

Members' Library Service Request Form

Date of Document	18/10/24
Originator	Ian Chalmers
Originator's Ref (if any)	
Document Title	Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme MLS report - Appendix A.6

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For Publication

Additional information:

Authorised By	Carlo Grilli
Designation	Service Manager - Governance
Date	18/10/24

For Office Use Only:	
Library Reference	103/24
Date Received	18/10/24
Bulletin	Oct 24

Subject: (0146) MUSSELBURGH FLOOD PROTECTION SCHEME 2024
Sent: 19/04/2024, 08:48:39
From: [REDACTED]
To: Musselburgh Flood Protection Objections
Attachments: [REDACTED] [Unnecessary development.docx](#)

Categories: [REDACTED]

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Further to my letters to Mr Grilli I include an email copy of my objections to the MFPS to ensure that they are all read and responded to.
Please confirm receipt of these objections. (Resent due to failure sending)
Please note that I require written responses to the main address [REDACTED] and not via email.
Yours sincerely
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
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[REDACTED]

17 April 2024

**To The Service Manager – Governance, Legal Services,
East Lothian Council, John Muir House, Haddington, EH41 3HA**

**I wish to object to the proposed Musselburgh Flood Defense Scheme
for the following reason:**

Unnecessary development within a conservation area, Ramsar site and SSSI:

The proposed Goosegreen bridge is a new structure in a completely new location and is not in keeping with the existing ambience of Musselburgh or its aesthetic appeal.

The proposed new Goosegreen bridge is totally unnecessary and would have a significant impact on views over the Forth Estuary and enjoyment of existing access to the shoreline.

The proposed new bridge would impact on the SSSI site & Ramsar site by causing pollution during its construction, damage to existing wildlife habitats

Additionally, the design is modern and not in keeping with the historic conservation status of Musselburgh and could pose a risk to protected seabirds natural habitat.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Subject: (0147) MUSSELBURGH FLOOD PROTECTION SCHEME 2024
Sent: 19/04/2024, 08:49:23
From: [REDACTED]
To: Musselburgh Flood Protection Objections
Attachments: [REDACTED] [Loretto.docx](#)

Categories: [REDACTED]

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Please confirm receipt of these objections. (Resent due to failure sending)
Please note that I require written responses to the [REDACTED] address [REDACTED] and not via email.
Yours sincerely
[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

15th April 2024

**To The Service Manager – Governance, Legal Services,
East Lothian Council, John Muir House, Haddington, EH41 3HA**

**I wish to object to the proposed Musselburgh Flood Defense Scheme
for the following reason:**

The Act 2009 states that natural solutions are best practice. The scheme is the antithesis of this.

The proposed design results in the effective narrowing of the river Esk towards the river mouth. This results in the requirement for higher defenses being required to anticipate high tides and exceptional tidal occurrences.

I have been in touch with Loretto School that owns the Newfield playing fields at the Esk Mouth. I have been informed that at no time have they been approached to enquire about the purchase of land that would enable the river to be kept at its present width, widened or some form of Suds scheme to be created on what is a natural and frequently flooded area adjacent to an area of significant tidal influence. Such investigations have been discounted without evaluation as to the possible reduction of environmental, aesthetic or physical impact on Musselburgh. I have been assured that Loretto school would have been happy to enter negotiations to enable the proposed scheme to provide a more natural solution

I therefore object to the proposed scheme as it does not meet with the Scottish Governments guidelines that natural Solutions should be a primary consideration. Natural solutions have not been fully investigated.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Subject: (0148) MUSSELBURGH FLOOD PROTECTION SCHEME 2024
Sent: 19/04/2024, 08:51:17
From: [REDACTED]
To: Musselburgh Flood Protection Objections
Attachments: [REDACTED] [Public consultation \[REDACTED\].docx](#)

Categories: 19 Wedderburn Terrace

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MUSSELBURGH FLOOD PROTECTION SCHEME 2024

Further to my letters to Mr Grilli I include an email copy of my objections to the MFPS to ensure that they are all read and responded to.

Please confirm receipt of these objections. (Resent due to failure sending)

Please note that I require written responses to the main address [REDACTED] and not via email.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

**To The Service Manager – Governance, Legal Services,
East Lothian Council, John Muir House, Haddington, EH41 3HA**

**I / We wish to object to the proposed Musselburgh Flood Defense
Scheme for the following reason:**

Public consultation

Risk to homes & businesses has been adequately managed for the past 75 years with the last significant flood event in 1948. The design consultants have discounted localized protection to homes & businesses on the instruction of East Lothian Council to provide a 1:200-year protection.

The scheme was changed considerably from the public Exhibition on 20/21 June 2023 but no further public meeting has been held despite requests for an updated presentation to the public. Drop in consultations resulted in the suggestion by the project Team that the design had been adapted to meet public concerns. However, no confirmation of those changes was made available via a public meeting and the value of drop in consultations very limited.

Many people have stated to me that they found the project team; condescending, overbearing, manipulative and economical with the truth. I have also found this for myself.

This is also supported by the implication by the Project Team in the report into the questionnaire from the 3rd Public Exhibition in June 2023 (published on the 4th December 2023) that online respondents may have made 'multiple' submissions and therefore the online results were unreliable.

It should be noted that 897 members of the public attended the Public Exhibition in June 2023. Of those 327 completed the questionnaires at the event. A Further 537 where submitted online. A total of 864 submitted questionnaires.

The report published on the 4th December 2023 implies fraudulent submissions and therefore questions the validity of the feedback.

Such aspersions make the recorded results composed by ELC's MFPS team of the 3rd Public Exhibition questionable. Surely the Project team had the safeguards in place to ensure that multiple submissions did not happen?

I argue that as many online respondents were younger (as evidenced in the reports statistics), with greater access to online information rather than relying what they were told at the Public, event that many younger people may have responded online because they went home to get answers or could not attend the event due to work & or Family commitments.

The suggestion made reflects poorly on the Project Team and council officers and their attitude to the Musselburgh residents.

The summary report states that the ELC advisors question the unreliable or possibly duplicate submissions. The questionnaire was designed to elicit specific responses as it offered very little possibility of objective input. Many older people I have spoken to found the questionnaire confusing and chose not to complete it for that reason. Being online it was not easily accessible to all those that did not have easy access to the printed document. In summary, the responsibility to obtain honest and accurate responses belongs to the designers of the questionnaire.

I/We therefore request that a full investigation and public enquiry is held in order for the views of all businesses, property owners and residents to be considered.

Yours sincerely

██████████ and ██████████

Subject: (0149) MUSSELBURGH FLOOD PROTECTION SCHEME 2024
Sent: 19/04/2024, 08:52:27
From: [REDACTED]
To: Musselburgh Flood Protection Objections
Attachments: [REDACTED] [Dynamic Coast findings.docx](#)

Categories: [REDACTED]

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Further to my letters to Mr Grilli I include an email copy of my objections to the MFPS to ensure that they are all read and responded to.
Please confirm receipt of these objections. (Resent due to failure sending)
Please note that I require written responses to the main address [REDACTED] and not via email.
Yours [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

**To The Service Manager – Governance, Legal Services,
East Lothian Council, John Muir House, Haddington, EH41 3HA**

**I / We wish to object to the proposed Musselburgh Flood Defense
Scheme for the following reason:**

The Dynamic Coast report **MUSSELBURGH COASTAL CHANGE ASSESSMENT**, (February 2024) puts into doubt the whole concept of building a sea wall to last until the end of the century as many of us have questioned. It is a very strong and clearly supported point of objection based on facts provided by an independent Statutory body

Based on the report by the Statutory body Dynamic Coast I wish to object to the proposed flood protection works named The Coastal Change Adaptation Plan and the Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme. The authors of the Dynamic Coast report clearly believe that we should start planning for managed retreat from the current coastline.

The authors make a clear case that barriers will lead to foreshore narrowing (i.e beach gets steeper and may vanish) which will eventually undermine hard defences (unless even more engineering is done...)

The proposed scheme is not fit for purpose as it does not meet the criteria of the objective which is to protect the town from coastal flooding for a period of 100 years.

I / We therefore object to the proposed MFPS & Coastal Adaptation Scheme as in reference to Dynamic Coast's report the proposed scheme has little long-term value.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Subject: (0150) MUSSELBURGH FLOOD PROTECTION SCHEME 2024
Sent: 19/04/2024, 08:52:59
From: [REDACTED]
To: Musselburgh Flood Protection Objections
Attachments: [REDACTED] [Enigneered Solution](#) [REDACTED].docx

Categories: [REDACTED]

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Further to my letters to Mr Grilli I include an email copy of my objections to the MFPS to ensure that they are all read and responded to.
Please confirm receipt of these objections. (Resent due to failure sending)
Please note that I require written responses to the main address [REDACTED] and not via email.
Yours sincerely
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

17th April 2023

**To The Service Manager – Governance, Legal Services,
East Lothian Council, John Muir House, Haddington, EH41 3HA**

**I wish to object to the proposed Musselburgh Flood Defense Scheme
for the following reason:**

Human interference can alter a river's natural flow, which may result in the need for further, unplanned work. For example, adding flood embankments and solid concrete structures to one part of a river may cause erosion to worsen elsewhere. This is because the power of newly constrained flood waters will be transferred downstream.

The proposed scheme is not appropriate for Musselburgh where the consequences of such development may result in a long-term impact on the Ramsar and SSSI sites in associated areas.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Subject: (0151) Fw: Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme

Sent: 19/04/2024, 09:37:17

From: [Redacted]

To: Musselburgh Flood Protection Objections

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: [Redacted]

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Please can you confirm receipt of my objection to the scheme. Thank you.

Regards,

[Redacted]

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [Redacted] >

To: [Redacted] >

Sent: Thursday, 18 April 2024 at 22:33:16 BST

Subject: Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme

Dear Mr Grilli,

I am writing to object to the proposed Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme.

Although we live in [Redacted] my husband and I love visiting Musselburgh, and we enjoy walking along the banks of the Esk with its mature trees and water birds. My grounds of objection are as follows:

1. I believe that alternatives to this proposal have not been adequately assessed, especially alternatives involving natural flood management, in cooperation with neighbouring local authorities. For example, Scottish Borders Council has been working on natural flood management for many years, including extensive tree planting, which increases water retention in soil and vegetation. I understand that no such options have been considered at all in Musselburgh.
2. The proposed scheme will have a significantly adverse impact on visual amenity and enjoyment of one of the most important green spaces in Musselburgh.
3. The Scottish Government is expected to publish a new Flood Resilience Strategy this year. I see no reason why a decision should be made about the proposed Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme ahead of this strategy being published. Consultation workshops for the strategy identified inclusive community engagement as a key issue. In Musselburgh, however, the proposal has not been developed with the community, but is being promoted against large numbers of objections, with no meaningful community participation at all.

Please can you acknowledge receipt of objection. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted]

Subject: (0152) Objection to Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme
Sent: 19/04/2024, 09:41:04
From: [Redacted]
To: Musselburgh Flood Protection Objections
Attachments: [Flood Objection Letter.pdf](#)

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: [Redacted]

You don't often get email from [Redacted]. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Mr Grilli,

Please find attached a letter containing my objections to the proposed Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme. A copy has also been sent by mail. I would appreciate confirmation of receipt of this email and its attachment. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

acceptable level. I therefore object to the scheme as proposed on the basis that noise levels from construction will exceed acceptable levels.

Third Objection:

The EIA states that the acceptable vibration level for construction activities is 1.0PPV (mm/s). The EIA also states that the vibration level [REDACTED] will be 1.94PPV (mm/s) [EIA Table 8.14], almost double the recommended vibration limit criteria. I therefore object to the scheme as proposed on the basis that vibration levels from construction will exceed acceptable levels.

Fourth Objection:

In the proposed scheme the replacement Shorthope Street Bridge has its eastern end approximately 30 meters upstream of the existing footbridge [Drawing no. 701909-JEC-S5-W24-XXX-DR-Z-0001]. I object to this new alignment on the basis that it does not contribute to a reduction in flood risk for the town and will have a negative effect on the majority of bridge users who are travelling from Shorthope Street to North High Street. The current alignment of the bridge directly links Shorthope Street and North High Street and the new bridge will lengthen journeys unnecessarily which will have a particularly negative effect on disabled bridge users, a factor which I have not seen given the necessary consideration in the published documentation. I therefore object to the scheme as proposed on the basis that the revised alignment of the Shorthope Street bridge is not appropriate.

Fifth Objection:

At the east end of the proposed replacement Shorthope Street Bridge there are two large access ramps, one upstream and one downstream. On the west end of the bridge there is only one access ramp [Drawing no. 701909-JEC-S5-W24-XXX-DR-Z-0001]. The upstream access ramp is built [REDACTED], and will therefore increase foot traffic [REDACTED]. It is entirely unnecessary for the bridge to have two ramps (as evidenced by the fact that there is only one ramp on the west side). This duplication also adds unnecessary additional cost to the construction of the bridge. I therefore object to the scheme as proposed on the basis that the upstream access ramp for the replacement Shorthope Street footbridge will have a negative impact [REDACTED] whilst adding nothing to the scheme's ability to protect against flooding.

Sixth Objection:

The Schedule of Scheme Operations section 4.24 paragraph WS24-01 states that at work section 24 the wall will be 'a minimum height of 1, and a maximum height of 1.7m above finished ground level'. Drawing no. 701909-JEC-S5-W24-XXX-DR-Z-0001 shows a cross section illustrating the 1m height at a point approximately midway between the 'Rennie Bridge' and the proposed new 'Shorthope Street Footbridge'. Despite asking the project team by email to confirm the design height of the wall [REDACTED] I have received no such confirmation. As such I object to the proposed scheme on the basis that I have not been provided with an accurate assessment [REDACTED].

Seventh Objection:

Throughout the design process the 'Musselburgh Active Toun' (MAT) project has been incorporated into the flood scheme, however with the proposed design this has now been removed and is included in the drawings as 'presumed'. Aspects of the design of the proposed scheme are specifically intended to incorporate the MAT project, despite the fact that these will add nothing to the ability of the scheme to provide flood protection. The removal of the MAT project from this approval project creates two hazards. Firstly, if the scheme is approved as proposed there will be undue pressure to approve the MAT project as currently proposed as the flood scheme has been designed to incorporate it.

Secondly, if the MAT project is not approved, or is altered, the ancillary works on the east side of the river will not tie into appropriate infrastructure. I therefore object to the scheme as currently proposed as the scheme design has been excessively influenced by the MAT project including, but not limited to, river narrowing and bridge design, rather than MAT being designed around the scheme. As it currently stands the ancillary works (footbridges and paths) as designed on the east side of the river are contingent on the approval of an independent project in order to function as designed rather than being a fully independent design.

Eighth objection:

The council are being asked to approve the scheme on the basis of the information published by the project team. This information include photomontage 'artist's impressions' of what the scheme will look like when built, however these impressions do not provide a true and fair representation of the technical drawings published by the team. For your reference I provide the following, non-exhaustive, list of discrepancies:

The published drawings of the new Shorthope Street bridge [701909-JEC-S5-W34-XXX-DR-Z-0001] show that this is substantially higher than the existing bridge, however the photomontage included in Appendix B9 of the EIA [view 8 and view 9] shows that the bridge will be no higher than the existing bridge. This is clearly a misrepresentation of what the proposed scheme would look like if built.

The published plan of construction from the Rennie Bridge to Shorthope Street bridge [701909-JEC-S5-W24-XXX-DR-Z-0001] clearly shows that the access ramp for the new Shorthope Street bridge will end in front of 14-16 Eskside East, however the photomontage of this area which shows the whole frontage of 14-16 Eskside East [EIA Appendix B9 Key View 10] shows no ramp. This is clearly a misrepresentation of what the proposed scheme would look like if built.

The photomontages included in the Design Statement of the Ivanhoe [figure 7], Shorthope St [figure 8], Electric [figure 9] and Goose Green [figure 10] bridges depict the bridges 'during design event' a design event is one which currently has less than a 0.5% AEP and will only reach this threshold in 2050. A design event is only expected to last for a few days at most. Depicting the bridges during a design event is highly misleading as for the vast majority of the time a design event will not be in occurrence, therefore these images cannot be said to provide a true and fair representation of how the bridges would look if constructed.

I therefore object to the scheme on the basis that some of the information provided to the public and the council for their approval does not provide a true and fair representation of the proposed scheme.

Ninth objection:

As mentioned above, I understand that that the footpath design on the East side of the river which is part of the MAT project has now been removed from the proposed scheme due to it not falling within the scope of the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 as it has no effect on the reduction of flood risk. For the sake of completeness, however, I would like to note here that I strongly object to the proposed path width at Eskside East. A 5m wide path is totally unnecessary, particularly considering that at this point Eskside East is a quiet access road, which is suitable for cyclist and pedestrian use. If the 5m wide path were constructed this would mean that the area [REDACTED] would go from being a mostly grassy area to over 50% paved, having a substantial negative effect on the amenity of the area by making it less attractive.

Tenth objection:

The FAQ on the flood scheme website states that, within Jacobs, design work is prepared by an originator, checked by an independent checker and the reviewed by a third independent team stating: 'rigorous quality control process ensure that no individual within the designer's team is allowed to check their own work'. I note that the Stage 4 Outline Design Statement was prepared by [REDACTED] and checked by [REDACTED], who is also named as the [REDACTED]. The schedule of scheme operations version p01.1 was [REDACTED] by [REDACTED] [REDACTED] by [REDACTED] whilst subsequent versions were [REDACTED] by [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] by [REDACTED]. Clearly [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are not independent of each other as their roles as [REDACTED] are interchangeable and these documents have not been subject to independent review. I therefore object to the proposed scheme on the basis that Jacobs have not followed their own policies regarding independent review.

Please acknowledge receipt of this letter. Copy to be sent by email/post.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Subject: (0153) Fw: Objection to Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme
Sent: 19/04/2024, 09:58:01
From: [REDACTED]
To: Musselburgh Flood Protection Objections
Attachments: [Musselburgh-Flood-Protection-Scheme-objection.docx](#)

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: [REDACTED]

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To whom it may concern

Please find attached an objection letter for the recently published Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme.

Yours sincerely, [REDACTED]

----- Forwarded message -----
From: [REDACTED] >
To: [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, 18 April 2024 at 22:45:12 BST
Subject: Objection to Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme

Dear Carlo Grilli

Please find attached an objection letter for the recently published Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme.

Yours sincerely, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
19-April-2024

Carlo Grilli^[L]_[SEP]
Service Manager – Governance^[L]_[SEP] Legal Services^[L]_[SEP]
East Lothian Council^[L]_[SEP]
John Muir House^[L]_[SEP]
Haddington^[L]_[SEP]
EH41 3HA^[L]_[SEP]

[REDACTED]
Dear Carlo Grilli

I am writing to object to the recently published Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme.

I am objecting to the flood protection on the grounds of it's impact on a beautiful scenic area enjoyed by the people of Musselburgh and by people from far adield. This is a unique area for birdlife which many people travel to enjoy.

I object to the spending of public money on a scheme which has not been publicly shown to be of benefit. The risk / benefit analysis which should be made public and subject to scrutiny by independent experts. The risk of flooding in Musselburgh appears to be very low even taking climate change into account and therefore the scale of this proposal is unnecessary.

I object to the plans because alternatives to the planned high wall along the coast line have not been presented.

I object to the unnecessary expansion of a cycle lane along the Musselburgh coast. I am a keen cyclist who uses this route to cycle between Edinburgh and East Lothian. I find more than minor upgrade to the path along the coast unnecessary,.

Please acknowledge receipt of my letter of objection in writing. Please advise me of next steps, and timescales. I would like communication to be via *email / post*.

Yours sincerely

Subject: (0154) Fw: Musselburgh Flood Prevention Objection Letter
Sent: 19/04/2024, 10:41:39
From: [REDACTED]
To: Musselburgh Flood Protection Objections
Attachments: [REDACTED] [Flood Prevention Scheme Objection Letter 18 April 2024.pdf](#)

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: [REDACTED]

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[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

Begin forwarded message:

On Thursday, April 18, 2024, 5:43 PM, [REDACTED] > wrote:

[REDACTED]

18 April 2024

Carlo Grilli
Service Manager – Governance
Legal Services
East Lothian Council
John Muir House
Haddington
EH41 3HA
[REDACTED]

Dear Carlo Grilli,

I am writing to object to the recently published Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme.
I object to the proposed scheme for the following reasons:

1. As much as there is (an apparently urgent) need to prevent Musselburgh from severe and catastrophic flooding (according to Jacobs), is there really a need for such hard engineering? All (or I'm sure at least most, as I'm sure you have some plans further up the river) natural and environmentally friendly solutions appear to have been ignored, when there has already been proven solutions to flooding using natural materials (only takes a quick google search to see these). Given the need for us (as a planet) to be re-using, recycling etc, is solid concrete really the ONLY option? The destruction of so many trees and green areas will be catastrophic! Not only will you be destroying oxygen providing trees and removing some of the very little green space we have left, but the horrendous effect on the people of Musselburgh's mental (and physical) health. I enjoy daily walks along the river and often see many others do the same – this walk has been a lifeline for me and a LOT of other people I've spoken to. This is a serious concern.

2. With the above in mind, I can't even imagine the level of disruption to Musselburgh over literally years. I live very near to the river and there will be daily noise, dust and closure of roads etc causing traffic chaos. Not to mention more pollution due to stationary traffic in the town plus machines working daily, adding to this pollution. This has already been acknowledged in your plans but I don't think the effect of all of this has been fully considered. It will have such a detrimental effect on so many people (and I know this for a fact as I have already spoken to many people who live nearby and I'm seriously worried for my own mental health). The health of the local residents should surely be major factor in whether or not this can go ahead to the extent that is planned. The lack of visitors to the town due to the disruption will also have a massive effect on local businesses who are already struggling – this could literally end the livelihoods of some people who have lived and worked here their entire lives.

3. I know there has been discussions recently around the Active Travel plans still awaiting planning permission, yet I still see excessive plans for 5 metre wide Musselburgh Active Travel paths on the Flood Prevention Scheme. How do 5 metre wide tarmac paths help with flooding, going on the understanding this project is being pre-approved without planning, solely as it's a flood prevention scheme? ANY active travel plans included surely cannot go ahead without planning permission (unless they can prevent flooding). No one needs such an extreme travel route – yes, we have walkers and cyclists in and around Musselburgh, but no way near enough to justify such a massive change to what we currently have. People walk and cycle around Musselburgh because it's so nice to look at – I won't be using these paths if I can't even see the river until I'm up against the wall (and I'm average height) – and even then, looking over at another concrete wall at the other side of the river (quoting plans for the river down at Goose Green area). And what about children and people in wheelchairs? Will they see over any of the walls when travelling along one of the many new pathways that are planned? Has a survey been done on the usage by walkers and cyclists of the current paths and bridges in Musselburgh to justify the spend/excessiveness of this scheme?

4. The new bridge at Goose Green - I haven't spoken to anyone in the 15 years I've lived in Musselburgh (my whole life) who has ever expressed any desire, or need, for ANOTHER bridge to cross the river (both cyclists and non-cyclists) – we have so many bridges and again, as per my point above, I cannot see how another bridge benefits us in terms of stopping flooding? This surely has solely been included as MAT? Therefore, a new (excessively concrete and oversized) bridge should not be passed at this stage and cannot be justified.

5. Maintenance of new works – I fear that the walls would not be properly maintained and be rendered not fit for purpose by the time we may actually need them for this life changing flood that's expected (I in 200). Is there budget to keep the wall, bridge, flood gates etc all maintained regularly? This should also include a budget to keep cleaning the graffiti off the walls as this is almost a guarantee (look at any plain wall in Musselburgh, or other towns who have this work done as an example). Any such graffiti would certainly ruin any beauty the river had left after all this building is finished. Can you confirm this will be dealt with swiftly and regularly, and that you have taken this cost into account in the overall budget?

6. Wildlife – what effect will all of this disruption have on the wildlife in and beside the river? No access to the river edge for the many ducks, swans (and all other birds) will be completely removed! They don't have anywhere on the river to relocate to seeing as the work is being on most of the river. Also, how does reducing the width of the river with such disregard to anything living there, not against an environmental act?! Has a full report been done on this as not sure the benefit outweighs the cost in this area. Can we see a report on how reducing the size of the river helps flooding – I personally believe this is being done to accommodate the overly wide new MAT paths so I feel this should not be included, as again, it's not solely for the Flood Prevention Scheme.

7. Overall, the cost of this scheme appears to be increasing at an alarming rate – seeing as the cost has risen so much over the last 3 years, how do we know the cost will not continue to rise throughout the years of construction? There are surely more beneficial things to spend some money on ie. Brunton Hall, repairs to roads in Musselburgh, new affordable council housing – as far as I am aware, if you don't use this money now, you lose it – is this whole scheme really worth this amount of money and worth ruining Musselburgh forever over. This feels very much like putting a leg cast on a grazed knee at this point – can we not wait and see if there are more nature based solutions that may develop over the next few years – there does not appear to be a massive risk at this very moment (according to your reports).

Please acknowledge receipt of my letter of objection, in writing. Please advise me of next steps, and timescales. I would like communication to be via email or post.

Yours faithfully

[Redacted]
Email: [Redacted]

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

Subject: (0155) Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme - FAO Carlo Grilli

Sent: 19/04/2024, 10:43:49

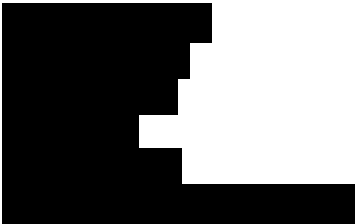
From: [Redacted]

To: Musselburgh Flood Protection Objections

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

[You don't often get email from [Redacted]. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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> FAO
> Carlo Grilli
> Service Manager – Governance Legal Service

> East Lothian Council
> John Muir House
> Haddington
> EH41 3HA
>

> Dear Carlo Grilli
I am writing to object to the recently published Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme.

- > I object to the published scheme because of:
- > • The detrimental impact on a priceless local amenity
 - > • The environmental impact which the current proposals will inevitably have
 - > • The cost of this proposal which is out of proportion to the benefits and appears to have the risk of spiralling out of control!
 - > • The lack of alternatives being even considered much less offered

> I would appreciate acknowledgement of receipt of this letter of objection in writing, by email. I would also like to be kept informed of next steps and timescales please.

>
>
> Yours Faithfully
[Redacted]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 April 2024 11:27
To: Musselburgh Flood Protection Objections
Subject: (0156 DUPLICATE OF 0026) Fwd: Flood scheme objection

Categories: [REDACTED]

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Sent via BT Email App

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 4 April 2024 15:51:31 BST
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Flood scheme objection

3rd April 2014

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear Sir

I am writing to object to the recently published Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme.

I live in [REDACTED] and my home is therefore not at risk of flooding. However I walk daily on the river paths and along the beach with my dog and with friends and family. I love the wildflowers, trees, insects birds and wildlife that Musselburgh is enriched by. The rare toothwort is a parasitic plant with beautiful purple petals. It is growing at the base of a number of mature trees right on the banks of the stretch just beyond the site of the old Mills. These mature trees not only suck up gallons of water they host so much flora and fauna that will be lost or disturbed if the plans go ahead in the proposed form.

I have been closely observing the plans for the flood defences and feel they are not appropriate. Too much concrete and measures that many experts agree can exacerbate flooding such as narrowing the river, removing trees and expanding hard landscaping.

Expecting the Council to open sluice gates to deal with any flood water that gets past the walls is madness. Take a look at the roads and gulleys that are currently flooded after every rainy day. The council is unable or unwilling to deal with that. Stoneybank Terrace and Avenue gutters are constantly flooded and the road under the rail bridge on Monktonhall Road is dangerously awash.

There are other riverside towns where similar schemes have failed. Brechin suffered dreadful flooding despite

previous measures taken to prevent this using concrete walls. I have family in the area and last years floods were devastating.

The brochures created have stylised pictures that do not show the true dimensions and plans but present in a way that is misleading and minimises the true impact - heights of walls and destruction of trees.

Thanks to the investigation and hard work of a few residents a more accurate interpretation of the engineers measurements has been shared with concerned residents. The canalisation of the lower reaches of the Esk and the inability of those walking alongside to see the river easily are disastrous for wild life and residents alike.

The thought of years of noisy and dirty construction work that costs a fortune and ultimately results in long stretches of concrete walls and a narrow river we can't enjoy is very depressing.

Not working with areas further up river on a solution for possible future flooding is a mistake.

Flood plains and meanders are needed the length of the Esk. There are also better alternatives to concrete walls on the beach to protect Musselburgh from rising seas.

Yours sincerely

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the sender's name.

Sent via BT Email App

Subject: (0157) Ojbections
Sent: 19/04/2024, 11:57:45
From: [REDACTED]
To: Musselburgh Flood Protection Objections

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: [REDACTED]

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I object to the proposed scheme as I have an interest in the land affected by the scheme and scheme operations at Brunstane Burn and Edinburgh Road Coast. I understand from the drawings my access and right of way to the shoreline will be blocked by the flood wall defence with no access to the beach from just outside my home. I use the beach where I live regularly to walk my dog and exercise. I go to into the sea and do a bit of a wild swimming which is good for my mental health. I walk daily along the coastline for health benefits. A coastal sea defence with limited access and any scheme compound and scheme works will directly impact mine and my family's ability to continue to do so and disturb my enjoyment of the land. If the scheme proceeds in its present form without amendments I expect to be compensated for the sustained damage as a consequence of exercising my powers under the Act, Section 83 (1).

I object because there is no clear material describing the councils mechanism to compensate me if the works or related works traffic damage my property, in particular the road access directly from my house next to the pumping station

I object because [REDACTED] – a beach they will no longer have access to unless having to walk half a mile. I believe there will be an impact to my business and there is no information from the council for any compensation for this.

I object because I believe having no access to the beach at the Brunstane Burn Edinburgh Road (top end) coast will encourage dangerous climbing over the existing embankment and rocks to get to the sea rather than walk to Murdoch Green half a mile away. I also believe any dog walkers who walk from Portobello to Musselburgh will be in danger if they cannot readily get off the beach just beyond Brunstane Burn in the event of a fast tide.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: (0158) Musselburgh Flood Protection - Objection letter
Sent: 19/04/2024, 12:14:30
From: [REDACTED]
To: Musselburgh Flood Protection Objections
Attachments: [Objection to MFPS 170424](#) [REDACTED]

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: [REDACTED]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear East Lothian Council,
I have attached my objection to the Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme.
I look forward to receiving acknowledgement of my letter and a detailed response in due course.
Regards,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

17th April 2024

Carlo Grilli
Service Manager – Governance
Legal Services
East Lothian Council
John Muir House
Haddington
EH41 3HA
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr Grilli

I am writing to object to the recently publish Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme.

I am a resident of Musselburgh and I don't believe that the flood protection plan, which is proposed, is in the best interests of the town, environment, residents or economy.

I strongly object to the published scheme because:

1. I don't believe that the consultation has been designed well enough to inform the lay public (and councillors) of the true details of the plan. Documentation and plans are complex, misleading and do not give an accurate vision of how the flood protection scheme will look, the disruption it will cause and the overarching need for this. There should have been an option for town residents to vote on whether they wanted the flood protection plan proposed. Consultations were not advertised well and available times could have been considered better to allow everyone to attend.
2. Over £130m has been allocated to this project, over £50m to flood protection. These costs are likely to rise, and there is no transparency on how this budget is allocated/broken down. I have a real concern that other Council services are being under-funded due to this project. To name a few elderly care homes have closed, Brunton Hall repairs on hold/stopped, community initiatives reliant on donations, drain unblocking (which is the cause of most of the town's flooding), while contractors reap the benefits of uncapped funding. Priorities are worryingly misplaced, and the cost to the taxpayer is appalling.
3. The impact on wildlife and nature is a real concern. Many trees will be cut down (again no transparency of this on the plans) – trees that have existed for many years and provide natural flood protection (as well as grass). Wildlife is abundant in Musselburgh, especially on the river. We need to protect and nurture our wildlife and I'm not sure how the birds will adapt to having no direct access to the riverside banks to feed, how they will cope with the excessive and disruptive building works and the pollution this plan will create.

4. The Active Travel Plan should not be connected to this project. Part of the Active Travel Plan has been refused planning permission so by that fact, the whole proposal should be re-costed and alternative plans considered.
5. The benefit to human health and well-being should not be underestimated. I work with wheelchair users who will not be able to see the river now. This project has not considered the social well-being of town users and residents. In this time when poor mental health is at an all-time high, it's absolutely necessary that these types of proposals consider the social and health aspects of the residents and visitors.
6. The alternative: natural flood protection management has not been investigated further. Other towns have successfully implemented natural flood protection so this would be the best route to consider and ELC obviously have the funding to investigate this properly.
7. The disruption to the town, during the implementation of the flood protection, will be devastating to its people, wildlife and businesses. There has been no clear answer on where the machinery, temporary offices, building sites etc will be placed and how this will affect services, access to the river, paths, seafront etc.

Musselburgh is a conservation area which has been completely ignored by ELC.

Please acknowledge receipt of my letter of objection, in writing. Please advise me of next steps and timescales.

Yours faithfully,

██████████

██████████

Subject: (0159) Objection to MFPS
Sent: 19/04/2024, 12:25:45
From: [REDACTED]
To: Musselburgh Flood Protection Objections; Chief Executive; Grilli, Carlo

Categories: [REDACTED]

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17th April 2024

Service Manager – Governance
Legal Services
East Lothian Council
John Muir House
Haddington
EH41 3HA

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Legal Services

I am writing to object to the recently published Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme for the following reasons.

Compensation

1. I object on the basis my home is within the flood map area. It is also looking onto the proposed structures. Under the current scheme there is no allowance for the council to pay a 'pre-works' survey of my house.
2. I object because there is no clear material describing the councils mechanism to compensate me if the works or related works traffic damage my property
3. I have an interest in the land affected by the scheme and scheme operations (including but not limited to noise and pollution from construction traffic) at Fisherrow Links and Fisherrow coast. I use this regularly to walk my dog and exercise. I use this for sports, football, pitch & putt, the playpark. I walk daily along the coastline for health benefits. A coastal sea defence with limited access and any scheme compound and scheme works will directly impact mine and my family's ability to continue to do so and disturb my enjoyment of the land. If the scheme proceeds in its present form without amendments I expect to be compensated for the sustained damage as a consequence of exercising my powers under the Act, Section 83 (1).
4. I object because there has been no third party independent analysis of the impact of the proposals on Musselburgh's long connections and affinity with the sea and river as an amenity for the townsfolk and others, as well as for the tourism industry, on which many local shops depend. Flood walls will destroy amenity and Musselburgh's long connection with river and sea.
5. *"People depend on the environment around them for their physical and mental health, and general wellbeing"* (Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009. My human rights are undermined due to my present environment (river and coastal walks and views) being threatened which will affect my mental and physical health

Under no circumstances must communication be in person. I insist all communication with me going forward should be via email or by post.

Please acknowledge receipt of my letter of objection via email as mentioned. Please advise me of next steps, and timescales.

Subject: (0160) Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme
Sent: 19/04/2024, 13:00:18
From: [Redacted]
To: Musselburgh Flood Protection Objections
Attachments: [Flood Scheme Objection.docx](#)

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

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Please find attached my objection letter.




[Sent from Sky Yahoo Mail on Android](#)



19 April 2024

Carlo Grilli^[L]_[SEP]
Service Manager – Governance^[L]_[SEP] Legal Services^[L]_[SEP]
East Lothian Council^[L]_[SEP]
John Muir House^[L]_[SEP]
Haddington^[L]_[SEP]
EH41 3HA

Dear sir

I am writing to object to the recently published Musselburgh Flood Scheme. I have lived in Musselburgh all my life  and do object to the planned flood walls. This will completely destroy our town. The Honest Toun has lots of history and   find the proposed changes ludicrous. This will give a huge impact on our annual Festival which has been an integral part of the town since 1936.

There must be other options to look at using nature rather than concrete walls and the costs associated with this will no doubt be higher than projected.

This is taxpayers' money and could be better spent restoring buildings within the town. The Brunton Hall, stoneyhill community centre to name only a couple.

I object to the published scheme because:

It will destroy the town, the Esk and surrounding areas. It will affect house prices in the area and will put off visitors to the area who will no longer be able to walk along and see the river side views or sea front.

It feels like a done deal with very little consultation.

Please acknowledge receipt of my letter of objection, in writing. Please advise me of next steps, and timescales, I would like communication to be via email or post.

Yours Faithfully



[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
18/04/24

Service Manager - Governance
Legal Services
East Lothian Council
John Muir House
Haddington
EH41. 3HA

Dear ELC,

I am writing to object to the recently published Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme.

I am a citizen of the town of Musselburgh and will be affected by the these proposed changes both, on account of were I live and as a user of the amenities of the area.

Objection:

1. That there was only one plan for the scheme put forward.
2. That the cost of the plan is prohibitive and other solutions are possible
3. That ELC are incompetent in respect of controlling public finance being the third in Scotland with the highest debt (£4,100.00 approx per head of population)
4. Lack of transparency and involvement of local people (who are experts about their local area) in the development of the scheme
5. No specific consultation on the change of use of Common Good Land as prescribed by law

Please acknowledge receipt of my letter of objection, in writing. Please advise me of the next steps and timescales.

Yours faithfully,
[REDACTED]



Royal Mail
Edinburgh
Mail Centre
12-14-2024
13904843



Service Manager - Governance
Legal Services
East Lothian Council
John Muir House
Haddington
EH41 3HA





18/04/24

Service Manager - Governance
Legal Services
East Lothian Council
John Muir House
Haddington
EH41. 3HA

Dear ELC,

I am writing to object to the recently published Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme.

I am a citizen of the town of Musselburgh and will be affected by the these proposed changes both, on account of were I live and as a user of the amenities of the area.

Objection:

1. This is a plan that is reactive to a possible 100 year event and is not thought through and is not environmentally sound.
2. There has been no critical thinking about the consequences of the methods proposed in the plan
3. The drop of 2 meters in the 2 reservoir mentioned is good but no consideration to increasing the capacity of the 2 reservoirs has been given. This would increase the biodiversity and habitat and in times of drought would be additional water source.
4. This should be a joint plan between at least ELC and MLC as the rivers have a source in MLC area and the mouth in ELC area. Why is this not the case? MLC has a greater part of the river and therefore there would be greater opportunity to use environmental solutions. Why is this not the case?
5. Lots of environmental solutions are needed and as a collective would reduce the need for cement! The environmental pollution is substantial and contributes to the wrecking of the beauty of Musselburgh riverside and is just top show!
6. Dredging is a real option with the sediment being used to create new embankments around the above mentioned reservoirs. It is a well known fact that wild life would re inhabit after dredging. Why is this not an option?

Please acknowledge receipt of my letter of objection, in writing. Please advise me of the next steps and timescales.

Yours faithfully

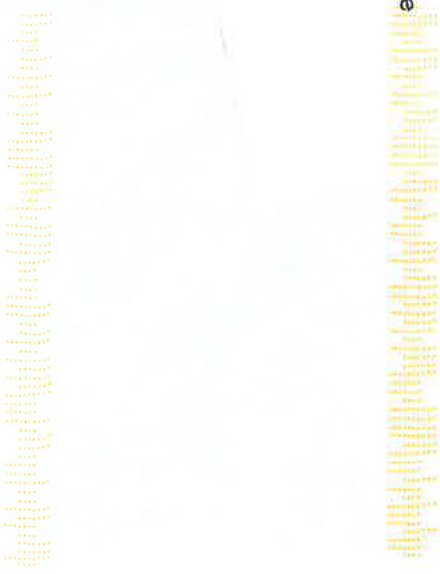



 **British Heart**
Foundation
Royal Mail supporting
heart research with 5p
DfT.D7.G.U.K

Royal Mail
Edinburgh
Mail Centre
15-19 Waverley
13904397



Service Manager - Governance
Legal Services
East Lothian Council
John Muir House
Haddington
EH41 3HA





13/04/2024

Dear Carlo Grilli,

I am writing to join the chorus of voices objecting to the recently published Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme.

The current plans seem to take no consideration as to what makes Musselburgh an attractive town to live in, and will reduce its beauty considerably. Having seen the walls in Selkirk, and read the proposals I can't help but feel this flood scheme lacks ingenuity, creativity or real input from residents and is rather a top-down approach from people who don't live here using sloppy, ugly solutions. There are more innovative, nature-based solutions available that are far longer sighted and I urge the council to reconsider the reduced quality of life these plans will bring. As someone who lives by the Esk and will be immanently pushing a buggy along it daily the phycological effect of depressing concrete walls blocking my view of nature at the heart of this town is deeply upsetting. My child won't see the ducks, just walls keeping nature out, no doubt soon to be graffitied. The trees, by the river, and further up at the grove add character and beauty great for mental health. Its Musselburgh's natural assets that help's add value to the properties for those of us who have bought homes and invested our lives here, not to mention how trees naturally contribute to flood defences. Of course, I understand the need for flood defences but we ask for more consideration for nature, for innovation, for design and for the aesthetic of the town. I'd urge the council to do better. Please see below for a full list of my objections.

I object to the published scheme because:

FIRST GROUND OF OBJECTION – IGNORING THE SCIENCE BEHIND NATURAL FLOOD MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS

Why are East Lothian Council (ELC) not in step with the Scottish Government in heading towards Natural Flood Management Solutions? On 23 December 2023, the minister Mairi McAllan stated *"The Scottish Government recognizes the importance of natural flood management (NFM) measures in reducing, slowing or otherwise managing flood waters across catchments and along the coast while also delivering multiple environmental benefits."* Why have ELC limited these interventions to three options? We see flood walls and gates failing (in Perth, in Brechin) and much larger water systems like the Severn being more ambitious with their use of NFM. We should be learning from what is happening in the world rather than wasting 100's of millions of tax payers money.

SECOND GROUND OF OBJECTION – SPIRALLING COSTS

In addition, I am concerned about the amount of money this scheme will cost (4 MILLION spent on planning and consultation alone) especially as it is set to increase by who knows how much. (We've all seen how the Trams in Edinburgh and the building of the Scottish Parliament grew arms and legs). The Scottish Government & COSLA working group on flooding have recognised the model of uncapped funding for this would allow project consultants/developers to expand flood schemes into

much larger, and more costly, projects. Please, you must safeguard against this before it is too late. Musselburgh and East Lothian simply can't afford this. It makes me question why the council is so keen to push through such an expensive scheme? It feels unjustifiable in a cost-of-living crisis, and we will not forgive a mismanagement of funds, especially given the council's current reputation for being in debt to the tune of £450 million.

Meanwhile in Musselburgh we have a theatre going unused, a town hall that the council want to sell off, reduced bin collections some of which we are now being charged for. This possibility of uncapped spending can only lead to less investment in the town's cultural assets and wellbeing services, reducing quality of life for its citizens.

THIRD GROUND OF OBJECTION – LACK OF TRANSPARANCY FROM THE COUNCIL AND PROJECT TEAM

We expect more transparency from our representatives, and if all is above board why withhold information or not follow due process?

I understand that the engineers appointed to design the project have also been allowed to write the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). They carried out an options appraisal that ruled out all alternatives to the current scheme, without those options being made available for public scrutiny or debate. For a project of this magnitude the consultants and engineers simply must be challenged or adequately scrutinized.

East Lothian Council commissioned a report on the coast from Dynamic Coast, but this is not yet available publicly – why and how are the Council making a decision without being open about all the evidence? Local residents have asked to see the data underpinning the scientific calculations of the project team, but these requests have been ignored. What is the reason for this lack of transparency?

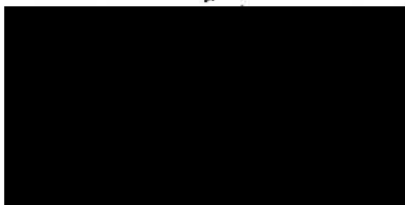
FOURTH GROUND OF OBJECTION – DISRUPTION TO COMMUNITY AND LACK OF A CLEAR PLAN

The banks of the Esk and Fisherrow Links are Common Good land, and any interruption to their use by the community should be compensated. What is your plan for the wellbeing of residents? Where will dog walkers, runners, people pushing prams go? What are they going to be left with at the end of all this? I wholeheartedly object to the felling of 102 trees along the Esk, with no safeguarding that more won't be affected. This will massively affect the character of the town and is removing natural assets that contribute to the flood management effort.

I'm also concerned about the lack of planning around how the scheme will affect traffic in the town. Being on Eskview Terrace, opposite Tesco and on the route out to the bypass I'm set to have years of gridlocked traffic loitering outside my door, pollution through the air vents, potentially impossible to get out of Eskview Road where I park my car. How are you going to make Musselburgh liveable for commuters when we already suffer heavily from a traffic system that gets gridlocked?

Please acknowledge receipt of my letter of objection, in writing. Please advise me of next steps, and timescales.

Yours Faithfully,



British Heart
Foundation
Royal Mail
London SW7 2AZ

Royal Mail
Edinburgh
Mail Centre
EH1 1YF



RECEIVED
19 APR 2024

Carlo Grilli
Service Manager - Governance
Legal Service
East Lothian Council
John Muir House
Haddington
EH14 1 3HA

Subject: (0164) Objection to the Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme

Sent: 19/04/2024, 14:18:11

From: [REDACTED]

To: Musselburgh Flood Protection Objections

Categories: [REDACTED]

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To: Carlo Grilli
Service Manager – Governance 19 April 2024
Legal Services
East Lothian Council
John Muir House
Haddington
EH41 3HA

This is a copy of my Objection Letter hand delivered to your office

mfpsobjections@eastlothian.gov.uk

Dear Mr Grilli,

Regarding: Objections to the Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme

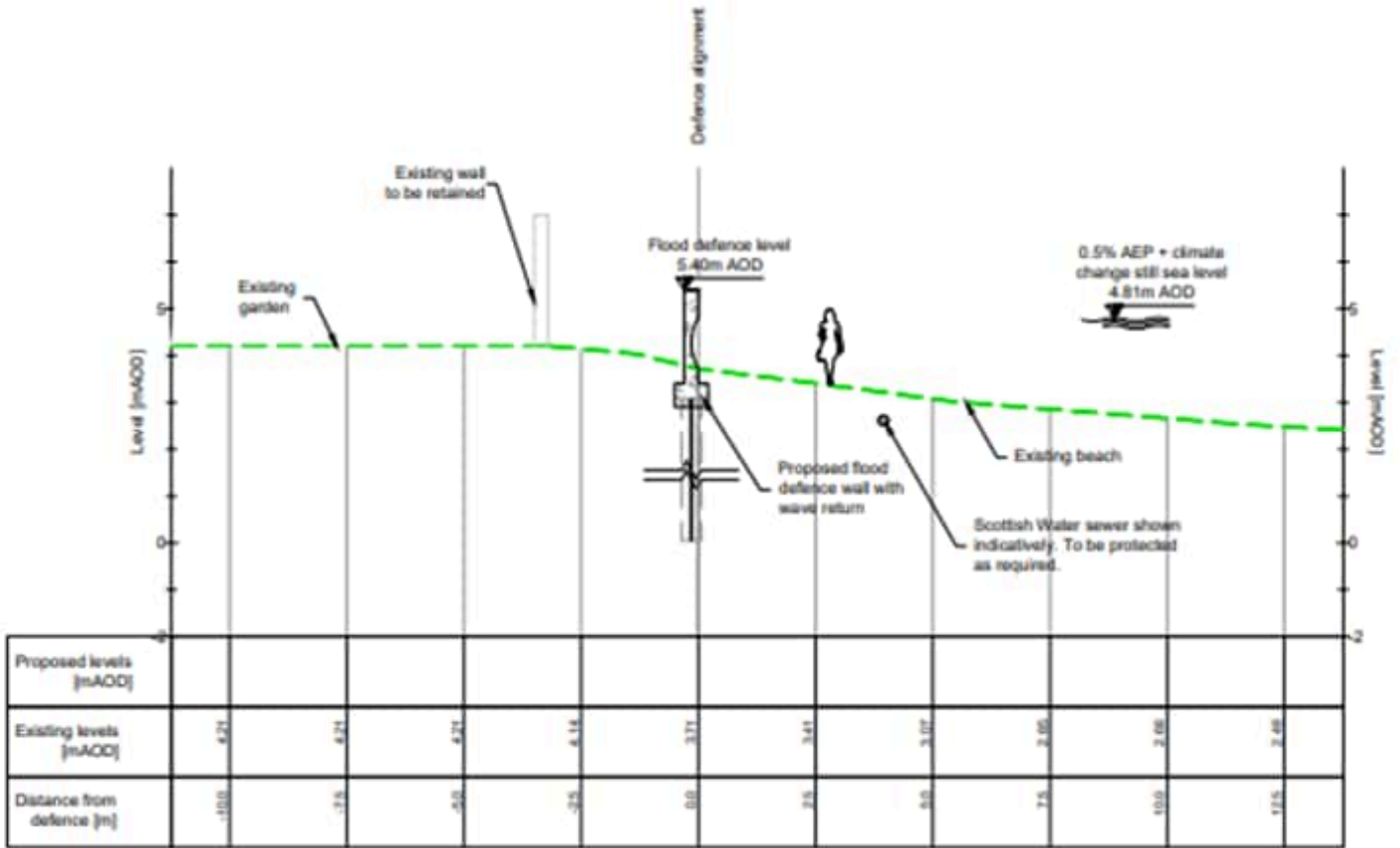
I am a resident just west of the Edinburgh/Musselburgh boundary and as a tax payer I am writing to object on technical grounds to one aspect of the Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme.

The new flood defence wall from 29 to 35 Edinburgh Road (see Section A below) should be constructed to the same specification as the new flood defence wall from Murdoch Green to the Back Sands Car Park (see Section B below). I say this because the proposed wall along the former section has no supporting foot, but the wall along the latter section does.

This economising would compromise the life-span of this short section of the new flood defence wall, given the sea already reaches the highest point of the sand along that section when there are high spring tides. A few storms could soon erode the sand down to the level of the base of the wall as shown in Section A.

Section A. New Flood Defence Wall from 29 to 35 Edinburgh Road.

PLAN
 SCALE (A1) 1:500
 SCALE (A3) 1:1000



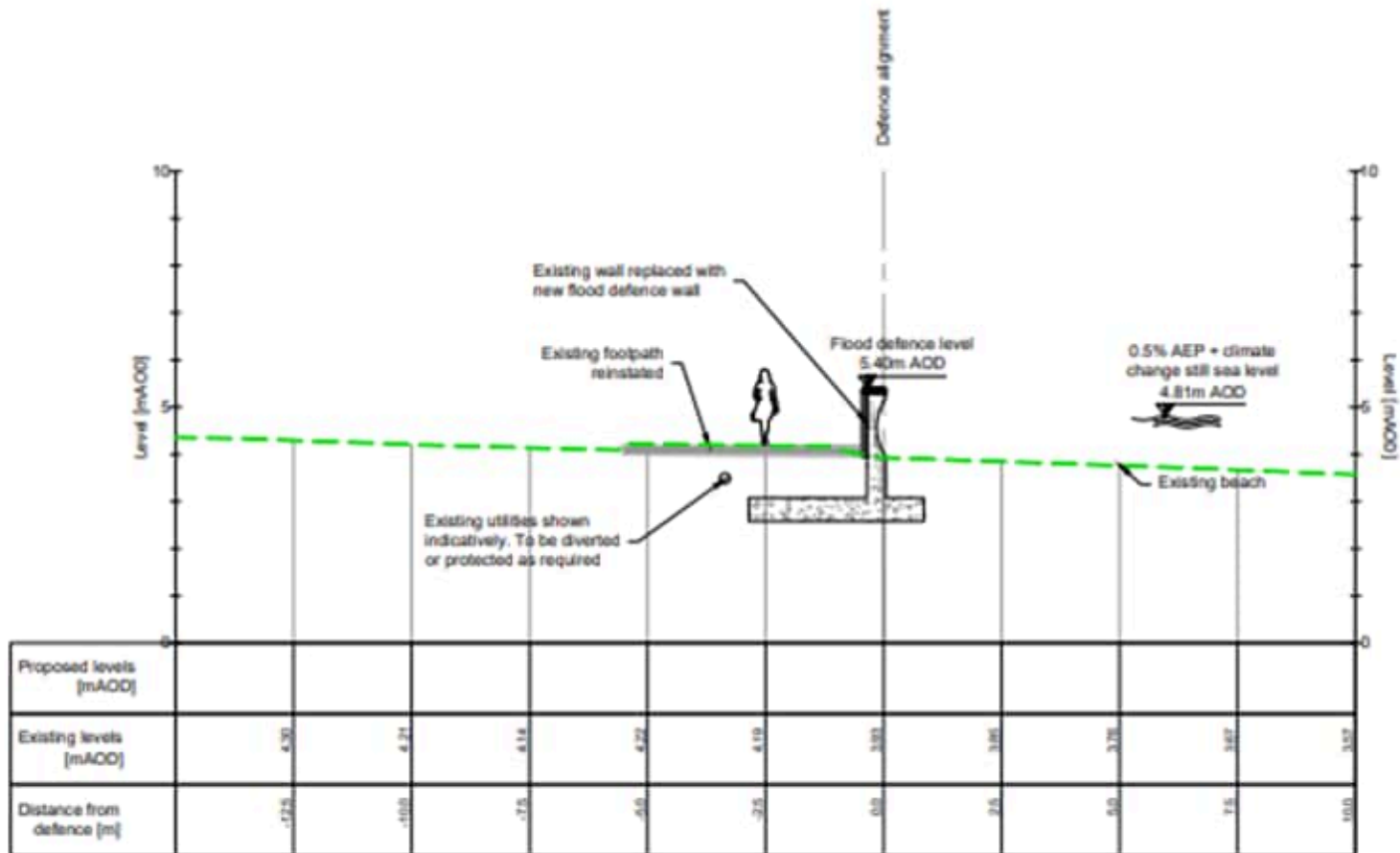
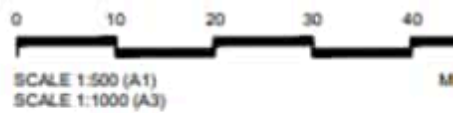
CROSS-SECTION A-A
 SCALE (A1) 1:100
 SCALE (A3) 1:200

Section B. New Flood Defence Wall from Murdoch Green to Back Sands Car Park.

PLAN

ALE (A1) 1: 500

ALE (A3) 1:1000



If you disagree with my objection please provide arguments supported with detailed evidence and references thereto, so that I can examine your reasons for rejecting my objection. Your reasons for rejection will not be acceptable if they are of a general nature. This will only mean I reply to you asking for a more detailed response.

I shall appreciate acknowledgement in writing that this Letter of Objection has been received.

Yours sincerely,


See address above

Sent from [Outlook](#)

Subject: (0165) Objection letter
Sent: 19/04/2024, 15:20:45
From: [REDACTED]
To: Musselburgh Flood Protection Objections

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

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19/04/2024

Service Manager – Governance
Legal Services
East Lothian Council
John Muir House
Haddington
EH41 3HA

Dear Legal Services

I am writing to object to the recently published Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme for the following reasons.

1. Bias - consultants have marked their own homework. Considering the absence of peer review of the Scheme, and further considering that the council have opted, erroneously in my view, not to install an independent assessing team within the planning department, it stands to reason that the consultants marking their own work raises many objectionable questions that have not been answered and must be answered.
2. Escalating costs at a time when council have declared a financial crisis will put pressure on other services due to their 20% liability of all costs.
3. Loss of trees. The consultants are an experienced firm of engineers with knowledge and access to information. ELC likewise have the means to consult experts and arborist experts. To that end, an examination of the presentation information, points to conditions that would almost certainly lead to the death of trees, such as those very close proximity of heavy plant adjacent or over the roots of tree, and formation of swales at/under the roots of tree at Eskside East for example. Therefore both the consultants and the council know with undoubted certainty which trees are very likely to perish during the formation of the flood scheme. To not demonstrate that clearly to the public is both a denial of information and manipulation of the townsfolk's empathy for trees, giving the impression that many trees may be saved, where the opposite is true.
4. No biodiversity net gain has been evidenced.
5. Removal of natural flood management before council vote on scheme in January 2024, and before petition was heard, not only was undemocratic but more importantly in breach of the 2009 Act's requirements.
6. Measures to avoid, control, manage and mitigate flood risk should also not increase flood risk elsewhere. There has been no assessment of the impact or risk of MFPS on other coastal area ie Portobello.
7. Our councillors' unanimous exclusion of Natural Flood Management, highlights a lack of willingness to deploy nature based solutions that go in the face of Dynamic Coasts advice. It must be noted that our councillors cast their votes before having sight of Dynamic Coasts full assessment. They must now review this information and represent the motion for a second round of votes. Nature based solutions at coast should not be ruled out (as per Dynamic Coast report).
8. Prematurity of wall along the coast due to lack of Coastal Change Adaptation Plan.
9. Dynamic Coast report states beach could be lost due to seawall structure - actions to manage flood risk should not contribute to increased coastal erosion.
10. There is no beach nourishment plan nor budget for this.
11. All data, flood modelling and designs presented to the public are based on the assumption of a sea level rise of 86 cm, advised to SEPA by Jacobs, and subsequently written into SEPA's requirements, which the overwhelming number of other studies do not support.
12. The modelling data has never been released despite repeated requests by members of the community with the necessary expertise to offer a peer review assessment.

13. Choice of year 2100 should be amended as we cannot accurately predict sea level rise that far. It could be less, or more!
14. Nature Scot (government experts) said we don't need "solutions today for the next 1m of sea level rise" (Nature Scot, Coastal Change Adaptation Guidance, Group Discussion on Climate Change Teams meeting on 31st Oct 2022)
15. Comparing Sustrans objectives and standards, and Active Travel Paths' in general, there can be no doubt that much of the Flood Protection Scheme pays heed and is informed by MAT. The consultants, the council's legal services' and infrastructure departments denials of this intrinsic relationship between MAT and the Scheme is flawed and has no basis, as the presentation put before the town manifest to the link. This is clearly demonstrated in the Design Statement published by the Consultants. MAT has heavily influenced design of flood scheme negatively.
16. All MAT proposals are deemed to be 'Developments' as defined by the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997. This is undeniable, and failure to obtain planning permission for all MAT related elements would be tantamount to subverting the 1997 Act. ALL structures and routes of MAT should go via normal planning regulations.
17. Narrowing of river increases flood risk.
18. A new Goosegreen Bridge offers no flood reduction benefit. Furthermore, under the above noted definition under the 1997 Act, this bridge is without any doubt considered to be a 'Development' and not a replacement, and requires planning permission.
19. I acknowledge that surface water drainage is a shared issue between the flood protection scheme and Scottish Water. Nonetheless these outstanding surface water issues have not been addressed. These are likely to exacerbate existing flooding risk.
20. Introduction of mechanical and electrical equipment to deal with potential flood risks on the dry side of the defences, as a result of the designs of the proposals, will present new and additional means that heavily rely on human interface and involvement, thus another new layer of risk. We have witnessed pumps failing in Perth & Brechin.
21. References to "enhancement of landscaping in Musselburgh" or similar is an affront to the people who can see with their own eyes what they have and the inferior landscapes the proposals offer, unquestionable gradually worsening through the years, with graffiti and lack of maintenance.
22. There has been no third party independent analysis of the impact of the proposals on Musselburgh's long connections and affinity with the sea and river as an amenity for the townsfolk and others, as well as for the tourism industry, on which many local shops depend. Flood walls will destroy amenity and Musselburgh's long connection with river and sea.
23. Negative impact on tourism to Musselburgh
24. "People depend on the environment around them for their physical and mental health, and general wellbeing" (Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009). My human rights are being undermined due to my present environment (river and coastal walks and views) being threatened which will affect my mental and physical health
25. The arguments against whole catchment area development have frequently touched upon multiple ownership of the lands in question and the unwillingness of some landowners to participate in safeguarding Musselburgh against floods. The poorest and most vulnerable are being discriminated against. Wealthy landowners should be implementing upstream natural flood management to reduce flow of water coming into the town. Instead people of a lower socioeconomic profile will be disadvantaged with a concrete wall flood scheme that sacrifices their access to nature.
26. My enjoyment of land will be affected by scheme and its operations.
27. Lack of privacy due to walkways on top of defences is a breach of my human rights.
28. "We are the experts. We know what we are doing". This repeated description of operations is insufficient to allow me to understand scale and nature of proposed works.
29. The volume of information, documents, images presented at the last minute has been overwhelming. The MFPS team must have realised that the public would fail to comprehend it all in the objection timeframe. This is a failure of your duty of care to ensure the information is comprehensible to the general public.
30. I have an interest in the land affected by the scheme and scheme operations (including but not limited to noise and pollution from construction traffic) at Fisherrow Links and Fisherrow coast. I use this regularly to walk my dog and exercise. My children use this for sports, football, pitch & putt, the playpark. I walk daily along the coastline for health benefits. A coastal sea defence with limited access and any scheme compound and scheme works will directly impact mine and my family's ability to continue to do so and disturb my enjoyment of the land. If the scheme proceeds in its present form without amendments I expect to be compensated for the sustained damage as a consequence of exercising my powers under the Act, Section 83 (1).

Under no circumstances must communication be in person. I insist all communication with me going forward should be via email or by post.

Please acknowledge receipt of my letter of objection. Please advise me of next steps, and timescales.

Yours Faithfully,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

Subject: (0166) Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme objection
Sent: 19/04/2024, 16:12:34
From: [REDACTED]
To: Musselburgh Flood Protection Objections
Attachments: [Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme Objection.docx](#)

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

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Good afternoon

Please find attached a letter of objection to the Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme. Please acknowledge receipt.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
19/04/2024

Carlo Grilli
Service Manager – Governance Legal Services
East Lothian Council
John Muir House
Haddington
EH41 3HA

mfpsobjections@eastlothian.gov.uk

Dear Carlo Grilli

I am writing to object to the recently published Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme.

According to the scheme's modelling, my property is within the area indicated at risk in their Hydraulic Model C Flood Map – 56% Climate Change Fluvial Scenario, and [REDACTED] is at risk according to their Present Day Fluvial Scenario map. [REDACTED]. I have lived in Musselburgh with my family [REDACTED]. I have a child at [REDACTED] School and my whole family regularly access all the amenities in Musselburgh on foot, crossing the Esk via the Roman Bridge on a daily basis and also using the other footbridges regularly.

I object to the published scheme on the following grounds:

OBJECTION 1

Failure to sufficiently consider Natural Flood Management (NFM). A whole range of techniques could be used to manage the flow of water in the Esk and its catchment. Exploring these methods thoroughly should have been the starting point of the whole project, not going straight to the most expensive and engineered solution, which is the most damaging to the current amenity of the town, and treating that as the default option. There is not enough transparency about why NFM methods were rejected. There needs to be *independent* input to inform the Council about suitability of NFM methods, not for the Council to reject them on the advice of the same project team who are going to benefit financially from an over-engineered solution being approved.

OBJECTION 2

Transparency and process. Following from the objection above, it is clear that the consultants and engineers who are set to profit from the scheme have not been subject

to challenge or adequate scrutiny at any point in the process. How were those engineers allowed to write the Environmental Impact Assessment and carry out an options appraisal ruling out all alternatives to their preferred scheme? It was clear from the very earliest stages of consultation (I attended the public consultation event at the Brunton in July 2019 and it was already in evidence with the 'options' on the table then) that an engineered scheme that totally disregarded the amenity and character of the town was what was being driven through.

OBJECTION 3

Loss of amenity and community wellbeing through building of walls and cutting of an unknown number of mature trees. Eskside West – Roman Bridge to Rennie Bridge is the proposed work section I would most strongly like to object to. Saying that the trees will be retained 'where possible' does not give enough transparency and confidence to go ahead. Who knows what those seemingly rigidly fixated on an over-engineered solution will deem 'possible'? Installing any kind of wall along this section, let alone one of the type proposed, is going to result in a loss of amenity. I walk along this section daily and see people interacting with the river environment here, for example families with young children spotting the geese and ducks with their new chicks. This is one of the most beautiful and charming aspects of living in this part of Musselburgh. If the scheme cuts down any of those beautiful trees and builds walls between the people and the river it will have destroyed that for ever. I am not willing to accept a 100% chance of loss of amenity and wellbeing for ever in order to possibly mitigate a future unknown risk. I object on the same grounds to the proposed building of walls and cutting of trees throughout the town, but the proposed works at the Eskside West section are the ones which will have the largest negative impact on my own life.

OBJECTION 4

Cost and loss of amenity through unnecessary replacement of footbridges. I use both the Ivanhoe and Shorthope Street bridges regularly and consider them to be in good locations. I do not want them to be moved to the proposed locations. I consider the current bridges to be well designed and aesthetically pleasing, each with their own character. The drawings of the proposed new bridges are simultaneously both bland and ugly. I therefore object on grounds of cost and loss of amenity. A waste of money to unnecessarily create something worse than what is currently in place. Plus messing about with our bridges obviously contributes absolutely nothing to the level of flood protection enjoyed by the town.

OBJECTION 5

Loss of amenity and wellbeing due to unnecessary highly disruptive works. The project will take at least 5 years to build. It will be a major cause of disruption, which we will have to endure in order to end up with something we didn't want and didn't ask for, and will result in the removal of things we love and want to retain. The banks of the Esk and Fisherrow Links are Common Good land, and any interruption to their use by the community should be compensated. However, I don't want any interruption to their use; I want them to be maintained in their current state.

OBJECTION 6

Overall cost of the scheme. At least £4m has already been spent on design and consultations. I would rather see the budget and spending priorities for the Council directed towards Brunton Hall repairs and other community wellbeing amenities. The proposed overall budget for the flood scheme is an obscene amount for the possible mitigation of a future risk that may not come to fruition. Even if there is flooding in the town in future, is it likely to cause damage that would cost the amount of proposed spend on the flood scheme to put right? Even if it could be proven that the projected flood risks were definitely going to occur in the future, I would *still* opt for *current actual* needs to be prioritised (elderly care, schools, library, Brunton Hall and other community spaces).

Please acknowledge receipt of my letter of objection in writing. Please advise me of next steps, and timescales. I would like communication to be via email.

Yours Faithfully

██████████

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 April 2024 16:31
To: Musselburgh Flood Protection Objections
Subject: (0167 DUPLICATE OF 0092 & 0403) Fw: Objection to Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme

Categories: [REDACTED]

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I'm resending this as I've not received any acknowledgment for the last one. Please reply with receipt of it.
Regards

[REDACTED]

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad](#)

Begin forwarded message:

On Tuesday, April 16, 2024, 8:19 pm, [REDACTED] wrote:

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad](#)

On Tuesday, April 16, 2024, 2:03 pm, [REDACTED] > wrote:

OBJECTION TO MUSSELBURGH FLOOD PROTECTION SCHEME

[REDACTED]

16th April, 2024

Carlo Grilli
Service Manager - Governance
Legal Services
East Lothian Council
John Muir House
Haddington
EH41 3HA

Dear Mr Grilli

I am writing to object to the recently published Musselburgh flood Protection Scheme.

I am a resident of Musselburgh and I believe the value of my property and my mental health will be affected by the proposed scheme. Musselburgh currently has a beautiful coast line that attracts many families to live and socialise in the area. Our house prices are buoyant as a result of this. A lack of green spaces, less trees, less wildlife etc. will prevent people wanting to move here, which will have a detrimental effect on our property prices putting many people into negative equity.

As well as this, I object to the published scheme because:

1 I object to mature trees being felled.

All up to date research indicates planting more trees reduces flooding.

There is a number of ways trees can help to reduce or prevent flooding:

- By direct interception of rainfall,
- By promoting higher soil infiltration rates,

- Through greater water use
- Through greater 'hydraulic roughness' i.e. water experiences increased frictional resistance when passing over land.

1 I object to the narrowing of the river.

On looking through the Gov.uk Environmental Agency pages. I have not found anything that says narrowing the water channel helps prevent flooding. However, I have found this which claims the opposite:

- **Increased Flow Velocity:** A narrower channel may lead to faster water flow, which can exacerbate erosion and increase the risk of flooding downstream.
- **Reduced Floodplain Capacity:** Narrowing a river restricts its ability to spread out during heavy rainfall or snowmelt. This reduced floodplain capacity can lead to higher water levels and more severe flooding.

Furthermore East Lothian Council has commissioned a report on the coast from Dynamic Coast, but this is not yet available. Therefore, why and how is the Council making a decision without being open about all the evidence.

1 I object to the Proposed new Goose Green Bridge.

This does not offer any flood protection. Yet it will have a devastating effect on the wild birds

(including endangered Kingfishers) who nest and feed at the mouth of the river. Furthermore, the ramps are so big they will take over the grass amenity spaces at both sides of the river mouth.

1 I object to the Active Travel Route

This is not part of the Flood Prevention Scheme. Therefore, proper assessment of the need for it, and planning permission for new paths and bridges that are part of it, need to be sought separately.

Musselburgh currently has excellent paths that are used continually by cyclists and walkers. Laying further concrete paths alongside those already in existence, will destroy the grass feeding sites for the geese who live and migrate to Musselburgh every year and will further reduce green amenity areas for families and walkers.

1 I object to the rising costs of FPS.

It is not conceivable that the Scottish Government and East Lothian Council should be spending the amount of money required for this outdated scheme in Musselburgh, when so much more is needed in the county. Such as road repairs, services for older adults, repairs to the Brunton Hall, ongoing storm and flood damage to Haddington, North Berwick and Dunbar. Furthermore, I believe there is no budget for the ongoing upkeep and inevitable graffiti removal for the walls. Therefore, they will become an eyesore.

In Conclusion.

This current scheme goes against the latest information that states nature based solutions are the best protection against flooding. There has been no evidence a complete assessment of nature based solutions for Musselburgh has been sought. Councillors have voted on a scheme without having or understanding the full facts. East Lothian Council and Jacobs have attempted to get the public on board by scaremongering, using false images such as cars floating down a flooded high street. This is unlawful advertising because there is no evidence this will ever happen.

My mental health and the mental health of many more people will be affected by the current proposed FPS. Everyday in Musselburgh people can be seen strolling, or dog walking along the side of the Esk from the Jooglie Brig to Goosegreen and along the promenade. They are admiring the sea, the river and wildlife that live and feed there. They listen to the sound of the waves, the birds and the children playing on the sand. All along the promenade there are memorial benches. People go there to quieten their minds, heal their hearts and be at one with nature. Doctors now describe getting out amongst nature as a cure for anxiety and depression.

If this scheme goes ahead many people will be devastated when they see the trees that have healed their depression being pulled down and killed, the birds they have admired and fed moving on elsewhere. The amenity ground they exercise on becoming a building site. Years of air and sound pollution caused by pile driving. The house they have put their life savings into, greatly

reduced in value and becoming unsaleable. Yet, all of this could be avoided with the use of nature based solutions that enhance our natural environment, not destroy it.

Yours sincerely



References to back objection 1.

Institute of Chartered Foresters

<http://www.charteredforesters.org/trees-can-reduce-floods>

Woodland Trust

<http://www.woodlandtrust.org-uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/british-trees/flooding/>

The Heart of England Forest

<http://heartofenglandforest.org/news/trees-and-natural-flood-mangement>

Reference to back objection 2.

Ref:

<http://environmentalagency.blog.gov.uk/2015/10/20/engineering-with-nature-to-help-reduce-flooding>

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 April 2024 17:10
To: Musselburgh Flood Protection Objections
Subject: (0168 DUPLICATE OF 0043) Objection re Musselburgh Flood Protection scheme.

Categories: [REDACTED]

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Thursday, 11th April.

Carlo Grilli,
Service Manager— Governance
Legal Services,
East Lothian Council,
John Muir House,
Haddington,
EH41 3HA

Objection to the felling of trees.

Trees give us oxygen, store carbon, stabilise the soil and give shelter to wildlife.

They are vitally important for the well-being of people and in East Lothian's declared nature crisis, for the prosperity of local biodiversity.

I object to trees being felled to enable engineering work to take place or so that their ground space can be infilled with concrete for Bund support or ramps.

Hundreds of trees are being planted elsewhere in our county. During the past year, 200 trees were planted along the river Tyne, in Haddington; the town that has notoriously flooded dramatically .

I acknowledge that Jacobs are aware of the public's attitude and have made an effort to reduce the loss of trees.

We have certainly NOT been informed with any clarity of the exact number of trees to be felled . Traffic light information is, to say the least, misleading and also indefinite.

While over the whole of Britain, trees are being planted, we are reducing our stock for an engineered scheme which is not urgently required and which might well be unable to provide flood protection by the time it is needed.

Trees purify the air and combat climate change.

Trees cool streets in town and countryside.

TREES PROTECT AGAINST FLOOD AND POLLUTION.

Trees massively reduce the amount of rainwater entering watercourses.

Trees ease the mind during stressful times.

In urban areas especially, trees benefit mental and physical wellbeing.

Our mature trees absorb carbon and lock it up.

Replacement saplings cannot match the mature trees in carbon absorption.

The respiratory and mental health of local citizens is being put at risk by this over engineered scheme which will involve years of disruption.

Concrete releases an extremely high amount of CO2 and will pollute our environment.

Please think again and make full use of one of Musselburgh's greatest assets: her beautiful and valued mature trees.

Yours faithfully and sincerely,



Subject: (0169) Objection to Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme

Sent: 19/04/2024, 17:32:22

From: [REDACTED]

To: Musselburgh Flood Protection Objections

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to express my objection to the recently published Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme. I have been a regular visitor to Musselburgh, making over a thousand visits over the past twenty years as a keen birdwatcher and am very familiar with the area which will be directly affected by the scheme. I have recently looked into permanently moving to the Esk area of Musselburgh but have decided to wait until the final outcome of the Flood Protection Scheme as I feel this will fundamentally and negatively alter the character of the town in its current form.

OBJECTION ONE

The construction of high protection banks along the Esk will destroy the unique character of the riverside area. At present this is a beautiful, serene place, much used by locals and visitors alike to experience and enjoy nature. Musselburgh, as its name suggests is intrinsically linked to the river and the now depleted mussel-beds which once defined its existence. There has been no significant flooding in the area in over 70 years and even then, in 1948, I understand that rather specific circumstances in terms of river detritus were influential in the extent and severity of flooding. To essentially deny leisure access to the river while effecting significant change to the physical environment appears to be culturally illogical. The character and historical resonance of the area will be damaged irreparably. I accept that with climate change the risk of exceptional weather events and indeed tidal surges may be increased, but it might be argued that there is no evidence to suggest that this scheme will mitigate identifiable risk without causing unacceptable negative impacts.

OBJECTION TWO

The construction of a bridge over the Esk mouth represents a further negative development. This area is of high importance to a wide range of wildlife and the disruption caused by building the bridge along with the increase in foot and cycle traffic which it will engender will clearly have a significant impact. Since the pandemic, the level of wildlife disturbance at the Esk mouth has unfortunately increased and actively encouraging people to traverse this area via the bridge will only increase the likelihood of such disturbance. As a cyclist, I am very much in favour of active transport routes where appropriate but need to point out that this area already has one. It is possible to cycle along the Fisherrow seafront before cutting back slightly upriver to cross the 'horse-racing' bridge adjacent to James St. Alternatively cycling along New St leads directly to this bridge and is a pleasant low traffic alternative to the High St. The proposal to tarmac the entire seawall track is equally unacceptable. There is already a wide, recently tarmaced, path accessible and broad enough to accommodate both pedestrians and cyclists running parallel to the seawall. Tarmac-ing the main track will reduce its natural value, it is in fact a site of significant wildlife usage, particularly for insects and birds, and will serve only to aesthetically urbanise the area without any human or environmental benefit. It is not always necessary to make active travel routes totally linear, indeed that can be part of their attraction, following natural contours. In this case a bridge over the Esk mouth and the environmental damage it will cause is not required given the route already exists in a form which does not effect these important areas through increased human disturbance. It is important to balance the need for active travel with protection of wildlife habitat which this proposal clearly fails to do.

OBJECTION THREE

I am aware that the seawall at Musselburgh is in need of renovation however this scheme seems to go far beyond any work required. The height and width of the new wall will require several years of intense industrial scale construction which will inevitably cause major disruption to the wildlife, particularly birdlife, which relies upon the Esk estuary and adjacent sands for both

feeding and recuperation. Following the completion of the wall, visibility of and access to the sea will be impeded especially given the proposal to add fencing to the top. Musselburgh attracts birdwatchers from around the UK many of whom will contribute directly to the local economy while visiting. The proposed wall will mean that visibility of the sea and its wildlife will be reduced, correspondingly reducing the quality and value of birdwatching opportunities. This is the main reason for visiting birders attendance, the opportunity to watch rare and red-listed species such as Slavonian grebe, velvet scoter and long-tailed duck at close quarters on the Forth.

Further to this, the scheme proposes a sea wall which is over a metre and a half higher than the highest projected astronomical tides. This seems excessive, indeed if such tidal increases are expected tidal mitigation schemes might be the least of our concerns.

OBJECTION FOUR

The Environmental Impact Assessment published is not sufficiently comprehensive. The area covered by the proposal is subject to a huge amount of expert ornithological and environmental coverage much of which is reflected in the literally hundreds of thousands of reports submitted over the period covered by the EIA. The works proposed will have an enormous impact on an area with Site of Special Scientific Interest, Special Protection Area and RAMSAR (Wetlands Convention) status, not only during the (minimum) 5 year construction phase but also in the longer term if the negative outcomes materialise. The Habitat Regulations Assessment has (to my knowledge) not been published. I'm assuming this contains little or no collaboration or cross-referencing with the huge amount of ornithological data I have alluded to. Without this the EIA is clearly insufficient given the hugely disruptive nature of the proposed scheme. The impact upon estuarine sediment deposits and connected feeding opportunities for birds, sealife and invertebrates needs to be thoroughly assessed. I have seen no evidence of this having been completed. This is an extraordinarily important area of Scotland's coastline and any development must ensure that its 'jewel in the crown' status on the east coast is not damaged unduly.

OBJECTION FIVE

As a Scottish taxpayer, I am absolutely opposed to such a vast sum (£100 million plus) being allocated to a scheme with so many negative environmental consequences attached and no tangible environmental benefits. I am firmly in favour of action to increase climate resilience as long as this utilises natural assets and placing nature based solutions at the forefront. This scheme shows no sign of accommodating natural solutions instead mirroring the high-carbon, high-impact industrialised approach which has in itself been responsible for many of the manmade agents of climate change.

Regards

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted address line 1]

[Redacted address line 2]

[Redacted address line 3]

>

>

>

>

>

>

Subject: (0170 NO ADDRESS) Objection to Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme

Sent: 19/04/2024, 17:38:10

From: [REDACTED]

To: Musselburgh Flood Protection Objections; Chief Executive; Grilli, Carlo

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Completed

Categories: NO ADDRESS

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CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to object to the recently published Flood Protection Scheme for the following reasons;

Fisherrow Links and Coast

1. I object to the embankment at the coast - Fisherrow Links to the Esk river mouth. The council must take independent advice and try to protect the coast using nature based solutions.
2. I object as Jacobs have presented different climate scenarios. Scenario 2 at river/scenario 4 at coast. The reasoning for this is unclear and undermines the claim the flood scheme is science led. Therefore I object to the design at the coast (Scenario4) which appears to be overkill.
3. I object to the lagoons wall section as this is not necessary to protect homes in Musselburgh.
4. I object to active travel path along coast at Fisherrow ON TOP of scheme defence. This path, on top of the proposed defence, would lead to a loss of view and loss of ready access to the beach.
5. I object to the proposed planting of a tree forest on Fisherrow links. A Scottish links is naturally open and tree planting would disrupt this environment
6. I object that there is no guarantee Fisherrow Links would not become a compound during the construction phase.
7. I object that there is no guarantee that Mountjoy Terrace road would not be used by heavy traffic during construct phase.
8. I object to the new Goosegreen Bridge as it offers no flood reduction benefit.
The new proposed bridge, which is 5m wide, is not a 'like for like' replacement of the current 1m bridge and is located in an wildlife area at the mouth of the River.

River

1. I object because there is a lack of nature based solutions in the river scheme.
2. The narrowing of the river mouth could create a 'canal effect' and sea surges may flood the town. I therefore object to the current design.
3. I object to the felling of trees to allow building of walls/embankments along the river.
4. I object to the placement of active travel on top of embankments as it spoils the view of the river.

Government/Council spending

The scheme has expanded from £9m to over £100m. The additional cost and unnecessary consultant fees could have been spent on other projects.

I object to the current scheme on the basis that no fiscal restraint has been applied to the consultants and going forward it may bankrupt our council and government. The Scottish government agrees and has asked ELC to withdraw from the current cycle 1 scheme

Consultation

1. The release of documents through-out this whole period has been last minute and has not allowed me time to fully understand the scheme.
2. The consultants, to date, have not listened to my views and have presented confusing information.

Compensation

1. I object on the basis my home is within the flood map area. It is also looking onto the proposed structures.
2. I object as, under the current scheme, there is no allowance for the council to pay a 'pre-works' survey of my house.
3. I object because there is no clear material describing the councils mechanism to compensate me if the works or related works traffic damage my property
4. I have an interest in the land affected by the scheme and scheme operations (including but not limited to noise and pollution from construction traffic) at Fisherrow Links and Fisherrow coast.
5. My family and I use this regularly to walk, exercise and play pitch & putt. A coastal sea defence, with limited access and any scheme compound and scheme works, will directly impact my family's ability to continue to do so.

6. I object because there has been no third party independent analysis of the impact of the proposals on Musselburgh's long connections and affinity with the sea and river as an amenity for the townsfolk and others, as well as for the tourism industry, on which many local shops depend. Flood walls will destroy this amenity and Musselburgh's long connection with river and sea.

Please kindly acknowledge receipt of this letter of objection, **via email**, and advise me on next steps and associated timescales.

Yours Sincerely

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the sender's name and signature.

Subject: (0171) Objections to Proposals for Flood Management for Musselburgh

Sent: 19/04/2024, 18:13:08

From: [REDACTED]

To: Musselburgh Flood Protection Objections

Follow Up Flag:

Follow up

Flag Status:

Completed

Categories:

[REDACTED]

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Service Manager – Governance
Legal Services
East Lothian Council
John Muir House
Haddington
EH41 3HA

19th April 2024

Dear Sirs

I reside close to Fisherrow Links and am writing to object to the Musselburgh Flood protection scheme for the following reasons:

1. My wife and I use the [REDACTED] area daily to take our dog for walks and for exercise in general. Living and walking here; being surrounded by the natural beauty of the shore is essential for our well-being and mental health.

The area will be ruined for years through noise pollution and general mess of the extensive building works in the area. When I bought my house in [REDACTED] I certainly did not do so because I envisaged residing adjacent to a vast building site.

My 1st objection is regarding the general disruption to the whole area, to our enjoyment of the links and to our lives residing in the area.

2. The nature of the proposed project, i.e. concrete walls, is brutish and, in my opinion, ugly. Based on [REDACTED] experience, including the Musselburgh area, I am quite sure that these walls will not only block views of the sea for many, but will most assuredly be graffiti - covered in no time at all. Your talk of "enhancement of the area" naive. Come have a look, the area doesn't need to be enhanced, and certainly not by way of graffiti strewn walls.

My 2nd objection is regarding the flood wall proposal, which will detract from the beauty of the links area.

3. The River Esk is inhabited by families of swans, geese, ducks and many other birds and wildlife. What will happen to them when the work is being carried out? The disruption to wildlife will be traumatic and, for a council which likes to think itself at one with green goals, it is incredible that they will look away when wildlife will be uprooted / die as a result of works being carried out in the area.

My 3rd objection is of the danger to all wildlife in the area, particularly in the area of the River Esk.

4. Your information reveals that heavy plant and processes will be in operation, directly adjacent to many of the trees in the area, which will most likely lead to the destruction of trees.

The consultants and council must surely be aware of the threat to so many trees as a result of works in pursuance of the flood scheme. It appears that both parties may have been deliberately obtuse when indicating otherwise. I also ask that you clarify in detail your estimates of damage to trees in the area.

My 4th objection is the threat of damage to trees in the area of the flood protection scheme.

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5. Living in the area, I can vouch for the amount of visitors the shoreline at Musselburgh attracts all year round. That positively impacts on the local economy, from the food van at the Back Sands to local cafes, shops and other small businesses. Has there been a proper analysis of the overall impact of the proposals on tourism, which many local businesses depend on? Will people even want to come here after all the work is concluded? An impact assessment, preferably by a 3rd party, surely must be considered.

My 5th objection is the negative impact on tourism and local businesses in Musselburgh.

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6. Interestingly, measures to manage flood risk in Musselburgh do not appear to be consistent elsewhere. There has been no assessment of the impact or risk of this scheme on other coastal area i.e. Portobello. Or do you think that the risk to flooding will stop at Joppa? Will our flood management negatively affect the neighbouring areas, east and west of Musselburgh? Joined up thinking would be nice with an overall strategic view concerning the entire stretch of the east coast.

My 6th objection is that the proposed future flood management system does not appear to align with any neighbouring areas.

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7. It is my understanding there has been a reticence by consultants and the council to examine other possible methods of flood management. I believe that the council undemocratically removed natural flood management before voting on the scheme in January 2024. Why would that be?

Have you really examined all possibilities, because there is no evidence that the consultants and council have?

Why did the council fail to consider nature - based solutions as proposed by Dynamic Coast before seeing that body's full assessment, for example?

There is a general feel that the consultants have marked their own homework. Why, for such a huge project, which has such wide - ranging consequences for the community, have the proposals not been peer reviewed?

This is a scheme, with not even a take it or leave it option attached. A few tweaks here and there, but this is what we are getting, seems to be the general message.

My 7th objection is that there has been an absence of genuine consideration of alternative options by either the council or the consultants and why hasn't the proposed scheme not been independently peer reviewed?

8. I have resided in this neighbourhood for ■ years, and there have never been floods. When the sea is stormy, we get waves splashing on the road, but no one has ever been evacuated for flooding.

Your proposals are based on the year 2100. How can you know with any accuracy that sea levels will increase by then?

My understanding is that SEPA advised the consultants that a sea level rise of 86cms in the future. Aren't there other studies which do not support that figure?

As it stands, my grandchildren will be saddled with this eyesore of a scheme to live with.

My 8th objection is to the uncertainty of data for potential flooding in the area.

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9. This is an expensive project overall, and no doubt a nice earner for the interested parties. However, we are living in difficult economic times. Our council have declared a financial crisis, whereby they cannot even provide basic services anymore. We now have 3 – 4 week bin collection imminent, but the local council are proposing to spend millions on a what - if operation.

As sure as night follows day, those costs are bound to increase (anyone for a ferry?) and tax – payers / council taxpayers will have to foot the bill.

My view is that the council should take a pause, and see that this massive change for us all, when basic services are struggling, is not a good look. Your voters see this, and you should be more sensitive to them and their needs.

My 9th objection is on the grounds of economics, and waste of tax – payers money, when there is a current huge financial crisis.

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10. The new proposed Goose Green bridge is unnecessary and does not contribute to flood management. However, if a new bridge is proposed, then it should fall within planning permission constraints. Such a structure requires planning permission.

My 10th objection is against the unnecessary proposal for the Goose Green bridge, which should require planning permission to go ahead.

In conclusion, I do hope that the local council see sense and at the very least pause this scheme which the people of Musselburgh simply do not want.

Please acknowledge receipt of my letter of objection. Please advise me of next steps, and timescales. I do not wish communication to be in person, but communication via email or by post. My full personal contact details are listed below.

Yours Faithfully,

[Redacted signature block]

This message, including attachments, is intended for the above-mentioned addressees only. It may contain confidential information the review, dissemination or disclosure of which is strictly prohibited. Should you receive this message in error, please delete it and notify the sender to the e-mail address indicated above.
sender to the e-mail address indicated above.

Subject: (0172) Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme - objection attached
Sent: 19/04/2024, 18:28:34
From: [REDACTED]
To: Musselburgh Flood Protection Objections
Attachments: [OBJECTION LTR \[REDACTED\].pdf](#)

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: [REDACTED]

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Good evening

Please find attached an objection letter following the publication of the Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme 2024. Please acknowledge safe receipt of my objection letter.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
19 April 2024

Service Manager – Governance
Legal Services
East Lothian Council
John Muir House
Haddington
EH41 3HA

By email – mfpsobjections@eastlothian.gov.uk

My name is [REDACTED] and I live at [REDACTED]. I object to the Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme (MFPS), published on 21 March 2024.

My home (which I own jointly with my partner) is located on the flood maps that are being used as the basis for the scheme. My home is located in an area that is identified as being at risk from both river and coastal flooding, according to those flood maps. My home is located [REDACTED] [REDACTED], which is identified as the location of a compound that will be required during the construction of the scheme. My home is [REDACTED], like much of the Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme (MFPS), is situated within the Musselburgh Conservation area and as such, is subject to stringent planning requirements. My home also serves as my workplace for about 80% of my working week, In addition to being a Musselburgh resident, and worker, I shop locally, use local public transport and use the cultural and leisure facilities on offer in the town. I therefore contribute financially to the local Musselburgh economy.

As a Musselburgh resident I have an interest in the common good land in Musselburgh, which is listed in the Council's Common Good asset register as including Fisherrow Links, Mountjoy Terrace, and Bank of the River Esk. I have a right to the enjoyment of my own property and the common good land and this includes a right to enjoy those lands free from the noise and disruption that will be caused by the MFPS. The loss of that right should be compensated.

I object to the MFPS because it is overly-reliant on engineered solutions, which is increasingly being recognised – nationally and internationally – as an ineffectual way to address the risk of flooding. The Esk river catchment is described by the Esk Valley Trust (www.eskvalleytrust.org):

The river North Esk rises in the Pentland Hills above the N. Esk Reservoir while the source of the river South Esk is beyond Gladhouse Reservoir in the

Moorfoot Hills. Both rivers flow northeast through wooded valleys rich in wildlife, history, towns and villages, to their confluence at Waters' Meet in Dalkeith Country Park.

As one river, The Esk then flows for a short distance through East Lothian where its banks form an attractive backdrop to the seaside town of Musselburgh situated at its mouth on the Firth of Forth.

From the above description, it is clear that the MFPS only interacts with the short final stretch of the Esk river catchment, and the proposal for the coast is cellular, dealing only with a short stretch of coast and stopping short at the Edinburgh city boundary. The failure to consider the whole catchment and to take a holistic view of the coast, which goes against Scottish Government policy, is my first ground of objection. I cite the Scottish Government guidance - *Delivering sustainable flood risk management: guidance* (2019) - which states "Adopting a catchment approach to flood risk management requires an appreciation of catchment and coastal processes, and an understanding of how best to manage the sources and pathways of flood water. This includes looking at how the timing, magnitude and duration of a flood can be managed, e.g. by creating, restoring and enhancing natural features and characteristics of the landscape, including wetlands, woodlands, vegetation, functional flood plains, saltmarshes, beaches and dunes." The MFPS fails to adequately address catchment or coastal processes as set out in the national guidance.

And I refer to the forthcoming flood resilience strategy, which the Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero and Just Transition mentioned at the SNIFFER conference in February 2024, saying 'we have to move away from that perception of being able to fix flooding problems exhaustively and towards one which is about building long term flood resilience across Scotland.' And she said the forthcoming flood resilience strategy was a 'really important piece of work in the coming year, that would 'set out what we need to do to build that flood resilience across...Scotland.' I object to the MFPS being pushed through at the precise moment that national strategy is being formulated to move from flood protection to flood resilience, leaving Musselburgh at risk of being committed to an outdated scheme built on outdated principles.

Further, in October 2023, East Lothian Council tied its own hands and fettered its own discretion by adopting a report and recommendation not to allow any further natural flood management (NFM) measures into the MFPS – even while 'consultations' on the project design were still being held by the project team. So, my further objection is that the Council was not entitled to fetter its own discretion and thereby to empower the project team to exclude NFM from future development of the scheme. See ELC Minute 25/10/23, stating "that further investigation of the potential for NFM measures in the River Esk catchment is underken (sic) through a new action on the Local Flood Risk Management Plan (Forth Estuary) processes and **not the Scheme**" (my emphasis).

And I also object to the lack of transparency around the 'consultation' events that followed this decision as it was pointless for any member of the public to meet with the project team to express a view that more NFM measures should be included in the design, as the team had ensured that option was no longer on the table by securing this decision from the Council.

My next reasons for objection relate to the scale of the scheme, and that it has been unduly influenced by the competing objectives of the drive to include multiple benefits, the benefit to cost ratio requirements, and the inclusion of elements of the Musselburgh Active Travel (MAT) scheme in the design. To expand:

Multiple benefits.

The requirement to include multiple benefits has been referred to throughout the development of the design by the Musselburgh Flood Protection Project Team (MFPPT). For example, at the East Lothian Council Cabinet meeting on 20th January 2020, when the preferred scheme was approved, the MFPPT noted 'Through the extensive consultation with other organisations and projects that the Project Team undertook as part of the OAP several possible multiple benefits have been identified. These are reported on within section seven of this report.' That report at section seven went on to identify the following multiple benefits: 'Scottish Power and the winding-down of their obligations as defined within the Musselburgh Agreement; 2. The Musselburgh Sustainable Travel Plan; 3. Traffic Management Planning in Musselburgh; and 4. Engagement with the Fisherrow Harbour and Seafront Association.'

On 23 August 2022, the Council received a report stating 'Notes the ability of the project to deliver multiple benefits to the town through working closely with other projects – to minimise some of the identified public concerns regarding potential impact on the landscape and water environments, whilst simultaneously delivering savings to overall combined public funds expenditure. **In particular** (my emphasis), the Musselburgh Active Toun project which is delivering new active travel pathways for the town.' That meeting was also presented with a report stating 'As well as benefits for flood risk reduction, there are **other reasons to replace certain bridges** (my emphasis) over the River Esk. The Musselburgh Active 'Toun' project is developing a range of proposals aimed at encouraging more people to walk, wheel and cycle in and around Musselburgh. Part of this would involve widening some bridges to better accommodate cyclists and pedestrians. By considering both projects' aims together, **achieving flood risk reduction and increased user functionality**, (my emphasis) multiple funding streams can be secured which would present greater value for the community and more efficient use of public money than both projects independently. The alternative to replacement of bridges would involve accepting the risks they present and designing the remaining parts of the Scheme accordingly. Additional attenuation was considered and deemed undeliverable, and further debris management would not address the issue of restriction to flow. The

remaining options would be to either reduce the standard of protection that the Scheme provides or construct higher physical defences on the riverbanks to compensate for debris blockage and restriction to flow. **Retaining the existing bridges would also fail to realise the multiple benefits from the Active 'Toun' project** (my emphasis) The risk that some or all of the bridges would be damaged or washed away during the design flood event would also still exist.'

The Objection point I make is that the design for the flood protection scheme in Musselburgh, due to the multiple benefit rationale, has been aggrandised by the need to build to accommodate purposes that have nothing to do with flood protection, the MAT in particular. This can be seen in specific elements of the design, some of which I shall comment on below.

Cost

At the January 2020 Cabinet meeting which approved the preferred scheme, it was reported that 'The Total Scheme Cost for the Preferred Scheme is currently estimated as a Total Scheme Cost from quarter three of 2019 (Q3-2019) of £42.1M, which is in excess of the Council's current approved financial plans. 5.8 This cost has a Present Value Benefit to Cost Ratio (BCR) of 1.1. The BCR is the ratio of cost (i.e. cost of delivery) versus the benefit (i.e. value of flood damages avoided). At 1.1 the Preferred Scheme's BCR is greater than the Project Objective's minimum of 1.0, and it is understood that the value of damages avoided will go up during the next stage of the project when a full assessment of land / property is undertaken. It is considered that the current cost estimate is robust and not likely to increase if the scope of the project does not change.'

One element of calculating BCR, is to identify the number of properties that may be protected by the scheme. This point is obfuscated by the way that information is presented to the public: In 2016, the number of properties at risk according to SEPA, was 2,180 (https://www2.sepa.org.uk/frmstrategies/pdf/pva/PVA_10_21_Full.pdf), in 2023, it was 'up to' 3,000 properties, according to the MFPPT newsletter of May 2023 and in March 2024 it is said to be 'in the order of' 3,200 residential and non-residential properties according to the statutory notice publicising the scheme. Meanwhile, the accompanying Technical Summary for the Environmental Impact report (EIA), states that it is 'approximately 3,000 properties' that will be protected by the scheme and expands on this figure elsewhere, citing 'approximately 2,037 residential and 242 non-residential properties' that will be protected (a total of 2,279 properties, some way short of 3,200 or even 3,000). What is the true figure? Without making the information available to public scrutiny of all the properties that are identified as liable to be affected by flood risk, there is no way of understanding how many properties have been deemed to be at risk, and it is not unreasonable to suggest that the number has been inflated to keep the BCR within acceptable bounds. Where is the current and actual recalculation of the BCR? This is another example of scaling up the scheme so that it appears much more significant than it

otherwise needs to be for flood protection in Musselburgh. Indeed, this type of practice was recognised by the COSLA/SG flood risk management funding sub-group which noted that 'LA's did everything to get a BCR above 1 in Cycle 1, with consultants using every technique available' (information available through FOI).

Furthermore, Scottish Government guidance is clear that 'cost of delivery' should not be the only metric applied. The guidance notes that 'The analysis should not be limited to the consideration of priced benefits and resources. It should, where appropriate, include unpriced benefits, such as the enjoyment gained from walks by a river, as well as the unpriced costs incurred, such as nuisance during construction.'
<https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/advice-and-guidance/2012/02/flood-risk-management-scotland-act-2009-flood-protection-schemes-guidance/documents/00387696-pdf/00387696-pdf/govscot%3Adocument/00387696.pdf>

As many residents have pointed out, and I am one, this scheme will reduce the opportunity for, and enjoyment of, a walk by the river in Musselburgh, thereby increasing the cost incurred.

The above FOI material states that 'BCR is useful but doesn't cover a wide range of benefits. Contractors can be savvy with BCR.'

Taken together, these points highlight that the costing of this project has resulted in a much larger project than is actually required and evidence is lacking that costs have been calculated with relevant unpriced benefits and costs included. The number of properties that could be protected by the scheme is an apparently unknown quantity, given the differing figures incorporated in official documents. I object to this scheme progressing with missing and inaccurate information pertaining to cost.

The cycle one model of funding flood schemes has been acknowledged by the joint COSLA and Scottish Government flood working group (in the above FOI materials) to adopt a 'blank cheque' approach, which 'allowed schemes to grow and grow, that was wrong'. The MFPS scheme operation cost is, according to the statutory notification, £103,535,000. The scheme is too large, too costly, and too impactful in comparison to its stated aim to 'generally reduce the risk of flooding...up to and including a 0.5% AEP flood event...plus an allowance for climate change' and cannot be justified. I object to this scheme progressing with missing and inaccurate information pertaining to cost, as well as the scale of the cost and the manner in which the cost has been inflated.

Musselburgh Active Travel (MAT)

As noted above, MAT was early on identified as a potential 'multiple benefit' of the MFPS. Throughout the development of the MFPS design, routes forming part of the proposed MAT have been incorporated into discussions and designs. For example, in the 'Preferred Scheme' approved by ELC cabinet in 2020, it was stated:

“Traffic and Transport Opportunity to coincide design / works with proposed Active Travel Masterplan. 1. Support sustainable transport strategy: **ensure design incorporates outline plans for sustainable transport network** (my emphasis). (4 m wide shared-use cycle/footpath)”

And at the June 2023 public exhibition of the Outline design, the MFPS website notes

‘Musselburgh Active Toun is a separate major project being advanced by East Lothian Council that is working to deliver a new active travel network to the town. **The Scheme will deliver parts of those routes** (my emphasis) that sit on the same footprint. **Within the Scheme**, (my emphasis) the following notable outcomes will be achieved:

- A new 5m wide shared-space footpath from Musselburgh Train Station to the mouth of the River Esk (mostly) travelling down Eskside East;
- A new 5m wide shared-space footpath travelling along the coast from Fisherrow Harbour to Preston pans;
- Enhancement of the four footbridges being replaced by the Scheme from like-for-like to enhanced 5m wide shared-space active travel compatible footbridges which will be fully connected to the new pathway network;
- Further to the last point – the relocation of two of the footbridges to new locations to achieve an overall improvement of the active travel network connectivity across town;’

The clear impression given from the above is that these elements of the MAT are within the MFPS.

And see the newsletter no. 5 issued in March 2024 by the MFPPT, highlighting that the MFPS promises to deliver ‘6000m of enhanced (active travel) footpaths’ and ‘4 replacement footbridges delivering active travel and flood protection benefits’. Yet, it was only clarified at a meeting of the Council’s Public Petitions Committee on 19 March 2024 that the MAT is not part of the MFPS due to the requirement for the MAT to achieve planning permission, whereas the MFPS, if it proceeds, will have deemed planning consent. This is utterly confusing to the public, me included, as the MFPS design has clearly been developed and expanded to include elements of the MAT but have nothing to do with flood protection. 5m wide footpaths is one good example of this – there would be no need for footpaths of this width in relation to flood protection – they only become desirable if active travel is the driving force within the design. Similarly, there would be no need to relocate the Goose Green footbridge at the mouth of the Esk, That bridge in that location simply cannot be justified on the grounds of flood protection.

(There is no justification for 5m footpaths in any event. The design requirements for 2 way cycle traffic, shared with pedestrians, is between 2.5 and 4m.

(<https://www.transport.gov.scot/media/50323/cycling-by-design-update-2019-final-document-15-september-2021-1.pdf> at page 30)).

I object to the inclusion of elements of the design in the flood scheme proposal that relate to the MAT scheme because they serve to expand several elements of the scheme beyond anything that is necessary for flood protection. They also deny the public the opportunity to consider the planning aspects of the Musselburgh Active Travel scheme by importing elements of that scheme into the deemed planning permission ambit of the flood scheme.

I have tried to engage with the Environmental Statement associated with the scheme. However, this is riddled with references to the MAT, and if it is true the MAT does not form part of the MFPS, then the Environmental Statement is not fit for purpose. I object to the legality of this aspect of the scheme: it cannot be right that the scheme proceeds on the basis of misleading and incorrect documentation.

Details of the scheme

I object to Work section 6. For the reasons stated above, a 5m wide path is not required as flood defence, but prioritises another purpose, namely active travel. A 15m wide embankment in this section is monstrous and is only required to support active travel and the unnecessary Goose Green bridge relocation.

The proposed flood defence wall appears to show a wave return shape, which will interfere with the natural accretion of sand along the beach. The Council received a report from Dynamic Coast in February 2024, recommending an adaptive approach to the risk of flooding from the coast. By introducing this structure before the implications of the Dynamic Coast report can be fully considered, and just as the Council starts to update its coastal management plan risks wasting lots of money and imposing a built structure where other adaptive approaches may be more suitable.

I object to the Goose Green bridge 'relocation'. At present there is one crossing point between New Street and James Street. This crossing point is served by two bridges side by side – the Electric Bridge and the Goose Green bridge. The reason for the two bridges is historically tied to the construction of Cockenzie Power Station. Absent that construction, one bridge suffices to ensure this crossing point is retained. The scheme proposes that the Electric Bridge is removed and replaced with a single span bridge that it is said will improve flood protection. If it is deemed that the replacement of the Electric Bridge is required within the proposed scheme, it will serve to maintain access across the river between Fisherrow and Musselburgh town centre. One bridge is all we need to get across the river at this point. The idea that we must also have a second 'replacement Goose Green' bridge is a fiction that suits the scheme designers in their quest to enlarge the scheme, make it more costly, and enable the MAT to be intrinsic to the scheme. There is no way that what is effectively a brand-new structure at a newly created crossing point on the edge of the SPA should be allowed to proceed with deemed planning consent especially as, when viewed on its own merits, this bridge has no bearing on flood protection.

I object to work section 5 where a wall is introduced between the footpath and the river, with Loretto playing field wall retained – currently this is an open and pleasant place to walk, with views of the river. The footpath can clearly be seen from the opposite bank. The introduction of a wall on the edge of the river will turn this area of riverbank into a hemmed-in corridor, which will not be safe, particularly for women on their own. Where is the Equalities Impact Assessment for this project? Why has personal safety not been prioritised? This flaw in the process is another ground of objection.

I query the renaming of Fisherrow Links as 'Fisherrow Park'. I note there is to be a construction compound 'approximately' 10m wide along the north edge of the Links (EIA Chapter 6, page 6). I object to the use of a significant area of Fisherrow Links as a compound during the construction period (estimated at three to four years) on the basis that the entirety of the Links is Common Good land. It is not open to the Council to remove Common Good land from the enjoyment of the public, to whom that privilege belongs.

Furthermore, the proposal to create an embankment, coastal wall and 5m wide path along the edge of the Links along with a meandering path and unspecified planting constitutes development, which is not permitted on Common Good land, unless the Council secures permission by way of a court order, and community consultation and I object to this aspect of the MFPS for this reason.

History and amenity

The MFPS will be built to a large extent within the Musselburgh Conservation area, which was inherited by ELC from Midlothian County Council in 1975 and extended in 2010. In 2018, with reference to conservation areas, ELC published Supplementary Planning Guidance on Cultural Heritage and the Built Environment wherein it states: 'The river adds an additional dimension to Musselburgh's townscape quality, along with its bridges, particularly the Roman Bridge (or Old Bridge), which is category "A" Listed. Proposals that compromise the character and setting of the Conservation Area will be resisted.'

I object to the proposed scheme on the basis that it does indeed compromise the character and setting of the Conservation Area by introducing a range of culturally inappropriate features such as ramps, broad embankments and wide active travel paths. A much less intrusive scheme is required to preserve the connection with the river and thereby 'Musselburgh's townscape quality' in line with the local development plan and the above SPG.

I object to the MFPS on the basis that where it locates walls or embankments close to the water, it narrows the river and will create a narrower channel than currently exists. This will increase the rapidity of the water flow, creating a higher risk of flooding.

I object to the MFPS, because it will result in the loss of an unknown, but likely to be significant, number of mature trees along the river. It would be possible to protect riverside properties from the risk of flooding by the use of demountable flood defences. In this way, all the mature trees could be saved.

I object to the MFPS because it does not include the use of demountable defences along the river, which are a much less costly form of flood protection and could serve to reduce the overall capital cost of the scheme. Demountable defences would not interfere with the cultural heritage mentioned above to the same extent as the permanent structures that are currently included in the proposed scheme.

I object to the MFPS because it does not include nature restoration along the coast.

Process

I object to the MFPS because it has its origins in an undemocratic process whereby the preferred scheme was approved by the ELC Cabinet in January 2020, instead of the full Council, in contravention of the powers and remit of the Cabinet as set out in the Council Standing Orders. Further, although some Musselburgh Councillors were present at the Cabinet meeting, none were eligible to vote and thus the people of Musselburgh were effectively unrepresented in the decision-making.

There was a further contravention of the Standing Orders when the meeting of the Council in January 2024 approved the outline design and agreed the scheme should be published. The meeting in January 2024 was convened as a Special Meeting, which is the mechanism for dealing with 'urgent business'. However, the date of the Special Meeting was publicised as far back as August 2023 (see project Newsletter No. 3). I asked the MFPS stakeholder manager in an email on 9 December 2023 why the urgent procedure was being used for a meeting that had been planned months before but did not receive a reply. In the absence of an explanation, this is another instance of the Council acting unlawfully and/or beyond its powers, to which I object.

I object to the fact that the 'preferred scheme' is the only option that has been available throughout the development of the MFPS and the outline design and the scheme notification documents represent the 'preferred scheme'. The people of Musselburgh have never been offered an alternative to the preferred scheme, such as the use of demountable defences, property level protection and nature based solutions throughout the whole of the river catchment, or an adaptive approach to the coast including nature restoration. The Council has therefore failed in its duty to consult with the local community in any meaningful way, or in line with the Community Empowerment legislation (see references to common good land above).

Please acknowledge receipt in writing of my letter of objection.

Yours faithfully

██████████

Subject: (0173) Objections to proposed Flood Management Scheme

Sent: 19/04/2024, 19:00:01

From: [REDACTED]

To: Musselburgh Flood Protection Objections

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: [REDACTED]

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Service Manager – Governance

Legal Services

East Lothian Council

John Muir House

Haddington

EH41 3HA

19th April 2024

Dear Sirs

My family and I live in [REDACTED] Musselburgh and am writing to object to the Musselburgh Flood protection scheme for the following reasons:

I take my dog for daily walks along the beach, Fisherrow Links and beside the River Esk, enjoying the natural beauty. This is an area where people enjoy **piece** and tranquility, however it will be ruined for several years through noise, pollution and the general mess of the extensive building work planned for this area.

A concrete wall will be a huge eyesore, it will block the gorgeous views and will no doubt end up being covered in graffiti. The River Esk is inhabited by families of swans, geese, ducks and many other birds and wildlife. This construction will be traumatic and a huge disruption to them. It will also lead to the destruction of many of the beautiful trees on the banks of the Esk.

Measures to manage flood risk in Musselburgh do not appear to be consistent elsewhere. There has been no assessment of the impact or risk of this scheme on other coastal areas. Surely the "potential" flood risk would be applicable to the whole of the East Coast and not just Musselburgh?.

I have resided in this neighbourhood [REDACTED] and in this time the River Esk has only flooded a couple of times. Even when there is a high tide or stormy weather, the sea has never reached the promenade or Fisherrow Links and no-one has **EVER** required to be evacuated. Your proposals are based on the year 2100, and that SEPA advised consultants that the sea levels "could" rise by 86cm, but this is a prediction and there are no other studies which definitely support this.

It is my understanding there has been a reticence by consultants and the council to examine other possible methods of flood management. There are several other natural ways to deal with potential flood risks rather than building an ugly concrete wall.

This is an extremely expensive project. Our council **have** declared a financial crisis, whereby they cannot even provide basic services anymore, however they are happy to spend millions of pounds on a concrete wall we presently do not need and may never need.

Please acknowledge receipt of my letter of objection in writing only please. My full contact details are listed below.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

Subject: (0174) Objection to Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme 2024

Sent: 19/04/2024, 19:22:18

From: [REDACTED]

To: Musselburgh Flood Protection Objections

Follow Up Flag:

Follow up

Flag Status:

Completed

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Objector:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

19.4.24

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to object to the recently published Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme.

I am calling for a pause to the scheme while other solutions are explored.

As a resident [REDACTED] in Musselburgh, [REDACTED] I will be directly affected if this scheme is to go ahead.

I live beside the river and enjoy sitting along its banks. I am dismayed at the number of mature trees, necessary for air quality, shade and to provide habitat for wildlife, which are due to be felled. It is heartbreaking and wholly unnecessary. At present I believe the figure to be cut down is 102. The stretch between Olive Bank Road and The Roman Bridge will be particularly affected. A stretch which has high air pollution from the nearby busy roads. This area also has a high proportion of flats without gardens, to remove the little green space available is just awful.

I have recently been alerted to the fact that the 'traffic light system' or 'key' to suggest which trees are safe or which are at risk was changed, so as to deliberately misrepresent the numbers to be felled. Green once indicated "to be retained" but now states "to be retained where possible". Amber is not included anywhere. This is highly misleading. Does this mean the total number of trees to be felled cannot be known until it is too late to object?

My home is not in an 'at risk of flood area' but may be affected by surface flooding were trees to be removed which soak up surface water and walls to be built which would prevent water runoff entering the river. A concern which has not been fully addressed in the proposal. The narrowing of the river nearer the sea also seems a counterintuitive move but these concerns have too been dismissed.

I do not believe concrete walls are a suitable solution to future flood risk. They are not in keeping with the historic design and heritage Musselburgh holds. As one of Scotland's oldest towns it is shameful such little regard has been given to preserving its beauty and that of the river.

The height of the walls is of particular worry, [REDACTED] so unlikely to be able to see over at points [REDACTED]. The disregard for wheelchair users in this scheme is disgusting. There are many disabled and elderly residents who have been overlooked in regards to how they use and benefit from the river. The graphics used to display the wall heights have been shown to be misleading, using perspective and tall models to downplay the towering walls proposed. I believe these were produced to deliberately mislead residents and councillors alike, which is morally and quite possibly lawfully unacceptable.

The inevitable risk of graffiti and the lack of budget allocated to deal with said graffiti (or any maintenance that I can see) adds to the likelihood of a hideous eyesore in place of a beautiful river. The ramps proposed are equally at risk and too industrial and cumbersome for Musselburgh.

The degradation of concrete is another worry. Why use a polluting material which will need replaced long before the supposed flood risk in 100 years? Why spend an eye watering sum of public money on a possible future threat when funds are desperately needed for very real present threats? With scheme costs proposed to rise well above the current estimate of £103m, where is the cap on cost? Spending priorities are all wrong.

£4m had already been wasted by December 2023 on design and consultations, against a decreasing budget available for Core Council Services. Areas such as care for the elderly, essential community health and wellbeing amenities: libraries, leisure and culture, repairing the Brunton Theatre. Vital and finite public expenditure spent on a scheme no one asked for is outrageous.

The years long building of the scheme, with inevitable delays and an even heftier price tag, would be of huge disruption [REDACTED] Edinburgh [REDACTED] such disruptive building endeavours. I would be likely to leave Musselburgh were this to go ahead. I worry for those who own property and will no doubt have the value of their homes reduced were this scheme to be approved.

Specifically, [REDACTED], Campie Road is somewhat difficult to access by road as it is and the proposal to narrow the road from the Roman to the Rennie Bridge and to make it one way is absurd. The primary school on this street and elderly [REDACTED] need full road access to be retained.

Obscuring the sea view nearer the coast is another concern. The health and well-being of so many residents is improved with this on our doorstep, removing it would be a huge loss to us, as well as to the tourists who flock here. To remove a primary reason to visit will undoubtedly affect business and trade. I do not see similar schemes proposed in East Lothian's more affluent areas Longniddry, Gullane, North Berwick or in the Edinburgh suburbs of Portobello or Leith. Why then Musselburgh?

Am I right in thinking the Environmental Impact Assessment was carried out by the same engineers who then proposed the 'solution'? This is inherently biased. Laughable to accept it as gospel in all honesty. Where are the critical thinking skills? The same engineers carried out an 'options appraisal' that ruled out all alternatives to the current scheme, without those options being made available for public scrutiny or debate. Throughout the scheme the consultants and engineers have not been subject to challenge or adequate scrutiny. Far more, along with an independent assessment is needed.

The Scottish Government is heading towards Natural Flood Management. On 23 December 2023, it was stated "The Scottish Government recognizes the importance of natural flood management (NFM) measures in reducing, slowing or otherwise managing flood waters across catchments and along the coast while also delivering multiple environmental benefits." Why is East Lothian Council not in step with the Scottish Government?

Repairing the outdated drains, clearing and maintaining them, dredging the river and looking to create flood plains up stream and also near the river mouth are all natural interventions which would help to reduce the likelihood of flooding yet seem to have been conveniently overlooked.

A main reason given in support of the scheme is the properties which will be protected. However, the number of 'at risk of flood properties' changes regularly and I am yet to be convinced that 3,200 is a definitive figure. On balance: How many properties would benefit from this scheme? How many properties would be harmed? A number of those who will have their view replaced with ramps or walls have voiced their objection to this scheme so it would be interesting to know: What percentage of those directly at risk of flooding actually support the scheme? Robust, reliable figures in your reply would be helpful.

Is the Musselburgh Active Toun plan still part of this proposal? I was under the impression they had been separated, but again, this has not been made clear. The wide tarmac paths originally proposed are hideous and unnecessary. Who are they for?

There are likely many more valid reasons for my objection, however the time gone into compiling this is more than I can spare. To expect this level of research from all those who wish to object is blatantly ableist. I object also to the process to object.

I highlight that the lack of transparency, the convoluted nature of presentation, the withholding of definite measurements/ figures and the difficult objection process is beneficial only to the company proposing this scheme, not to those who will be impacted by it. The lines between the Council and the project team are unsettlingly blurred, where does the responsibility lie?

Transparency is crucial for next steps. Less hastiness to rush through a half baked (arguably poisonous) plan. Don't destroy Musselburgh.

In conclusion, I believe that other options must be properly considered and I strongly object to the current Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme.

Please acknowledge receipt of my letter of objection, in writing. Please advise me of next steps, and timescales.

Yours Faithfully,



Sent from [Outlook for iOS](#)

Subject: (0175) Objection to Musselburgh Scheme
Sent: 19/04/2024, 20:37:10
From: [REDACTED]
To: Musselburgh Flood Protection Objections; Chief Executive; Grilli, Carlo

Categories: [REDACTED]

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

19th April 2024

Service Manager – Governance
Legal Services
East Lothian Council
John Muir House
Haddington
EH41 3HA

[REDACTED]
Dear Legal Services

I am writing to object to the recently published Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme for the following reasons.

I object on the basis my home is within the flood map area. It is also looking onto the proposed structures.

1. The Flood funding is fundamentally flawed. It was noted that 2016/17 was a very early stage to commit to these schemes with a *'blank cheque' as it allowed schemes to grow and grow, that was wrong *(FOI - extract from scotgov flood risk working group minutes, May 2022).

2. The Musselburgh scheme was originally identified by SEPA and did not include the coast at Fisherrow(from the mouth of the ESK to Brunstane Burn). I object that the MFPS expanded to the coast without authorisation from SEPA or any government body. The scheme expansion has been driven by the 'blank cheque' cycle one funding. The coast at Fisherrow is not identified as a national priority for flood protection.

3. I object that the scheme has been expanded by local councillors who have on record stated they don't understand the technical aspect and must rely on the consultant experts. This is not a good way to make decisions of such importance. The consultant experts have a vested interest in promoting the solutions to which they are most familiar and which they understand the profitability of - these are to promote highly engineered solutions and not Nature Based Solutions. It appears that ELC has been captured hostage by a group of consultants.

4. I object that multiple coastal defence options were presented, in a biased way to the council/councillors to vote on. Example is the option for sand dunes along the coast. The consultant proposal of 4m or higher dunes was arbitrary and not based on science. In addition a large carbon footprint was assigned to the sand dunes as the consultant commented that sand needs to be transported by truck to Musselburgh. Whereas it is clear a barge could easily transport sand from the delta at much lower carbon costs.

5. I strongly object because the consultants have throughout this process engaged in 'confirmation bias' They arrived in Musselburgh with a preconceived plan(wall defences) based on Hawich/Selkirk. Found evidence to support their plan and ignored advice and contrary evidence from locals, government agencies. The walls have expanded to the coast as a result.

6. It is clear that Dynamic Coast believe that any wall build along the coast may be undermined. Evidence is from Alistair Rennie, answering Lynn Jardine at the Council meeting on 23 January, AR said that though a wall would protect erosion landward of the wall, it would likely cause erosion seaward of the wall due to reflection of wave energy, and this would lead to undermining of the wall. It's about 20 minutes in to the attach webcast

Special East Lothian Council - Tuesday 23 January
2024, 9:30am - East Lothian Council Webcasting

eastlothian-public-i.tv

The Fisherrow beach would definitely need replenishing or in plain terms the proposed wall along the coast would risk Musselburgh losing its beach.

PM Conor Price stated later that the beach wouldn't be lost but provided no evidence.

7. I object that multiple coastal defence options were not presented to the public.

8. Also the public were not consulted on their preference for the scenarios

9. Jacobs have presented different climate scenarios. Scenario 2 RCP4.5 at river and scenario 4 RCP8.5 at coast. The reasoning for this is unclear and undermines the claim the flood scheme is science led.

10. I object because the councillors voted to approve the scheme prematurely before the full dynamic coast report was released

11. The Dynamic coast report was released at the last minute (March 24) not giving me a chance to make a full analysis of it and more importantly denying me time to get an independent assessment/view of it

12. I object because The dynamic coast report on preliminary investigation contains flaws and more analysis of the coast needs to be performed before a decision is made on direct defences at the coast.

13. The errors in Dynamic Coast report (Musselburgh Coastal Change Assessment; February 2024) show that it was prepared in haste and not properly reviewed by its 5 co-authors (significant mistakes include confusing the following: East and West (p16); centimetres and metres (p23); Middle and Upper Beach (p18; 41); Lower and Middle Beach (p16). There is also a mathematical error in the calculation of sand lost from the beach (p41).

14. This haste is a result of the scramble by ELC to enter cycle one funding. It is not in the best interests of Musselburgh to proceed with the current proposed coast defences.

15. The main deficiency of the report is that it concentrates on local losses of sand and largely ignores sand gains elsewhere along the foreshore.

16. Dynamic Coast's own figures and graphs show that sand removed by storms from sections of the Upper Beach during Spring tides is generally redeposited locally on the Middle Beach. Restoration of the Upper Beach is a longer-term process, but the evidence presented suggests that the destructive and constructive processes are largely in balance along the Musselburgh foreshore.

Longer-term analysis of local beaches is essential. For example, by early February 2024, normal beach processes had completely reburied the exposed concrete foundations immediately west of the Harbour that were temporarily exposed by Storm Babet at the end of October. The rate at which sand removed from the beach is balanced by sand subsequently restored to the beach needs to be calculated before the actual time-scale of local coastal retreat can be established. Estimates based purely on short-term sand loss (or comparisons with beaches elsewhere) are unlikely to be correct. Therefore I OBJECT to the current scheme until a deeper and more comprehensive analysis is carried out.

17. Dynamic Coast have a model of coastal erosion that covers the entire Scottish Coast. In looking for evidence to support their current model, Dynamic Coast have overlooked the local conditions that might make Musselburgh foreshore a special case. Climate change means that coastal erosion is going to increase as sea-level rises, but (as Dynamic Coast themselves suggest) more work is clearly required to establish the actual controls of contemporary deposition on Fisherrow Sands before any future remedial action is taken. Based on this statement ELC should wait until more data is gathered before a direct wall is constructed

18. The Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 does not stipulate a year which local authorities must select as a flood risk management design target. The consultants have stated the design target date of 2100 was instructed to them by their client, East Lothian Council, as part of their brief. Our councillors, as the Proposers of the scheme must provide evidence backed information and data that has directed them and persuaded them to select this particular date as part of their brief to the consultants, demonstrating its relevance and appropriateness in the context. The councillors must also be able to demonstrate they understand their recommendation and that they are not merely following instruction from the consultant. There is an inherent problem in selecting the year 2100 as our target date. It is simply too far in the future to predict with the levels of certainty we seek. It must be reviewed. It can also be argued that the unreliability of predictions of such distant future events can itself become a risk arising from the scheme.

Nature scot said we don't need "solutions today for the next 1m of sea level rise" and referring to the MFPS "there need to be credible maximum risks" This clearly is criticising the MFPS consultants choice of scenario4 and RCP 8.5 (FOI Climate Change Teams meeting 31st Oct 2022, Nature Scot/Dynamic Coast).

Coastal Change Adaptation Guidance – MINUTES

Group Discussion on Climate Change Teams meeting on 31st Oct 2022. 12:00-12:45hrs.

Attendees: SG: , , SEPA: DynamicCoast/NatureScot:

Apologies: Action: Please review and suggest improvements throughout. Meeting note

'A number of examples were noted (Musselburgh etc) where local authorities had chosen a high level of protection (1:200yr level of protection and then account for climate change using a single climate scenario, typically based on SEPA's LUP guidance which is based on RCP8.5 95th%) **without interrogating whether this is appropriate for the location**, or considering the intervention as part of a comprehensive adaptation plan. **The concern is that such an approach may lead to over-engineered solutions that rely on benefits that may never be realised whilst incurring the associated social, economic and environmental costs today.** Often many of the adaptation actions were absent, simply relying on higher wall for flood protection. In essence, the proposals didn't / couldn't adapt with increasing risks, but jumped to address future long-term risks with today's interventions. Perhaps these relate to a sub-optimal interpretation of the guidance, or apparent perverse incentives where securing today's funding is preferential to attempting to securing multiple sets of future funding.

So the guidance must be clear that, options need to be considered to credible maximum risks, but that plans don't need to address all of these now, ie our planned actions should be incremental and must be actioned at trigger points, rather than implementing solutions today for the next 1m of sea level rise.

VERY IMPORTANT: I object to the MPFS because it ignores advice from the agencies cited above

19. The consultation has not been inclusive. I have requested the modelling data for the scheme and have been obstructed by the project team. At first they claim they don't fully understand my simple request. Later they ignored my request. Much later they decide to refer me to a FOI request.

MAT

20. There is no evidence for an active travel path along coast at Fisherrow ON TOP of scheme defence. Conor Price said there is "*no requirement for this to go on top. This is simply how the design has evolved and assumed to be the best design solution at this time*". Who made these assumptions? The public has NEVER been consulted on this assumption. It is clear MAT has heavily (and negatively) influenced the design (5m wide path on top of defence which is twice the width of current path). The current path is perfectly fine and was only renovated in 2022. In this current financial climate this is wasteful spending by East Lothian Council.

21. I object to the inclusion of elements of the design in the flood scheme proposal that relate to the MAT scheme because they serve to expand several elements of the scheme beyond anything that has nothing to do with flood protection or reducing flood risk. They also deny the public the opportunity to consider the planning aspects of the Active Travel scheme by importing elements of that scheme into the deemed planning permission ambit of the flood scheme.

22. The consultation has not been inclusive. I have requested the modelling data for the scheme and have been obstructed by the project team. At first they claim they don't fully understand my simple request. Later they ignored my request. Much later they decide to refer me to a FOI request.

23. I have an interest in the land affected by the scheme and scheme operations (including but not limited to noise and pollution from construction traffic) at Fisherrow Links and Fisherrow coast. I use this regularly to walk and exercise. My children use this for sports, football, pitch & putt, and in the past the playpark. I walk daily along the coastline for health benefits. A coastal sea defence with limited access and any scheme compound and scheme works will directly impact mine and my family's ability to continue to do so and disturb my enjoyment of the land. If the scheme proceeds in its present form without amendments I expect to be compensated for the sustained damage as a consequence of exercising my powers under the Act, Section 83 (1).

24. I object to the embankment at the coast, Fisherrow Links to the Esk river mouth. The council must take independent advice and try to protect the coast using nature based solutions.

25. I object to the lagoons wall section as this is not necessary to protect homes in Musselburgh and it should be the responsibility of Scottish Power to protect this land.

26. I object to active travel path along coast at Fisherrow ON TOP of scheme defence. This path on top of the proposed defence has led to my loss of view and my loss of access to the beach

27. I object to the proposed planting of a tree forest on Fisherrow links. A Scottish links is naturally open and tree planting will disrupt this environment

28. I object that there is no guarantee Fisherrow Links will not become a construction compound during the construction phase.

29. I also object that there is no guarantee the Mountjoy Terrace road will not be used for heavy maintenance traffic during construct phase.

30. I object to the new Goosegreen Bridge as it offers no flood reduction benefit. Furthermore, under the below noted definition under the 1997 Act, this bridge is without any doubt considered to be a 'Development' and not a replacement, and requires planning permission.

31. The new proposed bridge which is 5m wide is not a 'like for like' replacement of the current 1m bridge and is located in an wildlife area at the mouth of the ESK

32. The new proposed bridge at the River ESK will allow the John Muir Way to 'By-pass' Musselburgh village. This is at odds with Council policy to develop the town as a tourist area. It seems crazy to allow the John Muir Way bypass our beautiful town.

33. I also object that it is very unclear and unproven that ELC has permission and authority to build on common good land along the river or coast. I wish to see evidence from ELC on this authority

Under no circumstances must communication be in person. I insist all communication with me going forward should be via email or by post.

Please acknowledge receipt of my letter of objection via email as mentioned. Please advise me of next steps, and timescales.

Please answer each of my points above.

Yours Sincerely,



Subject: (0176) Objections receipt
Sent: 20/04/2024, 08:42:38
From: [REDACTED]
To: Musselburgh Flood Protection Objections

Categories: [REDACTED]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi
I sent [REDACTED] objections yesterday.
So far I have only received 1 receipt. Can you please check your system and send me a receipt for each of my objections so that I know they have been lodged.
Regards
[REDACTED]

Subject: (0177) Flood Objection
Sent: 20/04/2024, 11:45:20
From: [Redacted]
To: [Redacted]
Cc: Musselburgh Flood Protection Objections; Chief Executive; Grilli, Carlo

Categories: [Redacted]

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [Redacted]. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

[Redacted]

Sorry I'm very busy so unfortunately I haven't been in touch.

Use the below as you wish

mfpsobjections@eastlothian.gov.uk

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

19th April 2024

Service Manager – Governance
Legal Services
East Lothian Council
John Muir House
Haddington
EH41 3HA

[Redacted]

Dear Legal Services

I am writing to object to the recently published Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme for the following reasons.

1. The Flood funding is fundamentally flawed. It was noted that 2016/17 was a very early stage to commit to these schemes with a 'blank cheque' as it allowed schemes to grow and grow, that was wrong *(FOI - extract from scotgov flood risk working group minutes, May 2022).
2. The Musselburgh scheme was originally identified by SEPA and did not include the coast at Fisherrow. I object that the MFPS expanded to the coast without authorisation from SEPA or any government body. The scheme expansion has been driven by the 'blank cheque' cycle one funding. The coast at Fisherrow is not identified as a national priority for flood protection.
3. I object that the scheme has been expanded by local councillors who have on record stated they don't understand the technical aspect and must rely on the consultant experts. This is not a good way to make decisions of such importance. The consultant experts have a vested interest in promoting the solutions to which they are most familiar and which they understand the profitability of - these are to promote highly engineered solutions and not Nature Based Solutions. It appears that ELC has been captured hostage by a group of consultants.
4. I object that multiple coastal defence options were presented, in a biased way to the council/councillors to vote on. Example is the option for sand dunes along the coast. The consultant proposal of 4m or higher dunes was arbitrary and not based on science. In addition a large carbon footprint was assigned to the sand dunes as the consultant commented that sand needs to be transported by truck to Musselburgh. Whereas it is clear a barge could easily transport sand from the delta at much lower carbon costs.
5. I strongly object because the consultants have throughout this process engaged in 'confirmation bias' They arrived in Musselburgh with a preconceived plan (wall defences) based on Hawick/Selkirk. Found evidence to support their plan and ignored advice and contrary evidence from locals, government agencies. The walls have expanded to the coast as a result.
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[Special East Lothian Council - Tuesday 23 January 2024, 9:30am - East Lothian Council Webcasting](#)

eastlothian.public-i.tv

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Coastal Change Adaptation Guidance – MINUTES

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Attendees: SG: , . SEPA: DynamicCoast/NatureScot:

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VERY IMPORTANT: I object to the MPFS because it ignores advice from the agencies cited above

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MAT

20. There is no evidence for an active travel path along coast at Fisherrow ON TOP of scheme defence. Conor Price said there is "*no requirement for this to go on top. This is simply how the design has evolved and assumed to be the best design solution at this time*". Who made these assumptions? The public has NEVER been consulted on this assumption. It is clear MAT has heavily (and negatively) influenced the design (5m wide path on top of defence which is twice the width of current path). The current path is perfectly fine and was only renovated in 2022. In this current financial climate this is wasteful spending by East Lothian Council.
21. I object to the inclusion of elements of the design in the flood scheme proposal that relate to the MAT scheme because they serve to expand several elements of the scheme beyond anything that has nothing to do with flood protection or reducing flood risk. They also deny the public the opportunity to consider the planning aspects of the Active Travel scheme by importing elements of that scheme into the deemed planning permission ambit of the flood scheme.
22. The consultation has not been inclusive. I have requested the modelling data for the scheme and have been obstructed by the project team. At first they claim they don't fully understand my simple request. Later they ignored my request. Much later they decide to refer me to a FOI request.
23. I have an interest in the land affected by the scheme and scheme operations (including but not limited to noise and pollution from construction traffic) at Fisherrow Links and Fisherrow coast. I use this regularly to walk and exercise. My children use this for sports, football, pitch & putt, and in the past the playpark. I walk daily along the coastline for health benefits. A coastal sea defence with limited access and any scheme compound and scheme works will directly impact mine and my family's ability to continue to do so and disturb my enjoyment of the land. If the scheme proceeds in its present form without amendments I expect to be compensated for the sustained damage as a consequence of exercising my powers under the Act, Section 83 (1).
24. I object to the embankment at the coast, Fisherrow Links to the Esk river mouth. The council must take independent advice and try to protect the coast using nature based solutions.
25. I object to the lagoons wall section as this is not necessary to protect home in Musselburgh.
26. I object to active travel path along coast at Fisherrow ON TOP of scheme defence. This path on top of the proposed defence has led to a loss of view and loss of access to the beach
27. I object to the proposed planting of a tree forest on Fisherrow links. A Scottish links is naturally open and tree planting will disrupt this environment
28. I object that there is no guarantee Fisherrow Links will not become a compound during the construction phase.
29. I also object that there is no guarantee the Mountjoy Terrace road will not be used for heavy maintenance traffic during construct phase.
30. I object to the new Goosegreen Bridge as it offers no flood reduction benefit. Furthermore, under the above noted definition under the 1997 Act, this bridge is without any doubt considered to be a 'Development' and not a replacement, and requires planning permission.
31. The new proposed bridge which is 5m wide is not a 'like for like' replacement of the current 1m bridge and is located in an wildlife area at the mouth of the ESK
32. The new proposed bridge at the River ESK will allow the John Muir Way to 'By-pass' Musselburgh village. This is at odds with Council policy to develop the town as a tourist area. It seem crazy to allow the John Muir Way bypass our beautiful town.

Under no circumstances must communication be in person. I insist all communication with me going forward should be via email or by post.

Please acknowledge receipt of my letter of objection via email as mentioned. Please advise me of next steps, and timescales.

Yours Sincerely,



Subject: (0178) musselburgh flood scheme objection letter
Sent: 20/04/2024, 15:58:27
From: [REDACTED]
To: Musselburgh Flood Protection Objections

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
20.4.24

Carlo Grilli
Service Manager – Governance
Legal Services
East Lothian Council
John Muir House
Haddington
EH41 3HA
mfpsobjections@eastlothian.gov.uk

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to object to the recently published Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme. I am a resident of Musselburgh and believe this will negatively impact our town. Musselburgh currently has a lovely beach front and river. The sides of the river are beautifully kept and are appreciated by many. I do not need 'reimagined view' of what Musselburgh will be like, the current situation is fine.

I object to the published scheme because:

1. The cost

I find it incredible given the financial state of the council that so much money can be ploughed into the above scheme. I understand that some of the funding comes from the Scottish Government but East Lothian council are still having to pick up a huge bill. As someone who pays council tax and as a council employee I think it is astounding, considering the cuts being made to frontline services, that this spending could be approved. I see that the current estimation for the scheme is sitting at £132 million pounds, is this a final total cost? We have seen how in our neighbouring council tram works how quickly costs can escalate during building work, do we have an assurance that the total cost of this project will not be millions more than the current projection?

2. The data on which the scheme is based.

I understand from reading that the scheme has been based on predictions for 0.5%AEP flood event plus the credible worst case allowance for climate change. I think we can all agree that it is very hard to agree on what climate change will actually look like in the next 100 years or so. I think it is foolish to think that we can map it and build walls to stem the flow of nature. My parents in law used to live at [REDACTED] so I appreciate, and have seen, the real risk of flooding that happens. I think though that Jacobs, and those associated with the design of this scheme, have scare mongered the people of Musselburgh into believing that huge walls and embankments are necessary.

3. The need for many walls and embankments.

I think there are areas of our town that should be allowed to naturally flood. The golf course, lagoons, Pinkie playing fields, Loretto fields, parts of the grove; these are all part of the river's natural flood plain and as such

should be able to flood. We are covering too much of our town with concrete meaning that flooding, when it comes, has no where to run to. Recent flooding in Musselburgh has been caused primarily by poor drainage. Perhaps if the council has extra money to spend on flooding, the drainage systems in Musselburgh could be upgraded instead. In all the recent heavy rain and high tides, there was minimal flooding and damage. I think the building of high walls and embankments will be detrimental to people who, like myself, use the river/coastal path for recreation. Many of the walls are higher than I would be able to see over. I do not think that the people of Musselburgh want to walk or cycle along a concrete lined tunnel. I am also concerned that such large concrete walls would attract unsightly graffiti. I live near the new cycle path that was built to connect the university/train station with Monktonhall Place and the tunnels have had so much graffiti sprayed in them since the opening of this path. The council come and periodically paint over it only for it to be regraffitied the next day. What a waste of time and money. I also wonder what will happen on the river side of the walls? Will there be access to the water side of the river? Will this then create unsightly river banks where rubbish will collect? I also think that the creation of walk ways along the top of the proposed embankments will be an infringement on the privacy of the residents who live in the houses nearest them. People will be able to see right into the upstairs of their house. There will be no trees left to give them any privacy as they will all have been chopped down during the building process.

4. Nature based solutions.

I think these should be explored in more detail throughout the whole of the Esk catchment area. If more can be done to absorb and control the water flow further up stream then this would lessen the risk to Musselburgh.

5. The natural river environment.

I am deeply concerned about the damage all this building work will do to the natural ecology of the river. There are fish, otters, birds and many other small aquatic creatures to whom the river is their home. I worry that there will be very little life left in the river after such intrusive building works. Has this been considered in the designing of this scheme?

6. The removal of trees.

It is clear from the published scheme information that there will be removal of some trees. It is not completely clear how many trees this will be though. I think it would be a real shame to remove such trees. They provide stability to the banks, soak up water and provide homes for much wildlife. They also make our river an attractive place to be.

7. What about the rest of East Lothian?

In recent storms other coastal towns have been much more adversely affected by flooding and damage from the sea than Musselburgh. Are invasive flood defences being planned for those towns? Walls throughout Haddington to protect from the Tyne? North Berwick harbour? Anything being done to prevent the erosion of the dunes at Yellowcraigs?

8. Building inconvenience.

If approved this will be a very lengthy construction project. I worry about the noise, dust, dirt, vibrations, traffic associated with the building of walls and embankments. And the removal of trees just to allow room for wall building machinery. Musselburgh will be like a building site for years. This is not fair on the residents or businesses of Musselburgh. Where will all the work machinery be stored? In temporary work spaces? More intrusion for the people of Musselburgh. The banks of the Esk and Fisherrow Links are common good land. Will the people of Musselburgh be being compensated for the loss of this space during construction? The links especially are used very well by local sports clubs and would be adversely affected by the loss of this space during building works.

9. Wide cycle paths

9. It has been very confusing to understand what part the Musselburgh Active Town proposals (MAT) has played in this scheme design. It has also been confusing as to whether or not it is still part of the plan or not. Proper planning permission and consultation should be happening about MAT, not just lumping it alongside the flood proposals. The 2 plans are not linked and should be considered separately. The construction of 5m wide paths on either side of the length of the river is completely unnecessary. What would be helpful would be retarmacking and maintenance of the existing paths. They have been allowed to crack and crumble by the council so it is now difficult for wheelchair users or cyclists to use. If these were maintained better then they would be more useful. I wonder, given the cash strapped nature of the council, how well all the miles of new paths will be maintained?

10. New bridges

9. I do not believe all the new bridges are required, especially with their extra long ramps. I find it astonishing there are parts of this design that are not yet confirmed, especially for the Ivanhoe bridge. Originally, as part of the flood plan, this bridge was not to be altered as it proposed no risk/detriment to flooding. But because the MAT has been added in, all of a sudden the bridge had to change. The new proposed bridge looks to be much bigger in scale and footprint than the existing bridge. I would like to know the reasons why it is deemed that this bridge should be replaced. The Shorthope bridge, why does this need to be 2.5m wider than the current bridge? Will this effect the flooding? Why is the new bridge in a slightly different place? Surely the current position exiting onto the car park area and the end of North High Street is less intrusive for residents than the proposed position of the new bridge? Also why does one side of the bridge have 2 ramps and the other only one...because of the MAT? Not because of a flood prevention risk. I worry about the size of the ramps and the impact on the local residents who will have them outside of their front door/window. Why is there a need for the Goosegreen footbridge? If there is going to be a new bridge at the sit of the current electric bridge and separate foot bridge, then why does there need to be another bridge built further downstream? This does nothing alleviate the flooding risk to the town. It is completely unnecessary and only there because of the MAT.

11. Narrowing of the river.

9. I accept that I am not a flooding or river specialist, but I find it hard to understand how narrowing the river will help alleviate the risk of flooding. I realise this is necessary to allow for the building of an unwanted 5m wide cycle path, but this has nothing to do with reducing the flood risk of the river or the sea.

12. The reliability of the scheme.

9. I am sure we have all seen the recent flooding in both Brechin and Perth where flood defences failed. Brechin's flood defences were only built in 2016, they haven't even lasted 10 years. They were supposed to have protected the town for 200 years. Are we really to believe that if this proposed scheme goes ahead we can prevent flooding in 100 years and in that time the walls will not need maintained?

In conclusion I think the proposed Musselburgh flood scheme is not right for our town. It should be paused and elements of the design should be reconsidered. The MAT should be removed from it completely and considered separately in it's own right.

Please acknowledge receipt of my letter of objection, in writing. Please advise me of next steps, and timescales.

Yours Faithfully,



Subject: (0179) Flood protection objection
Sent: 21/04/2024, 00:03:18
From: [REDACTED]
To: Musselburgh Flood Protection Objections

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

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For the attention of Carlo Grilli, East Lothian Council.

Attached is a letter to East Lothian council formally objecting to the Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme. Please acknowledge receipt of my letter if objection in writing by replying to the address provided at the top of the letter. Within your response please advise me of next steps and time scales.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

[Flood Objection](#) - LINK NOT WORKING

Subject: (0180) County Consultation
Sent: 21/04/2024, 08:45:32
From: [REDACTED]
To: Musselburgh Flood Protection Objections
Cc: [REDACTED]

Categories: [REDACTED]

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FAO
Carlo Grilli
Service Manager – Governance
Legal Services
East Lothian Council
John Muir House
Haddington

20/04/2024

I am writing to you to register our objection of this project as we feel that we cannot accurately assess the full costs of the Flood Protection scheme as a stand alone project.

.As residents of East Lothian we feel that these already eye watering costs are always liable to driftage towards increased Expenditure .There is such a danger of costs spiralling out of control that we fear that the County will be saddled with an unaffordable bill that will result in the Council trying to service the debts for years to come .As a consequence of this we feel that whole County should have been consulted about the Musselburgh Flood Protection scheme as there will be a financial shortfall that inevitably will impact on services and local tax bills for all residents living in East Lothian.

We therefore feel that in order to gauge the future financial impact that this project will visit upon the County we should know the exact current costs ,we should be party to the contract details agreed between ELC and the Contractor and that given the serious risk of servicing this debt every resident should be consulted individually so they have the opportunity to comment on a scheme that has implications for them .

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to your written reply .

Yours
[REDACTED]

Subject: (0181 NO ADDRESS) [REDACTED]
Sent: 21/04/2024, 09:59:47
From: [REDACTED]
To: Musselburgh Flood Protection Objections

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: NO ADDRESS

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To whom it may concern.
I am writing to strongly object to the proposed plans [REDACTED] I have lived in [REDACTED] for [REDACTED] years. I have never seen in all that time any suggestion of flooding...NOT ONE BIT! the links are a lovely open space much used by the folks of Musselburgh and should be left as they are. We do not need a big wall to save us from the sea, we do not need the possibility of turning links into a work station while this is going on, and turning our street into a busy thoroughfare of lorries and work vehicles. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] memorial bench [REDACTED] We meet often at bench and enjoy the view over the water, another thing that will be ruined by a stupid wall! I hope sense prevails and we do not waste a lot of council money on this unnecessary nonsense. The money could be put to a much more needed use in maintaining the Brunton Hall...another much used facility in Musselburgh.
Yours faithfully,
[REDACTED]

Subject: (0182 NO ADDRESS) Objection
Sent: 21/04/2024, 10:09:36
From: [REDACTED]
To: Musselburgh Flood Protection Objections

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: NO ADDRESS

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Dear East Lothian Council,

I object to the works being undertaken, along the River Esk in Musselburgh as I believe they are at the very least OVERKILL.

Areas marked as a flood risk such as the lagoons and nearby areas seem fictional. The area is heavily built up and I've been along there during red conditions and there barely been flooding past the path. It would take something enormous to deluge there. Which means the flood defences will be inadequate in such a case. So I believe portions of the plan are there just to stoke fear and don't really have a basis in fact.

Many homes along the River ALSO object to the plan the council are determined to push through....which is a sign [not proof/ nor accusation] of behaviours linked to embezzlement or nepotism.

Global studies believe even IF all polar regions melt, there would be a rise of less than a metre. While I accept this could mean current river defences will be inadequate I do not believe the scale of the defences need to be anything like we have been shown. The council are putting their incompetent management knowledge before the facts... they don't want solutions they need to maintain functionality ON....so how can we trust they will maintain functionality on these walls which will crumble between now and 100 yrs time? Let alone the management of their construction.

The lead up to the implementation of this project has the hallmarks akin to the HS2. Environmental, heritage and economic concerns ran roughshod for the sake of some incompetent slaving politician shaking hands with some friends in order to get them some work at the expense of the people it will affect. Evidenced by the cutting of many trees along the rivers edge under the pretence of being ill. Same for round the new houses build locations causing increased flooding around them. Historical trees with no signs of illness in their trunks being removed. Areas where nature used to thrive built on....grass areas cut instead of being allowed to home wildflowers just show the council don't have a body of expertise for improving the environment for wildlife.

If the town cannot move water through and out of it without flooding whats the point of these walls? Might as well not have them.

I believe that the project will need renovation long before the exceptionally rare flood event becomes potentially likely. I doubt the council or Westminster governments competency in managing their integrity over the years due to their current inability to manage the economy, make sound business decisions, and restore the integrity of our town. Professional opinion.

I do not agree that the cycle paths or bridge changes are necessary, and feel that this project is about serving potential newcomers or commuters through the town rather than the environment or people who have lived here for a long time.

Cycle paths behind the town would be a better idea.

I believe the damage to nature, including the removal of the trees is counter intuitive. The design is flawed.

I believe the economic impact of the project will destroy many local businesses and drive any small to medium businesses out of town leaving it to the mercy of large business chains who's turnover will travel away from the area to a new location outside of Scotland. Meaning economic deprivation will increase.

I believe the council intend to sell part of Musselburgh to Edinburgh Council meaning this project is NOT for the people of Musselburgh in any capacity.

Am disgusted by the recent political boundary change and the lack of communication from the council on the matter.

The fact the project hasn't really been that open in terms of type of flood design and i feel this represents a decision been made rather than exploration of decisions that could be made.

The companies involved have projects elsewhere which have failed to be value for money.

So this might just be incompetency on behalf of the council, cronyism by politicians or embezzlement or just a lack of awareness. So I object to the leadership of this project before it begins.

I doubt much of the rationale from the project is accurate, areas not prone to flooding have experienced greater gathering of water since new houses have been built on them. Such as near QMU and at Wallyford. Clearly contractors and the Council have failed to make sure adequate drainage is available.

Therefore I doubt the councils ability to lead this project. I worked on the Scottish Parliament building and knew many of the project leaders and have a business management degree so my professional senses are literally ringing in warning because of several shoddy pavement renovations round Musselburgh, poor road management, the failure to get the council out of debt inspite firing dozens of people in the 2010 - onwards. I wouldn't let any of the current council management team near a project of this size. The way the new schools been implemented, lack of school buses, the politically motivated closure of the Brunton Theatre and opening shops selling high sugary, fatty foods next to schools which take money away from the area instead of local business people.

I doubt the councils ability to make any kind of economic decision for anybody besides big business and perhaps themselves.

Finally I object because....the money could be put in a high interest account for a few years while the council gain the experience and expertise necessary to lead a project like this, designed....to be implemented with minimal disruption and maximum benefit to wildlife and the people.

I believe it is at current form a huge waste of resources and money. In 20 to 40 years a much better project, could be put in place with improved technology and scientific knowledge, much greater value for money.

There are hundreds of projects around the world which could be used to inform OUR project and I doubt any have been looked at.

So I object to the design in its entirety.

This has the hallmarks of a decision made by outsiders, with specific aims of appearing beneficial....does the HS2 ring any bells? For political reasons, to benefit a government far away with no connection or understanding of this town or the area it resides in.

So my view is that a much better design is needed. The construction of which can wait. The money can be put into an account to gain interest, as technology, expertise and design expertise is gathered and grown by the council. By the time a project is implemented it'll be cheaper to build, be a better fit and a benefit to us all including animals and flowers.

I object.

Subject: (0183) Flood objection letter
Sent: 21/04/2024, 10:43:05
From: [REDACTED]
To: Musselburgh Flood Protection Objections
Attachments: [flood letter.docx](#)

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Please find attached my objection letter to the proposed flood scheme.
Regards
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

21st April 2024

ADDRESS THE OBJECTION LETTER TO:

Carlo Grilli
Service Manager – Governance
Legal Services
East Lothian Council
John Muir House
Haddington
EH41 3HA
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr Grilli

I am writing to object to the recently published Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme. We have been a resident of Musselburgh for [REDACTED]. We enjoy walking daily in all of the places where the proposed flood barriers are said to be placed. Putting up barriers in these areas will directly affect the accessibility in these areas and the beauty of the open spaces. Building unsightly barriers across the natural beauty spots of our town will directly affect

Having read all of the proposed plans, we firstly can't see why it has been seen as necessary due to the history of a lack of flooding in the area. The proposals are incredibly unsightly, expensive and unnecessary. A local residents and taxpayers we do feel that funds should be put towards finding more environmentally friendly solutions.

I object to the published scheme because:

- It will disfigure Musselburgh's natural beauty spots
- It is expensive and unnecessary
- We should be finding environmentally friendly solutions for our wildlife (such as the deer at the river Esk).

Please acknowledge receipt of my letter of objection, in writing. Please advise me of next steps, and timescales.

Yours Faithfully,

██████████

Subject: (0184) I object to the Flood protection scheme
Sent: 21/04/2024, 15:00:57
From: [REDACTED]
To: Musselburgh Flood Protection Objections
Attachments: [Flood Scheme Objection \[REDACTED\].docx](#)

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
21/4/24

Carlo Grilli
Service Manager – Governance Legal Services
East Lothian Council
John Muir House
Haddington
EH41 3HA

cgrilli@eastlothian.gov.uk

Dear Carlo Grilli

I am writing to object to the recently published Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme.

I live on [REDACTED] 190 yards from the river and in the potential flood area. In the 20 years we have lived here the river has lapped the banks but never flooded. Our family is from [REDACTED] which had a long history of flooding with properties beginning repeatedly damaged leading to the community asking for a flood alleviation scheme. My property has never flooded and we have certainly never asked for a flood prevention scheme.

We have enjoyed many years of walking along the river and the sea and feel our mental health and wellbeing has benefitted from this. The beauty of the area has brought daytrippers to our town and has led to its growth. I have concerns that future families will instead be faced with the blight of concrete walls that their children will be too short to see over.

I object to the published scheme because:

OBJECTION 1 Financial

The current proposed budget is likely to rise inline with increased cost of living. We have no idea of what the final overall cost is likely to be. As there is no cost breakdown in the public domain we can not see where the increase in costs might come from and adjust the scheme accordingly. It seems fool hardy in this current financial climate to be throwing money at a scheme that is not fit for purpose and that local residents do not want. What we do want is an additional doctors surgery, care for the elderly (a replacement for Eskgreen old

folks home, fundings for The Hollies), a commitment for the repairs to the Brunton so we can continue to access local council facilities.

We bought our house on the strength of its connection to the sea and the river. Losing that connection with the building of a concrete solution may impact the resale value of our home through no fault of our own.

Our property is old and in a conservation area. Will there be compensation if the piling driving damages our house? Will there be structural engineering reports done before work begins to ensure damage can be paid or?

OBJECTION 2 - Data

I am concerned that I can't locate a timeline of the proposed work and there seems to be no details about the order that the work will be done. This then does not allow for any change in circumstances. If Scottish government guidance says that a range of scenarios should be included then should there not be provision for changes in the environment? If for instance the underground pumping station and the new drainage infrastructure impact the amount of water in the river do we really need ugly concrete walls?

Why is the river not being considered as a whole right from its source and its tributaries? If we "fix" the section of the Esk going through Musselburgh it does not solve the problem of slowing the flow of the river through other areas. If other councils choose to increase the amount of water from increased building along the Esk then it renders our walls effectively pointless. Why was the inclusion of the Natural Flood Management scheme halted? Surely its data and findings should be included so the river can be considered in its entirety. The data shows that other flood walls and gates have not proved up to the tasks so surely we should consider nature based solutions will the river be dealt with upstream.

Please acknowledge receipt of my letter of objection, in writing. Please advise me of next steps, and timescales, I would like communication to be via email or post.

Yours Faithfully



Subject: (0185 NO ADDRESS) Objection to the Flood Scheme Proposal

Sent: 21/04/2024, 17:18:55

From: [REDACTED]

To: Musselburgh Flood Protection Objections

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Completed

Categories: NO ADDRESS

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I object to the proposed scheme as I have an interest in the land affected by the scheme and scheme operations at Brunstane Burn and Edinburgh Road Coast. I understand from the drawings my access and right of way to the shoreline will be blocked by the flood wall defence with no access to the beach from just outside my home. I use the beach where I live regularly to walk my dog and exercise. I go to into the sea and do a bit of a wild swimming which is good for my mental health. I walk daily along the coastline for health benefits. A coastal sea defence with limited access and any scheme compound and scheme works will directly impact mine and my family's ability to continue to do so and disturb my enjoyment of the land. If the scheme proceeds in its present form without amendments I expect to be compensated for the sustained damage as a consequence of exercising my powers under the Act, Section 83 (1).

I object because there is no clear material describing the councils mechanism to compensate me if the works or related works traffic damage my property, in particular the road access directly from my house next to the pumping station

I object [REDACTED] – a beach they will no longer have access to unless having to walk half a mile. I believe there will be an impact to my business and there is no information from the council for any compensation for this.

I object because I believe having no access to the beach at the Brunstane Burn Edinburgh Road (top end) coast will encourage dangerous climbing over the existing embankment and rocks to get to the sea rather than walk to Murdoch Green half a mile away. I also believe any dog walkers who walk from Portobello to Musselburgh will be in danger if they cannot readily get off the beach just beyond Brunstane Burn in the event of a fast tide.