Clachan Community Flood Alerting Project

Introduction

Access to real time river level monitoring and flood alerting information is important for all communities with localised flood risks. This helps them keep an eye on water level trends, be aware of the potential for flooding and gain time to be able to plan, prepare and respond when necessary.

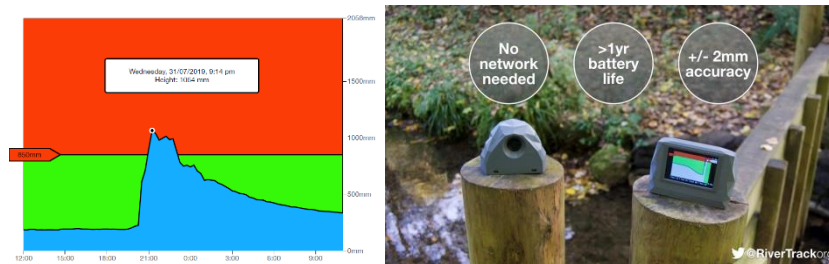### *Who are we?*

Scottish Flood Forum:

The Scottish Flood Forum (SFF) is an independent charity that is committed to helping communities and individuals understand the risks and consequences of flooding in their area and ensure they are effectively and appropriately supported to recover and to become more resilient.

Funding & Support:

The project is funded by the SFF and we will install up to four RiverTrack display receivers and one sensor for Clachan. The project will include one year's maintenance and servicing support from RiverTrack and the SFF will facilitate use of the system and help troubleshoot any issues throughout the year.

RiverTrack

RiverTrack is a new flood alerting device that can help flood risk communities by providing a water level data directly to people's homes, this can help them to plan, prepare and respond to a flooding incident.

RiverTrack display & units

For example, community actions could include:

- Having a community display for all to see in an agreed location
- Agreeing a water trigger level at which the community takes action
- Integrating the information into new or existing emergency plans.

How can you be involved?

If you are interested in being involved in this project, then the SFF and partners will meet with and discuss and agree where the RiverTrack displays would be best positioned. Suggestions for where the receivers/display devices could be best deployed would also be requested – for example this could include households at risk of flooding or a community focal point

A point of contact will be required when the devices are installed to ensure all locations can be accessed. Once the devices are installed, the SFF can help to facilitate meetings of the group and wider community to discuss and agree:

- What trigger level the display devices should be set at to alert the community of high-water levels;
- How the device and its information can be incorporated into any community flood/resilience plan;
- To discuss and agree how the system is working and troubleshoot any issues with the devices or with RiverTrack.

After one year, the RiverTrack system can be donated to Clachan for ongoing use, any ongoing servicing and maintenance of the RiverTrack community flood alerting system will need to be considered by Clachan

What is RiverTrack

- RiverTrack is a device that gives information on river levels to individuals and isolated communities
- It has a very simple indoor display device, a number of which can be paired with one local outdoor river sensor
- It has a weatherproof ultra-sonic water level sensor with low power radio.

What are the benefits?

Earlier trials with communities have shown:

- RiverTrack does not require any technical or computer expertise to operate
- It gives peace of mind, providing a continual display of river levels
- It could help you and your community improve how you respond to flood risk
- It could help to minimise the damage caused by flooding.

RiverTrack sensor
How does RiverTrack work?

The techy bit:

- RiverTrack works by sending water level information direct to the individual or community.
- RiverTrack uses backup batteries to keep functioning during a power cut
- RiverTrack uses a license-free low power radio frequency
- RiverTrack can work with or without an internet or cellular connection.

What will RiverTrack do?

- A sensor is attached to an agreed point on the stream or river and is paired with a receiver device
- RiverTrack provides people with local, time sensitive information about their local watercourse state
- RiverTrack shows easy to understand water level information
- A trigger level can be set so that an alarm sounds if this is reached
- Can help reduce the impact of flooding by giving individuals and communities time to prepare for and respond to flooding.

RiverTrack

RiverTrack is a company founded by software developer, technologist, and designer Gary Martin. RiverTrack grew from a Sepa-sponsored challenge in a Scottish Government innovation programme. This aimed to improve community access to information which could reduce the impact of flooding, where a full Sepa flood warning scheme wouldn't be possible.

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