

Thursday, February 17, 2022

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Nature-based solutions required

The mock-up of an apparent flood at Pinkie Pillars in last week's *Musselburgh Courier* suggests a cataclysmic event. Should we be scared?

Should we meekly agree to engineering consultants' vastly expensive proposals?

Surely, we demand an honest appraisal, as befits our town's motto.

Yes, there will be extreme events but, surely, we plan

for the more normal events to protect our properties and the amenities of our town.

In the consultation meeting, the consultants refused to allow nature-based solutions in the river catchment to be considered. Is that consultation? Certainly not.

The key issue is to slow the flow of water into the river flowing through Musselburgh. Nature-based

solutions are part of the solution: planting trees, rewetting the flood plains, digging ponds, blocking ditches and drains – all natural common sense; and all good value for public money.

Compare these works with the £20m required to remove and replace four bridges on the spurious grounds that they impede the flow. Impeding the flow upstream should

be the preferred approach.

By all means include a tree catcher at the A1 bridge, but add another one just upstream of the mill lade to catch the willows from The Grove that periodically fall into the river. If only the engineering consultants listen to natural common sense.

Roger Crofts
Eskside West
Musselburgh