

As you may have read in the local and national press, in December 2014 Scottish Borders Council awarded the Main Works Contract for the Scheme to RJ McLeod. Work is currently underway to finalise plans for the Main Works and preparation of the Main Site Compound on South Bridge Street is underway. Construction work is expected to start in late February / early March and will continue until late 2016. This important milestone for the project, which comes after more than 5 years of consultation, planning and design, is an ideal opportunity to reflect on why this Scheme is necessary – to protect approximately 700 individual residences and 120 businesses (which employ approx. 1500 people) as well as critical infrastructure from flooding from the Ettrick and Yarrow Waters, the Mill Lade, the Long Philip Burn and the Shaw Burn. The Scheme is being taken forward by the Council for the people of Selkirk and as such it has always been, and continues to be, important that the community is involved in the project. The purpose of this newsletter is to provide an update on activity, introduce our Main Works Contractor, provide some key contact details and give a high level overview of the Scheme. I hope you find this useful and, as always, would be pleased to receive any feedback you may have.

Conor Price, Senior Project Manager

Advanced Works

Since June 2014 a programme of Advance Works has been underway with SBc Contracts as the principal contractor. This has included extensive public utility diversions, tree & vegetation clearance, the construction of four temporary roads and general site set-up. This work has been undertaken before the main works in an effort to remove as much risk from the main construction work as possible. The photos to the right show two significant pieces of work - the installation of four new pipes under the Ettrick Water to divert utilities from Bridge Street footbridge (which will be replaced during the Main Works in summer 2015) and the installation of a temporary road bridge on the Corby Linn Alternative Access Road. The Advance Works are now substantially complete with work focused at Dunsdale Haugh and the Corby Linn areas. In these areas significant public utility diversions have been necessary. This work will be complete by April.



Above: River crossing works, July 2014. Courtesy of J. McCallum



Above: Temporary Bridge being constructed at Corby Linn, November 2014. Courtesy of G. A. Talbot

Introduction to Main Works Contractor - RJ McLeod

RJ McLeod is one of Scotland's largest privately owned civil engineering contractors. For over 60 years they have successfully delivered solutions to meet the needs of clients. In often logistically demanding locations, their experience, expertise and resources – combined with a teamwork approach – have allowed them to build a proven track record in Britain's civil engineering infrastructure. RJ McLeod operates over a wide range of civil engineering disciplines with resources spread across Scotland, including the Western and Northern Isles. They have an annual turnover in excess of £85M and a sizeable in-house resource which includes over £12M of plant, around 400 employees (including some 250 operatives) and a Quality, Safety, Environmental and Training (QSET) Department. More information about RJ McLeod is available on their website at www.rjmcleod.co.uk or directly from their on site team - contact details for their Public Liaison Officer for the Selkirk Flood Protection Scheme are provided on Page 2.

Headlines

- A708 west of Selkirk to close from 2nd March
- Sections of Riverside footpath to close from 23 Feb. Local diversions in place
- Pre-start surveys being undertaken on properties near construction works. Those affected will be contacted by the Project Team
- Ettrickhaugh Road Community Meeting to take place in March. Details to follow
- Advanced Works on Dunsdale Haugh and Corby Linn Road nearing completion
- Bridge Street footbridge to be replaced during summer 2015



A708 & Riverside Road Closures

One of the first sections of work to be carried out will involve the raising of a section of the A708 to the west of Selkirk. This work will require a road closure to be put in place from Monday 2nd March. A diversion route is available for light vehicles and emergency services via the B7039 / B7009 (via Bowhill). HGV & large vehicles should use the A Road diversion via Moffat, Biggar, Peebles and Innerleithen.

Works will commence on Riverside Road in late February. This will require the sequential closure of sections of Riverside Road and, as necessary, the diversion will be via Whinfield Road, Rogers Road and the temporary Riverside access road. This work will require sections of the Riverside footpath to be closed and diverted - this will be sign-posted on site.

Main Site Compound

The Main Site Compound for the Scheme will be on South Bridge Street - on what was the site of Bridgehaugh Dye-works. The project management & construction team's offices will be here and this will be the principal storage area for material, plant & equipment. The main offices will be constructed during February. Additional, smaller, satellite compounds will be set up as necessary.



Above: Advance Works Site Compound on South Bridge Street.. Taken in summer 2014. Courtesy of G.A. Talbot.

Contact Details

If you have any questions about the Scheme please contact one of the following in the first instance:

Andrew Dinnett - Liaison Engineer: CPE Consultancy

Email: andrew.dinnett@scotborders.gov.uk

Phone: 01835 826738

Gary Kilkerr - Public Liaison Officer: RJ McLeod

Email: gkilkerr@rjmcleod.co.uk

Phone: 07796 693650

Project Open Days

We will be hosting a series of Open Days at the Main Site Compound during which the Project Team will be available to answer any questions you may have and give information about the Scheme. Dates and times will be announced in due course. In addition, we will continue to hold Evening Community Meetings for specific areas as necessary and as appropriate for the construction programme.

Project Website

The Project has a website which gives details about the Selkirk FPS. This will be updated regularly with news & construction information:

www.selkirkfloodscheme.com

The Selkirk Flood Protection Scheme

