

Luing Community Council - Climate change action and flood risks to housing

Report from Luing Community Council (LCC) to Oban, Lorn and Isles Community Planning Group Meeting, November 8th 2023

Coastal flooding at Cullipool

Following collapse of the boulder wall protecting the shore and houses in Cullipool Conservation Village, a report produced for the Isle of Luing Community Trust (IoLCT) by the University of Glasgow's Dept of Geographical and Earth Sciences recommended a number of management options in the light of climate change scenarios. The recommended first step, to repair the boulder wall, is underway in two phases. Phase 1, the repair of the northern end, was completed in June 2023 at a cost of c.£32,000, 80% funded by Historic Environment Scotland (HES) topped up with community contributions. The second phase, repair of the southern end, is estimated at £60-70,000. Funding is being sought from HES and Argyll & Bute Council's Coastal Adaptation Fund, topped up if needed by a crowdfunding campaign. The second phase work is anticipated to be undertaken in 2024. Further actions to limit erosion at Cullipool are required, most importantly annual beach replenishment. If the forthcoming planning application for the IoLCT's small-scale slate project is approved, the rock from the initial excavation will be moved to the beach and quarried slate spoil will be used for the beach nourishment annually.

Other flood risks to housing on Luing

On two occasions recently there has been flooding of houses in Cullipool Conservation Village caused by water draining off farmland above the village. After the first flood in Cullipool, the slate-lined culvert through the village was manually dug out by community volunteers and surrounding vegetation was cut back. This failed to prevent more serious flooding of houses during the heavy rains of early October, water sweeping down from the field above the village, overflowing the water channel and culvert and flooding into several houses. A similar problem of flooding has occurred in Toberonochy Conservation Village, water coming down from fields to the west of the settlement into the centre of the village, possibly exacerbated by two new building plots. Flood water was following the road and finding a path to the sea through private properties. Existing drainage measures are not coping with the increased flooding risks.

Luing community is willing to help in any way it can, but it lacks the technical know-how to assess current and future risks and identify appropriate solutions. In the first instance, technical advice is needed to identify the source of the problems, assess the flooding risks and recommend remedial actions to prevent future flooding.