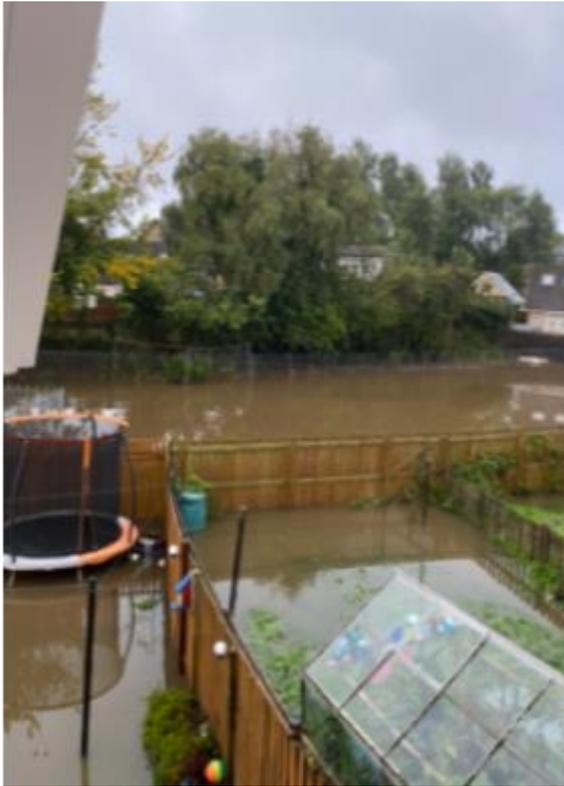


The message from KFRG is we have a draft community flood plan in place, a risk assessment completed and funding approved from the SFF for a Kinross Community Flood Alerting System. Sadly however, they have no insurance cover for their flood resilience activities as the group cannot access insurance through their local Community Council (CC). KFRG have checked with Zurich Insurance and Perth Kinross Council (PKC) who are happy with proposals that KFRG become a sub committee of Kinross CC allowing them to be named on the insurance policy. The group have also asked PKC to extend their insurance to cover the activities of the volunteers but so far this has not been possible.

Will Wright from KFRG says: "Its extremely frustrating that KFRG is seeking to help people at risk of flooding but we cannot access insurance to cover our activities. As an informal group we want to focus our activities entirely on flood resilience activities rather than setting up a bank account, constitution or becoming a formally elected Community Councillor.

SFF Senior Community Resilience Manager Paul Laidlaw says: "*We urge everyone to come together to find a solution for the benefit of people at risk of flooding in the town. Being flooded is a terrible experience to go through and the work of KFRG can go a long way to helping the community be better prepared. Sadly, unless the group can access insurance the funding to develop a community flood alerting system will be allocated to another community*".

Milburn Flood Action Group (East Dunbartonshire)



The SFF are delighted to be working with local people to start Milburn Flood Action Group (MFAG). The SFF give a warm welcome to MFAG who will join a growing national flood risk community movement.

After repeated flooding people have come together to work with the SFF and key agencies to form a community flood plan. Elise Copland from the MFAG says: "*After repeated flooding, damage, devastation, nightmares, constant burn watch and flood anxiety we thought enough was enough and we are taking action to help resist and prevent flooding. People who have suffered flooding are already taking direct action and are desperate, so we approached the SFF who are supporting us to form the group and put a plan into action. Our main message is please listen to us! A key part of our plan will be putting forward proposals to the council about responsible access to a gated culvert so we can help monitor and clear debris to reduce flood risk*"

Wykeham Road Flood Action Group (Glasgow)



Wykeham Road Flood Action Group (WRFAG) formed in response to flooding to properties on 7th August

2021. WRFAG have shown incredible resilience at these initial stages bringing people together and forming a Group. They are meeting regularly and are working with Glasgow City Council and Scottish Water who are carrying out investigations into the causes of flooding and what can be done to reduce the risk.

The SFF are working with the group to provide independent advice and support the development of a community flood plan and advise on property flood protection products. The group have been galvanised to develop a first draft of their community flood plan that will outline actions they can take with partners to be better prepared for flooding.

Chairperson Pauline Fletcher says:

“Our area flooded three times in 2021 and we are committed to working with all agencies to understand why, work to reduce this risk and develop our own community flood plan. People who have suffered flooding are worried and stressed about damage to their homes and this is impacting our mental health. Developing a community flood plan is a priority action for 2022 and we value the support of the SFF to develop our plan. WRFAG is here to stay and we look forward to working with all agencies to understand our flood risk and put in place solutions”.

Introducing Team SFF

Shona Sloan - Community Support Manager



I joined the team in August 2020 as Administrator and very quickly became aware just how widespread and varying flood risk is across Scotland. After spending time with impacted individuals and communities the choice was simple to get more involved with the SFF.

I am delighted to take up the role Community Flood Support Manager and committed to coordinating and delivering our flood support services across Scotland. Our aim is to reach more people at risk of flooding and through our services, provide meaningful support to not only help people recover from flooding, but working across the team to support people on those vital steps to increasing flood resilience.

Carole-Anne Hoggan – Administrator



Working alongside the late Paul Hendy, firstly as a volunteer for the SFF provided me with great knowledge and understanding of both Flood Recovery and Flood Resilience measures. I love working with the SFF as it's an organisation that cares about people who have flooded and is passionate about building better community flood resilience.

As Administrator for the SFF, I am frequently the first point of contact for you. We need to understand the complexity of your enquiry and prioritise, as well as delegating it to the most appropriate member of the SFF team. Having been affected by major flooding twice myself, I can fully empathise with you and understand what you are going through.

Katy Smillie - Community Resilience Manager



I have recently had the privilege of joining the SFF team and my key role is to continue supporting and developing Community Resilience Groups. Community building and developing assets within communities, has not only been my career for the past sixteen years but my passion. With my background in Youth and Community Work I have seen first-hand how vital it is to take a community led response locally and nationally to any issue. I look forward to using my experience to help equip and resource communities across Scotland to be better prepared for flooding and to continue building a national flood risk community movement.

Trustee Corner – Stuart Cullen



I have been Principal Roads & Flooding Officer for Clackmannanshire Council since 2014. As Scotland's smallest Council our size helps us to engage directly and support our communities and this brings huge benefits. When offered the opportunity to be a SFF trustee I was delighted to accept. I do feel it's important for professionals to offer their experience to fight the scourge of flooding. In times of Covid this should be the "new normal" attitude we all adopt in our industry. Indeed, if I need any motivation, I look no further than the examples set by the amazing volunteers running our local Flood Groups. They truly embody all that defines altruism as they invest time, knowledge and experience to build flood resilient communities.

The SFF always bring a positive influence supporting engagement with flood risk communities and that is vital for local authorities and even more important now with the impacts of climate change. Having the SFF as an organisation to support people affected by flooding is as vital as ever and I am delighted to be a Trustee and support a common cause.

Finally, I am told I must give some information about myself that nobody knows. I played Handball for club and country for 30 years. Sore knees now but sorely missed times!

From April 1st 2022 the [Build Back Better \(BBB\)](#) initiative will start to become

The Scottish Flood Forum is a charitable organisation that supports those who are

The SFF were delighted to submit a Flood Risk Management (FRM)

available for flood insurance policies ceded to the FloodRe scheme. This will mean that on making a claim for flooding policy holders will be able to receive a payment up to £10,000 to include flood resistance and resilience measures as part of the scope of works.

The SFF is working with [FloodRe](#) to promote this to communities and insurance companies to encourage those at flood risk to request this important policy option through their insurance company. Keep your eyes out for the SFF BBB event with FloodRe soon!

affected by, or are at risk of, flooding across Scotland.

Ask friends and family to [sign up](#) for SFF newsletters or consider donating to support our work with flood risk communities by contacting the SFF team.



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consultation response that reflected a wide variety of views from community flood groups across Scotland. The SFF will use this to inform our priorities to improve engagement with flood communities and increase the opportunities for communities to influence key issues. Look out for our next SFF community networking event where we will continue building a national flood risk community movement.

The Scottish Flood Forum is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation No. SC043783, Principal Office Address - Caledonian Exchange, 19A Canning Street, Edinburgh, EH3 8HE **01698 839021**

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