

## Members' Library Service Request Form

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Document Title	Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme MLS report - Appendix A.29

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Additional information:

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

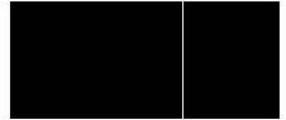
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**From:** Legal  
**Sent:** 26 April 2024 11:19  
**To:** Musselburgh Flood Protection Objections  
**Cc:** Grilli, Carlo  
**Subject:** (0731 [REDACTED]) MFPS Objection letter received 24/04/24 - [REDACTED]  
**Attachments:** 20240424 MFPS Objection letter from [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] HAND DELIVERED.pdf  
**Categories:** POST, Added to excel spreadsheet, [REDACTED]

Hi Carlo,

The attached arrived 24/04/2024. No acknowledgement sent.





13 April 2024

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

By email to: [mfpsojections@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:mfpsojections@eastlothian.gov.uk)



Dear Mr Grilli

**Objection to proposed floor risk management scheme under the Flood Risk Management Act 2009**

I write to object to East Lothian Council's proposals for flood risk management project and the accompanying active travel project.

My reasons for objecting to the proposals are:

**Noise, vibration, pollution and disruption**

I expect to be severely affected by noise, construction traffic, vibration and pollution over a period of several years. The front door of my building is only  from the proposed wall on .

I understand that the preparatory works will begin in 2025 with construction of the scheme starting in 2026 for three years to 2029, and then a period for defects from 2029 to 2031.

I understand that the scheme construction will be undertaken over six-day working weeks 8 am to 6 pm Monday to Friday and 10 am to 4 pm on Saturday. That means there will be little or no respite from noise and vibration, pollution and disruption.

That is a very long timescale to impose on anyone directly affected by the scheme. The construction on the river Esk alone is planned for three years with a 1700 meter squared working area.

I work from home, and this will directly impact my working life as well as my personal life over a long period of time. It could well pose a risk to my mental and physical health.

Environmental Health apparently recommend that noise should not exceed 70db 1 metre from an occupied room. My understanding is that the noise at my flat will regularly exceed that.

The Environmental Impact Assessment states that there will be unavoidable significant adverse effects during construction and for years afterwards.

I expect to be directly affected by the piling work for the deep foundations for the wall both on my side of the river and across the river. I believe the wall outside my building will be [REDACTED] meters tall in total with 5 metres required underground.

There is a risk that that deep foundations will prevent surface water from draining, and pumping stations are planned along the river including on Eskside West. The construction of these will generate more noise, vibration and pollution.

There is a possibility that my building or its foundations will be damaged by vibrations during the piling work. I understand that Historic Environment Scotland has raised concerns about the need to mitigate for potential damage to the Roman Bridge and the Rennie Bridge during piling works. My building was constructed in [REDACTED]

I respectfully request that East Lothian Council conducts a structural survey of my building and its foundations by independent professionals and paid for by East Lothian Council prior to commencement of any construction operation.

Excessive and unreasonable disturbances during construction could also be in breach of my human rights – the right to respect for private and family life and the right to peaceful enjoyment of possessions.

I also anticipate that there will also be major travel disruption during the construction part of the project.

#### **Potential financial detriment**

There is a possibility that this project will result in my property losing value. Should that be the case I would be looking to East Lothian Council for compensation and will take legal advice ahead of any work starting on making a claim for financial detriment.

It may well be that I have to move out of my flat because of the noise, vibration, and pollution. If I have to pay for accommodation elsewhere that will also be a financial detriment that I would seek compensation for.

#### **Loss of amenity**

I object to this scheme on the grounds of major loss of amenity. I currently overlook the river at tree canopy height and also upriver past the Roman Bridge. I consider the riverbank (which I understand to be Common Good land) to be my outdoor space. In good weather I make daily use of the benches next to the Roman Bridge, and in the evening of the benches across the river which get the evening sun. I also walk down the river and along the shore at least four times a week, and often accompany an elderly friend who is unable to walk far but can, with my help, walk down Mountjoy Terrace to sit on a bench facing across the Forth. I regularly walk up the Grove as far as the railway and around Inveresk Village.

At the moment I can walk out of my building and access the grassy areas beside the river. The scheme will obscure the views of the river with walls or embankments, and I am going to lose the ability to walk up and down the riverbanks and sit by the river.

I believe the wall outside my building is still too high. I will struggle to see over the top of the wall at the section outside my building.

The scheme documents on townscape and visual impact acknowledge that there will be major adverse impact on [REDACTED]

#### **Loss of trees and green space**

I object to healthy adult trees being felled for the scheme and replaced with concrete walls. When the trees are in leaf they mitigate traffic noise. I believe the construction of concrete walls on both sides of the river will exacerbate traffic and construction noise. I understand that the vast

majority of the trees in my section of Eskside West – 11 - will be felled but there is also no guarantee that, once work starts, the contractors will make the decision to take down more trees.

The Environment Impact Assessment acknowledges that it will take 15 years for any new planting to become embedded in the landscape.

### **Proportionality**

I object to this scheme on the grounds of proportionality. It is based on a potential one in 200-year event.

I have lived in my flat for almost [REDACTED] years and have never been affected by river flood water. I believe that the scale of the proposed scheme is out of proportion to the risk.

I acknowledge that the area towards the mouth of the river is at risk from high tide and high rainfall flooding, but even then, I do not think that warrants what is being proposed.

The river spends much of the year dry at the west side with visible stones. In recent years it has been affected far more by drought than it has by flood. I, like many others, have asked about dredging the river to reduce flood risk, but each time that has been dismissed.

The flood protection project claims to protect 2,037 properties. However, the construction of the scheme will have a major negative impact on far more people and for a long time.

I believe that the proposed scheme with its walls and embankments down both sides of the river and along the coast with the associated major disruption to the town and loss of amenity space is out of proportion for the level of protection proposed.

This project will cause major disruption, noise, vibration, loss of amenity, and will make the town a building site for many years. I do not believe that the flood risk justifies that.

Most of all I object to the sheer scale of the project.

### **Design**

I object to the design of the scheme. It is over-engineered and over-reliant on concrete. The design of the proposed new bridges is not in any way in keeping with the character of the townscape and existing green space. They are concrete and steel, oversized, and require massive concrete ramps.

The scheme states in its aims that it will respect the cultural heritage of the town. It fails in every respect to do so.

The scheme also states in its aims that it will not sever the town from its river but proposes to do exactly that. The river will be behind walls or mounds. The design of the bridges with their concrete ramps are particularly out of keeping with the town and will change it beyond recognition.

In my own case I will lose my open views across the river and of beautiful tree canopies and will instead be faced with an ugly concrete wall (even clad, it is still an ugly wall) on both sides of the river with concrete benches replacing the attractive wooden benches that we have now.

Even the debris traps, which I had imagined to something like an extra bend to divert fallen trees turn out to be ugly vertical concrete posts in the middle of the river.

As mentioned earlier, it will take up to 15 years for any replacement planting to bed in, and in the meantime, we will be living with views of concrete.

I am not convinced that enough attention has been paid to more natural flood solutions. The proposal has been a heavily engineered project from day one. Indeed, the Council appears to

have agreed to not continue to look at natural flood solutions having visited only one project.

### **Active Travel Project**

As bad as the flood scheme is, the active travel project makes it a million times worse. I do not believe that there is any need for five-metre-wide cycle paths along the waterfront and down the east side of the river. Musselburgh neither wants nor needs five-meter-wide cycle paths.

There is already sufficient access for cyclists from QMU along the Grove to the centre of Musselburgh. It is notable that the hire bike stands at QMU next to the railway station and at the Brunton lie empty.

I understand that the Ivanhoe bridge was originally deemed to be fine as it was for the flood scheme in 2019. It was only after the active travel project was added that the bridge was deemed to need replacing.

The replacement bridges are incredibly ugly and intrusive – concrete and steel – with concrete ramps and completely out of keeping with the townscape. These are, I believe, designed to fit with the active travel scheme.

Even worse, these five-meter cycle paths require land to be taken from the river to allow for the higher paths and wider bridges.

I do not believe that the proposed scheme will meet its aim of increasing active travel in Musselburgh. It could well have the opposite effect. I am a keen walker, but I avoid shared space with cyclists whenever possible.

Musselburgh is blessed already with clear cycle routes, eg along the shore and New Street. We do not need additional paths that are five metres wide.

Given that there appears to be no money allocated for river restoration measures, it is all the more galling to see money spent on an active travel scheme that will be to the detriment of the town and its landscape.

I understand that relatively recently East Lothian Council has decided to pause the active travel scheme and put it through the planning process. I am pleased that East Lothian Council has decided to follow a democratic process. However, I still object vehemently to the active travel scheme because of the impact it has had on the flood scheme, in particular the five-meter-wide cycle paths and hideous concrete and steel oversized bridges designed to fit with the cycle paths.

### **Lack of effective consultation**

I object to the scheme on the grounds of lack of effective consultation with stakeholders, businesses and the local population. I have been actively engaging with the scheme since 2020, yet I was still shocked by the scale of it when I visited the exhibition (which was held for two evenings only) in summer 2023. That exhibition should have been open and available for people to see for a much longer period of time and been more widely publicised.

East Lothian Council is publishing the scheme for the statutory minimum period of 28 days only, and has made the scheme papers available in only three locations and during working hours. I believe that many people are still completely unaware of the extent of the scheme and the impact it will have on the town. I believe that, given the scale and severity of this project, East Lothian Council should have published the scheme for a longer period of time and made the scheme documents more widely available. The Council should have been going door to door in the areas most directly affected by the scheme.

I believe that, given the sheer scale of this project, East Lothian Council should have done more to actively consult with the people of the town. Leaflets through doors do not count as consultation in my opinion. At no point do these leaflets make it clear that land will have to be taken from the river to enable the widened active travel paths. The leaflets that have been

circulated give an over-idealised and I suspect far from realistic view of what the project will deliver. I would go further and say that the images in the leaflets use perspective in a way that may seek to deceive.

There is a huge amount of paperwork associated with the scheme, and it would be impossible for any lay person to go through everything and give feedback in the short time period that the scheme is published.

East Lothian Council should not have approved the scheme in January 2024 without having access to the completed Environmental Impact Assessments. These constitute a huge amount of paperwork and should have been made available before councillors approved the scheme.

### **Impact on wildlife and biodiversity**

I object to the proposed scheme on the grounds of impact on wildlife and biodiversity. There will be habitat destruction and loss on an enormous scale. The Environmental Impact Assessment references otters and kingfishers, but I was unable to see any reference to the impact on, for example, the house martins which nest in the area every summer and feed on insects around the river, or the wildfowl that nest in the river area or the birds losing nest sites in the trees. I expect the proposed new bridge at the mouth of the river to have a massive impact on the populations of wading birds and on the swans that come every summer.

From my flat and the riverbank I see an abundance of wildlife daily: cormorants, goosanders, mallards, moorhens, swans, geese, wigeons, goldeneyes, eiders, housemartins, bullfinches, blackbirds, goldfinches, blue tits, great tits, jackdaws and robins to name but a few. The tree canopies provide excellent shelter for birds. There are also lots of foxes in the area, and I have been fortunate enough to see otters. I can only lament what the loss of habitat will do to the local wildlife.

The scheme states that it provides a means to fund river restoration measures but no detail is provided.

### **Equalities impact assessment**

Many of the proposed ramps and walkways look to me as if anyone with mobility issues would struggle to use them. Can I ask if East Lothian Council has conducted equality impact assessments for these projects?

### **Conclusion**

What East Lothian Council is proposing will in my opinion make my life and others' a misery for many years with construction noise, vibration and pollution. There will also be prolonged travel disruption.

I expect it will impact my mental and physical health and will potentially cause damage to my property.

It will ruin my physical and visual amenity and the visual beauty and amenity of the town for its inhabitants and visitors, turning what is currently picturesque, open and welcoming into a concreted hellscape.

It will potentially cause me financial detriment for which I will seek compensation from East Lothian Council.

The active travel scheme has an even more detrimental impact and had originally been piggy backed onto the flood protection scheme thereby bypassing the democratic process of applying for planning permission. However, I am glad to note that is no longer the case.

And all this for a one in 200-year event. I can fully understand the need for flood protection in some areas of Musselburgh, but the proposed scheme goes far beyond what is required and will be the end of Musselburgh as I know it.

I am copying in my local councillors to this objection letter and would appreciate a response from them as well as from East Lothian Council.

Yours sincerely

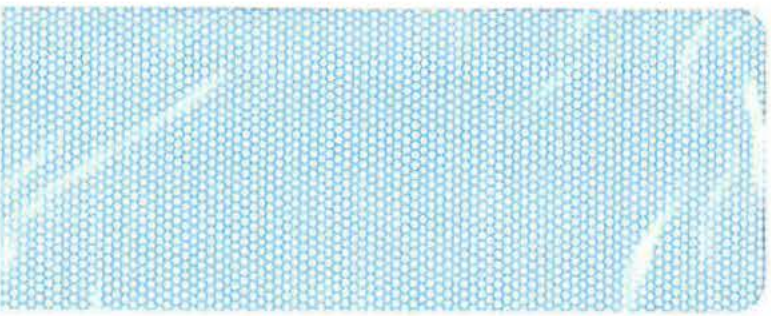


**Copy to:**

Councillor Andrew Forrest	<a href="mailto:afortrest2@eastlothian.gov.uk">afortrest2@eastlothian.gov.uk</a>
Councillor Cher Cassini	<a href="mailto:ccassini@eastlothian.gov.uk">ccassini@eastlothian.gov.uk</a>
Councillor Shona McIntosh	<a href="mailto:smcintosh1@eastlothian.gov.uk">smcintosh1@eastlothian.gov.uk</a>
Councillor Ruaridh Bennett	<a href="mailto:rbennett@eastlothian.gov.uk">rbennett@eastlothian.gov.uk</a>



EAST LoTHIAN COUNCIL  
RECEIVED  
24 APR 2024  
LEGAL & PROCUREMENT



①

CARLO GRILLI,  
SERVICE MANAGER,  
GOVERNANCE LEGAL SERVICES,  
EAST LOTHIAN COUNCIL,  
JOHN MUIR HOUSE  
HADDINGTON  
EH41 3HA

EAST LOTHIAN COUNCIL  
RECEIVED  
24 APR 2024  
LEGAL & PROCUREMENT



8.4.24



Dear Mr Grilli,

### MUSSELBURGH FLOOD PROTECTION SCHEME

I decided to start my objection letter with my connections to Musselburgh to let you know how strongly I feel re the above scheme. I am Musselburgh born & bred ( [redacted] , with beautiful views to the river ) & have brought up my own family here. As a child I have fond memories of playing by the river & sea-front ; many walks most fondly around the Grove. My family have walked by & crossed the river many thousands of times. We have greatly enjoyed the wildlife & the scenery. My Dad was [redacted] based at Musselburgh [redacted] then later worked at [redacted] [redacted] , both by the river. My mother [redacted] [redacted] by the river. My son went to the Air Cadets by the river. Myself , my sisters & my children crossed the river to go to the [redacted] School so as you can see I have many connections & more to the river.

My first objection is about the complexity of the explanations of the proposed flood scheme. I am not an engineer & I'm not technically minded. I am looking at everything on my mobile phone, I do not have a computer or laptop & I don't have £1,000 to get hard copies. I know hard copies are available to look at but I would find that extremely daunting, where would I start?

My second objection is the misleading glossy brochures. They do not show an accurate presentation of the proposed plans. Why has the narrowing of the river not been mentioned in these brochures?

My third objection is the effect the changes of the river & seafront on people's mental health. Blocked views, concrete walls, the disappearance of wildlife will all have a detrimental effect to the Town's People & visitor's.

Fourth objection is people will no longer wish to visit (especially during construction) our beautiful town. This will have a knock on effect to local businesses. Businesses will be forced to

③ close & people will lose their jobs. A prime example already is The Bistros in the Brunton Hall. Closed due to lack of customers & jobs lost.

MY FOURTH OBJECTION is the affect on wildlife. The river Esk has improved so much we have a varied life on & in the river. From fish to otters, geese, swans, kingfishers & others. During construction the wildlife will leave or even die due to the pollution caused by construction. After construction how is the water foul & otters supposed to get out the river if they are faced with concrete walls. People visit the river to see this wildlife, they will no longer visit - see my objection no 4.

MY FIFTH OBJECTION is about the trees along the banks of the river. A traffic light system has been used to show which trees are to be axed. This system has been proved to be inaccurate. The Council do not know the exact amount to be felled. Also hard engineering close to a tree, that is to be saved, will have a detrimental effect on the roots causing that tree to die.

④ People of the town put cloth banners around the trees in a peaceful protest. These were removed by the Council. I

I have knitted for. We need to save these trees for our future & for our children. Hundreds of ladybirds & other insects have found shelter

Felling these trees will be detrimental to wildlife & people's mental health. Trees soak up water & give shade. Felling trees will cause more flooding & will also greatly increase temperatures on a hot day as will concrete walls. They will absorb the heat from the sun & act like an oven!

⑤ My FIFTH OBJECTION is why are Nature Based Solutions not being considered? East & Midlothian Councils along with landowners should be working together to resolve flooding. The whole catchment areas

5 of the North & South <sup>2 sub</sup> areas need to be studied. I accept that some hard engineering is required in Musselburgh but why have leaky dams, meandering & flood plains not being considered all the way to the 2 sources of the river? A prime example is the town of Pickering in Yorkshire. They created leaky dams from twigs & branches, storage ponds etc. It cost one tenth of the cost of hard engineering.

SIXTH OBJECTION is Flood Plains. The banks of the river, areas around The Grove & the Haugh Park are all flood plains. These need to be retained & not blocked off with concrete walls & high embankments which will cause more flooding & faster torrents of water when the river is in spate.

OBJECTION SEVEN - SAFETY. A dangerous torrent of water will be created by narrowing the river & erecting concrete walls. All to enable an unnecessary pathway. The current ~~s~~ pathways & pavements are inadequate for current use. Children are curious, they will climb those walls to look at the river. If they fall in

when the river is in spate when their chance of survival is nil. Does the Council want a death on their hands?

OBJECTION 8 - The concrete walls will be a target for Graffiti. Has the Council considered this & set aside money for the removal of graffiti?

OBJECTION 9 - why do we need a new bridge at Goosegreen across the mouth of the river. This has nothing to do with flooding. We have managed for hundreds of years without a bridge there. It will spoil the view out to the Firth of Forth. People living next to the bridge will lose their view & their privacy with the height of the bridge & massive ramps.

OBJECTION 10 Why have all the new bridges got such massive ramps meaning more concrete & hotter ambient temperatures. The current bridges are all adequate & all accessible to wheelchair users. If a bridge needs to be replaced then make it like for like. Cyclists are happy to use the current bridges.

④

Thankyou for reading my letter, I hope you will take all my objections into consideration..

Please acknowledge receipt of my letter in writing. Please advise of the next steps & timescales.

Yours faithfully.

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted address]



EAST LoTHIAN COUNCIL  
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24. 2024  
LEGAL & PROCUREMENT

CARLO GRILLI,  
SERVICE MANAGER,  
GOVERNANCE LEGAL SERVICES,  
EAST LoTHIAN COUNCIL,  
JOHN MUIR HOUSE,  
HADDINGTON,  
EH41 3HA.

name & address of detector: current owner & occupier.



Ref: CG / 11481  
scheme notification

① I would like to know if there has been any structural survey's or tests done on my building or on the land where the wall is proposed.

The impact of the challenge will certainly affect the stability of my building and may well cause subsidence.

What insurance or liability do you have for the possibility of this or guarantee of in writing to provide me with?

② Your predictions of this flood is based on a one off event that may or may not happen. You are treating the "fertly waters" as it were exposed and open such as Dunbar and Berwick. This is enclosed and does not respond in the same way to waves and weather events.

I would like to see evidence that you have not made wrong assumptions and this is info not been used from a flood event in wharves.

③ How am I to access my beach with my special children?

④ [REDACTED] my view of the beach [REDACTED] is uninterrupted, this is precisely why I bought this flat and why I paid extra.

Will you compensate me for the devaluation of my property approx \$20,000

⑤ I bought my flat for my mental well being and having suffered depression in the past I can say my mental health has never declined since I moved into my flat. This is because I have something beautiful open and expensive to admire and look at with gratitude every day and all the time I [REDACTED] look out and feel uplifted.

I know for sure looking at a wall every time I look out my window instead of my beach with all the birds and dogs would definitely impact my mental health and I fear it could trigger my depression to return.

I had planned to live the rest of my life here but your wall will make it impossible for me to stay.

objector [REDACTED]

Ref: CG/11481 Scheme notification

⑥ I regularly sit outside my flat with a flask and watch the sunset (I sit on the [REDACTED] of my [REDACTED])

I would not be able to see the sunset [REDACTED] any longer and this will make my life feel very sad, as it brings me so much joy and peace that I cannot find anywhere else.

⑦A Noise

I do not feel I will be able to sit in my flat with the noise which is literally going to be a [REDACTED] from my door. The drilling, banging and disruption to every day life will make it impossible to be in my home during the construction phase. Will you put me up somewhere else as I work different shifts that mean I have to sleep much later in the day.

⑦b Is there a limit to the amount of noise you can have when next to a residential area?

- ⑧ my neighbour has lived here [redacted] and can categorically state that the water levels have NOT CHANGED AT ALL so why do we need this wall?
- ⑨ How long do you expect the wall to last?
- ⑩ ARE you (Jacob's) going to maintain the wall?
- ⑪ what guarantee is there with the wall and the wall safety  
I would like this in writing.
- ⑫ who is responsible for the wall?
- 13 If there is graffiti on the wall who will be responsible for removing it?  
named person that is . . .  
How much does it cost taxpayers to have this removed?
- ⑭ I would insist on a survey of specifically structural survey of my building be done before work begins. This is to ensure if there is structural damage from drilling and banging that it can be compared to the post work on the wall and I would like to know who I can claim damages from? named person and written guarantee.

obj

Ref CG / 11481 Scheme notification

(15) Why have you not looked at putting crates to catch debris further up the esk?

Saying it would be difficult to have the debris removed is not an answer. If you can build walls bridges and walkways then you can build access to retrieve the debris.

I would like a fuller more detailed reply to why you have chosen not to consider this, as we know it helps to reduce flooding.

(16) I would like to see the information you obtained and dismissed on nature based solutions such as building dunes etc and why you dismissed them as they are more sustainable and less carbon impact.

(17) How long will you be working outside and along the promenade?

(18)

I have lived in my [redacted] and since we stopped the trackbars coming along and leveling out the sand 4 yrs ago the sand has gradually built its own dune and is continually - slowly building the dune higher.

This shows me that nature will find its own way if we let it ~~do~~ form its own solutions. I know it will continue to build more sand as time goes on and does not require a wall especially one as big as you have planned.

(19)

I would like to know exactly how tall the wall is planned outside my flat - in writing and why you have chosen that exact height.

I would like exact measurements in writing

To CARLO GRILLO  
SERVICE MANAGER  
Governance  
Legal services  
EAST LoTHIAN COUNCIL  
JOHN MUIR HOUSE  
HADDINGTON, EH 41 3AA

EAST LoTHIAN COUNCIL  
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**From:** Legal  
**Sent:** 26 April 2024 11:24  
**To:** Musselburgh Flood Protection Objections  
**Cc:** Grilli, Carlo  
**Subject:** (0734 [REDACTED] MFPS Objection letter received 24/04/24 - [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
**Attachments:** 20240424 MFPS Objection letter from [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] HAND DELIVERED.pdf  
**Categories:** [REDACTED], POST, Added to excel spreadsheet

Hi Carlo,

The attached arrived 24/04/2024. Acknowledgement sent.

[REDACTED]





Email [REDACTED]

22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024

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

[mfpsobjections@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:mfpsobjections@eastlothian.gov.uk)

Dear Carlo Grilli

I am writing to object to the recently published Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme / Musselburgh active town [M.A.T]

I am a Musselburgh resident , and indeed live potentially next to or in future flooding area , next to [REDACTED] is immediately behind rear garden wall

While I agree that defences against possible sea and river incursion need to be addressed , the plans {if you can call them that} that have been proposed are totally over the top {O.T;T}

Better ways to improve defences than to just build large walls (No sizes given) , and cutting numerous trees down ( no idea as to how many are to be cut down , as no one seems to know at this stage apparently ) Increasing capacity of headland reservoirs would help immensely as would better timing of letting water out of same help dramatically , repair and maintenance of existing sea walls and river banks / improvements are required, dredging of silted river beds and removal of debris should be part of an ongoing procedure each year .

What has been put forward as far as can be made out , would visually be an eye sore, and a loss of amenity not just to my family but everyone who visits or potentially might visit Musselburgh .

Reference M.A.T

Which has been included into this Scheme {maybe to avoid planning ?} , Route Two . Is proposed as traveling along A199 ie Linkfield Road adjacent to our dwelling at above noted address .

No detailed plans are available for viewing , no drawing with scale produced and I would have thought that this would be required in a conservation area by Law .

My Neighbours and I have been told on numerous occasions at meetings etc that our on street parking outside of our properties will be maintained in any plan going forward , but with lack of transparency to plans going forward . I have to object strongly to the proposal of route two following route along A199 certainly opposite houses [REDACTED] until some point

along route where road would be wide enough to support independent bike way , or ( share and care route }

It would be better for route two to follow a different path altogether ie, from Loretto corner through Pinkie playing fields or alternatively through route around racetrack .

This would avoid conflict with bus route and main arterial road that Linkfield Road is .

There is also lack of commitment with regards future cost of maintaining this route in a usable state of repair .

No mention of fact that Musselburgh Cycling club ( which is thriving by the way) have meetings throughout each and everyweek , going out in various groups up to forty strong ridding four abreast at times , there potentially could be conflict with the various road users .

We certainly don't want to loose the ability to use parking outside our house, and the amenity of surrounding area., no recompense would be enough compensation for such loss.

I do hope my concerns are listened to.

Yours sincerely



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*.

EAST LoTHIAN COUNCIL  
RECEIVED  
24 APR 2024  
LEGAL & PROCUREMENT

FAO Carlo Crivelli  
Service Manager  
East Lothian Council  
John Muir House  
Haddington  
BM41-3HA

Carlo Grilli,  
Service Manager - Governance,  
Legal Services,  
**East Lothian Council**  
John Muir House  
Brewery Park  
**HADDINGTON**  
East Lothian  
EH41 3HA



24.4.24

Dear Mr. Grilli,

Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme (MFPS): Objection to proceeding with the Scheme 'as is'.

Owing to my having worked at what was the Scottish government's 'Freshwater Fisheries Laboratory', [REDACTED] I am familiar with the need for us to make significant changes to 'traditional' land-use practices, because, as you may well know, extensive research has shown that - overall - those 'ways' are contributing heavily, to increased flooding *in areas like* Musselburgh.



Unfortunately, [REDACTED] I've been unable to devote the time to this objection that I'd have liked to. I hope therefore that you will be able to accept my earlier written contributions, *combined* with this covering letter, as my Objection to the Scheme proceeding unchanged, from that agreed by the full East Lothian Council meeting, in January this year.



Yours sincerely,



**My concerns centre on: Nature Based Solutions (NBS) and Natural Flood Management (NFM) and the middle and upper River Esk catchment area especially.**

One concern of mine is that, **I don't get the impression there is anyone on the team of people, who are being paid to progress this project, whose heart is really in NBS / NFM.** Please correct me if I'm wrong.

If that's so, it's a serious omission. I wonder if there's anything we can do at this point, to change that?

**SUBSEQUENT THOUGHTS OF MINE:** We need someone who has the same authority as Conor Price, within the Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme (MFPS), to lead the NBS / NFM work. I imagine that the post would need to be full-time, perhaps for 2 years, in the first instance.

**Background to that comment:** Land use practices have been refined, particularly during the last 80 years, to such a point that they are contributing heavily to flooding, in communities like ours. Changing landowners' attitudes takes time and they need good information about what's required of them, and about where financial assistance might be sourced from. (\*) It's this community's responsibility to do this work, not only for locals, but also for people living in the *other* coastal areas, downriver on the Forth.

I fear that Conor Price's 'sympathies' lie too much with the construction industry, for example because the focus of the MFPS newsletters, circulated to locals, tends to be biased towards solutions that require what you might call 'hard landscaping'. Eg. new bridges, paths, walls... - The May 2023 newsletter is a good example of this: The NBS / NFM information has been put on *the last page of the newsletter* and includes the following two sentences: "Although NBS and NFM use natural processes, they are still primarily **engineered** solutions." / "NBS and NFM projects still require design, **engineering** and delivery, usually through **construction** activities."

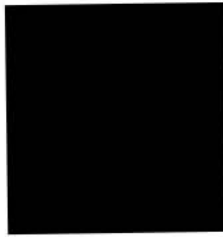
My next concern centres on the fact that, I'm conscious that **across the UK, Europe, North America etc., there are many NBS / NFM experiments and projects going on NOW.** And research will be going on in universities and publicly funded laboratories (for example), across Britain. - It's good that the project team here have learnt much from the Eddleston project, but that's not enough.

Someone who is being paid to work on this project, really should have organised **a thorough literature review of NBS / NFM projects,** which - ideally - are being carried out in geographical areas with similar characteristics to ours. And then that person, or people, need to work through the info. found, and identify the projects that our area needs to know more about. - And then, as with the



Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme

ELC, Haddington



8.3.22

Dear Conor,

Thank you for your notices, about the Brunton consultation today. And many thanks for the hard work you're doing, overall.

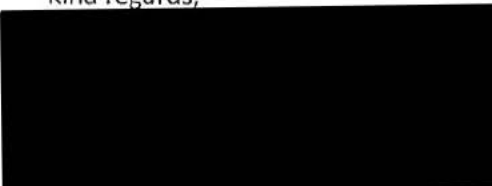
May I say first of all that, it's my understanding, that the reason why we're facing the threat of flooding, is because in the past, in general, we've shown too little respect for nature, in our developments. You know, the natural world is much more powerful than us. - Many people have been saying that, the COVID pandemic should have been all we needed, to remind us of this. As with the Scottish government's big push currently, regarding investment in renewables, we've got to do things differently. We need to use nature as our ally.

I noticed that, on the coloured flyer you kindly sent out, inviting people to the consultation, there's no word of East Lothian Council's Climate Change and Sustainability division, or their Natural Environment and Planning people, playing a part in 'MFPS's current plans. Nor, for that matter, is there any mention of bodies like Scottish Natural Heritage, or the Scottish Wildlife Trust, or the local Green Party having been involved, as what you might call 'major players', which is what we need, in a project like this. The expertise lies within these departments and organisations, to produce for local people, a solution that would REALLY prevent problematic flooding. (There are such projects going on, around the UK, in a number of places now.) Because, the truth is that, as the Fisherrow Harbour and Seafront Association have discussed with yourselves recently, when the storms come, many 'built-wall-solutions' - in the UK and abroad, have - despite HUGE expenditure having gone into their construction, failed to do that job.

From my limited knowledge of these things, the sort of developments we need to become involved in, are 1.) increasing considerably shrub and tree cover, throughout the River Esk catchment, and 2.) perhaps it's time for us to think about introducing beavers, into the upper reaches of the river system? - The way they use the landscape can have a significant impact, because it puts a brake on water coming off the fells, which in turn would lead to lower water levels, in Fisherrow / Musselburgh. It's also probable that, if programmes like that were seriously explored, sources of funding would become available, that MFPS aren't aware of just now. An additional benefit, of this sort of project, is that they create badly needed rural employment.

As a final thought, I do hope you'll bear in mind that, people come to Fisherrow Sands (for example) from comparatively far and wide (including the centre of Edinburgh), for recreation, and to enjoy a wee bit of wildness. There's now abundant research which shows that, we humans need that very thing, in order to be well. Please let's not rob people of this. We've got a psychological health epidemic in the UK at present, because we haven't been giving enough priority, to our collective health. With this project, we have the opportunity to act differently.

Kind regards,





Urgent  
please

(By Hand)  
Weds. 24-4-24

F.A.O. MR. C. GRILLI,  
SERVICE MANAGER - GOVERNANCE,  
LEGAL SERVICES,  
EAST LoTHIAN COUNCIL,  
JOHN MuIR HOUSE,  
BREWERY PARK,  
HADDINGTON

EAST LoTHIAN COUNCIL  
RECEIVED  
24 APR 2024  
LEGAL & PROCUREMENT

E. LoTHIAN

EH41 3HA

**Subject:** (0736) Objection to the proposed flood scheme  
**Sent:** 25/04/2024, 00:10:21  
**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** Musselburgh Flood Protection Objections

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**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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To whom it concerns

I now live in [REDACTED] but I know Musselburgh well because of past and now renewed family links. And walking through Musselburgh recently I was struck that unlike other towns Musselburgh has developed practical solutions to respond to differing circumstances and needs without destroying what was there. The river Esk with its pedestrian bridges to the Links is ironically the image on many brochures of East Lothian. The public face of a go ahead area where the environment is respected. Yet East Lothian Council decided concrete barriers were the only solution against all available evidence of their effectiveness. The new thinking elsewhere is for environmentally friendly solutions like mature trees and grass. All the people I saw were enjoying the beauty of the river and the flowers and the wildlife. They were looking at the islands where the ducks live, watching the geese and swans, being close to nature and yet in the centre of a historic town. These strategically placed bridges mean people can walk to the High Street from other areas safely and shop locally not drive to supermarkets . Flats and houses have been built but the buildings were sympathetic to the environment. Musselburgh has always been a community and all the traditional yearly events and festivals bring everybody together. At the heart of everything over the centuries has been the river. I object strongly to the needless destruction of a valued part of Musselburgh's identity.

[REDACTED]

**Subject:** (0737) Objections to the Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme  
**Sent:** 24/04/2024, 21:36:39  
**From:** [Redacted]  
**To:** Musselburgh Flood Protection Objections

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Dear Legal Services

Please see my objections below to the MFPS.

- 1)Lack of nature based solutions at coast
  - 2)A coastal engineered defence is premature
  - 3)A sea wall could be undermined by erosion
  - 4)Goosegreen bridge does not reduce flood risk
  - 5)Dynamic Coast and NatureScot have both recommended an adaption plan
  - 6)All MAT should be subject to planning and not part of flood scheme as offers no flood reduction
  - 7)The MFPS will affect my enjoyment of the amenity at Fisherrow and I require compensated for this loss.
  - 8) [Redacted]
- a [Redacted]

[Redacted]