Roger to step down as chairman

COMMON RIDING TO SEEK NEW HEAD OF ORGANISATION: PAGE 5

Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

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BRIEFING

NEWS

Disney bear thinkin' of

HER fans were, once again, on the edge of their seats when Libby Clegg and her skating partner Mark Hanretty faced the skate-off for the second week in a row.

Full story: Page 4

WHAT'S ON

What we did on our holdays

THERE was no excuse for being bored during the half-term holiday at Langholm Playcare.

The week was packed with varied and interesting activities

Full story: Page 10

SPORT

Excitement builds for £50k Novices Hurdle

THE ITV cameras will be pointing towards Kelso this Saturday when the feature race of the day forms part of the terrestrial broadcaster's programme.

Full story: Page 24

Objections rise over flood protection plan

Walls and embankments lining the rivers are not very popular

A MULTI-MILLION-pound flood protection scheme for Langholm, which would line the Esk and Wauchope with walls and embankments, has encountered strong opposition in the town.

Councillor Archie Dryburgh, vice-chairman of the economy and resources committee, reminded people that the chosen scheme would go forward to the Scottish government which, hopefully, would pay 80 per cent of the estimated £8m cost.

He said: "Over the past couple of weeks we have seen changing weather patterns which are endangering people's lives when there is high water.

"The ground is saturated at the moment so anything which prevents flooding in the area, obviously, we're going to support it.

"I hope people will have their say. Not everyone will agree with us but we need to do something. I'm pleased to see so many people here giving their opinions."

On the issue of dredging, he said there was a greater emphasis on the environmental aspect and legislation had changed. The council had to abide by the law.

He said he would like to see dredging happen but it was only one of a number of things which would help.

Asked whether having a 1 in 200 flood protection scheme would make it easier for developers to get planning permission in the town, he replied: "It's not that you can't build on a flood plain but you must have measures to stop flooding to your property.

"As soon as we have the project ready and have funding in place, I would like to see a start on it but I want to make sure the community is communicated with all the way through."

He was happy that the Buccleuch Park project group were involved and they were talking to the council's flood team and the consultants.

The preferred option put to people included a shallow overflow channel, 50 metres wide, through Buccleuch Park, along with walls with see-through panels in Caroline Street, Elizabeth Street and George Street and embankments on the waterside and in Mary Street.

There would be a pile wall from Charlotte Street to the sewage works.

The heights of the barriers would vary from two metres in Caroline Street, between two metres and 1.2m in Elizabeth Street, 1.6m in George Street and 2m on the waterside.

Tessa Lumley was concerned about the wall along the path to the Co-op.

She said: "It's well used but it's in danger of becoming an alley with a concrete wall on one side and the wall of the building on the other. It could become a place where kids congregate."

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Mollie Phillips proudly shows off the home she built for a toad in her garden

Mollie gives a toad a home

Mollie Phillips loves nature.
She's always out bug-hunting, is on the eco-group at Langhom primary school and loves to attend Wild Eskdale groups.

Last summer she found a toad in the greenhouse and straight away decided to make it a more suitable home. She was worried it would get too hot in the greenhouse.

She got out her books and read up on what a toad needed and made it a home with leaves, stones, shade and a small pond.

She is a member of the RSPB so mum Sarah sent a photo of her and it has been published in this year's spring issue of their Wild Times magazine.