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Dear Hazel Bailey

**FLOOD PREVENTION SCHEME: MUSSELBURGH FLOOD PROTECTION SCHEME MUSSELBURGH EH21 7BL**

I thank the Reporter for the helpful and informative approach proposed. I wish to be involved in the next stages of the process.

I welcome the emphasis on Hearings, rather than a formal Inquiry. Many of us consider that the issues we would like to see aired and resolved through modifications to the Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme can be settled through this process. It will be certainly less costly in all respects to objectors and less costly to the public purse in these financially straightened times.

I had requested previously to the Council that a Mediator would be appointed prior to the referral to the Scottish Government in the hope of resolving some of my objections through modifications to the Scheme. However, the approach adopted by the Council's consultants was adversarial.

I reiterate that Musselburgh does require defences of various types in the fulness of time to reduce the risk of flooding and its effects on people. A number of factors have come into play since the Scheme was formally Gazetted some years ago.

The Council claim that the Scheme no longer includes the Active Travel Plans for the town, although it was in the Gazetted Scheme. This needs to be settled as Active Travel is not a requirement of the 2009 Act, nor a necessity for flood protection.

The Council's estimate of the number of properties likely to be protected from flooding keeps increasing while the Scheme itself remains the same.

The monies now available for the Musselburgh Scheme have been substantially reduced through agreement between the Scottish Government and COSLA. I presume therefore that the Scheme formally presented previously will have to be substantially downsized to fit the resources likely to be available.

The biodiversity duties and targets placed on local councils under Part 1 of the Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2026 will need to be factored into the revisions of the Musselburgh Scheme.

I look forward to being involved to secure modification of the Musselburgh Scheme to reduce flood risk at a lower cost working with nature so that I can consider withdrawing my objections.



Roger Crofts