

Minutes of the Multi Agency Flood Defence Meeting on
Wednesday 22nd January 2014 held in Lydney Town Council Chambers
at 10.30 am

PRESENT:

Cllr Christine Jones, West Dean Parish Council **(ChJ)**
 Cllr Bill Gayler, West Dean Parish Council **(BG)**
 Mr Dave Kent, Clerk, West Dean Parish Council **(DK)**
 Cllr Roger Gwynne, West Dean Parish Council **(RG)**
 Cllr Brian Pearman, Lydney NDP/Finance & Scrutiny Committee
 Chairman **(BP)**
 Cllr Brian Thomas, Lydney Town Council **(BT)**
 Jayne Smailes, CEO Lydney Town Council **(JS)**
 Dan Howell, Forestry Commission **(DH)**
 Chris Johns, Forest of Dean District Council **(CJ)**
 District Cllr Martin Quaile, Forest of Dean District Council **(MQ)**
 Mr Stewart Charters, Watts Group **(SC)**
 Mr John Thurston, Watts Group **(JT)**
 Cllr James Bevan, Lydney Town Council **(JB)**
 Dave Street, Lydney Neighbourhood Development Plan **(DS)**
 Barry Bridgewater, Severn Trent Water **(BB)**
 Andy Harkin, Severn Trent Water **(AH)**
 Matthew Reid, Environment Agency **(MR)**
 Ben Grey, Dean Forest Railway **(BG)**
 Cllr Maurice Bloomfield, Aylburton Parish Council **(MB)**
 Chris Bull (Dean Forest Railway) **(CB)**
 Six members of the public

IN ATTENDANCE: Alison Crawshaw, P/T Admin Assistant, Lydney Town Council
 (Minute Taker),

APOLOGIES: Robert Frankton (Lydney Park Estate), Cllr Alan Preest (Lydney
 Town Council), Cllr Bill Osborne (Lydney Town Council), Peter
 Adams (Lydney NDP), Brian Watkins (Gloucestershire
 Highways), David Graham (Gloucestershire County Council),
 Martin Young (Environment Agency)

| ITEM | | ACTION |
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| 1. | WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS Cllr Brian Thomas chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone. Introductions were made around the table. Item 5 of the agenda - Flooding to Lakeside, this item would be discussed as the first item of business. | |
| 5. | FLOODING TO LAKESIDE Cllr Brian Thomas offered members of the public attending the meeting the opportunity to speak. Gordon Blake, representative for residents of Lakeside Avenue | |

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| | <p>explained that the recent flooding problems began at the culvert behind 115 Lakeside Avenue following trees felled by Western Power which then blocked the water course. Forest of Dean District Council (FoDDC) were aware of this as far back as February 2013. Lydney Town Council discussed the matter of felled trees on 8th July 2013 at a Full Council Meeting [<i>item 13</i>] where Lydney Town Council (LTC) requested FoDDC address via riparian owner. Since then flooding has occurred. Following the flooding individuals have removed some of the timber blocking the watercourse and this has been removed, but there is more and if it is not removed soon it will flood again.</p> <p>The land ownership on the culvert/watercourse is not clear and the culvert does not therefore get regular attention. Mr Kevin Howarth wrote in 2008 about this problem and the situation in Lakeside Avenue continues to get worse. Houses that have never flooded before have now been flooded. Insurance is becoming difficult. What can be done by FoDDC/Environment Agency/Lydney Town Council to address these points?</p> <p>Rose Christodoulides, resident of Lakeside Avenue stated the Lakeside Avenue flooding was a historical issue. The residents of Lakeside have been promised time and time again that something would be done. The culvert is not sufficient to do the job and Mrs Christodoulides would like to ask the agencies at the meeting what can be done? Money is being spent elsewhere on flood defence but what has to be done to get attention. Once the flood water used to seep away through the allotment site but now that area has been built upon there is nowhere for the water to go. Who allowed this development?</p> <p>Colin Legg, resident of Lakeside Avenue highlighted that following numerous communications the FoDDC has not responded to repeated requests on this matter. LTC had responded and was acting on the issue. Repeated flooding has meant that insurance is no longer an option for Lakeside Avenue house owners and Mr Legg had so far lost two cars and suffered much water damage and that he was at the end of his tether. He asked that the owner of the trash screen be identified and if that was him to let him know so that he could clear it and try to prevent further flooding behind his property. [Trash screen located outside of boundary fencing]</p> <p>JS asked the meeting to refer to the hand-outs provided for the meeting of the Lakeside Avenue recent flooding. It had been identified that Lydney Rural District Council owned the land in question and this landownership then transferred to FoDDC in 1974. The current ownership of the land is currently being substantiated by FoDDC in order that they can confirm who is responsible for the trash screen. Lydney Town Council (LTC) agrees with residents that the culvert is too small.</p> | |
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| | <p>CJ referred to a report in the 2000's, which stated also that the culvert was too small. The funding needed to address the culvert could possibly be gained via DEFRA Flood Defence Granting Aid, which is applied for in a particular way. The application process is a weighted process. Attenuation ponds are an option which slow the passage of water from surface run-off to ground/drainage system.</p> <p>The dye tests conducted by FoDDC on the 21st of January 2014 show that there is a free flow of water from the culvert. There is a shallow fall to the canal which mean water stays in the bank and does not flow away as quickly as is needed. The Hitchins planning application provides £200k would be available for Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)</p> <p>Mr Owen, member of the public felt there needed to be a two pronged attack. People that are being flooded now need immediate action and this is being dealt with good will. The next stage is long term planning and this needs cross party working and leadership to take it forward. W need to take advantage of this momentum.</p> <p>JS asked if FoDDC would be prepared to borrow money against the Hitchins Section106 monies from the Secretary of State to finance the work now? Also is it possible for Severn Trent to help fund the work from the money they receive from residents for water rates? Surface water run-off for which a charge is payable by the householder.</p> <p>CJ reported the Hitchins Section106 monies included £15K for the initial work, £70-£90k for on-going maintenance. Nothing from that S106 monies are available for attenuation ponds. Attenuation ponds could be a wildlife feature in 2/3 years. CJ agreed it is possible to discuss with Hitchins Ltd the possibility of change the S106 terms to make the money more relevant to attenuation ponds.</p> <p>BB felt it would not be possible to fund any work from water rates. Severn Trent Water does approve plans for work though.</p> <p>ChJ stated she was sorry to hear about the residents flooding and felt the land registry search to identify who owns the culvert land needs to be expedited. Following on from a point raised at the previous meeting has the ownership of the Culvert by railway been ascertained? Yes it has been confirmed that Network Railway owns it.</p> <p>DS confirmed he had a letter from Dean Forest Railway stating that they are not responsible for this bit of land and therefore it is owned by Network Railway.</p> <p>BB reported that Severn Trent was not able to provide flow readings</p> | |
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| | <p>at moment, but they had commissioned the work to provide these readings. Severn Trent personnel had been on site during the flooding and all the pumps were running without problems. The meter readings at the East Marsh sewage works showed that the flow of sewage to the plant is 250 meters a second. AH to confirm sewage flooding being recorded. He explained that there is a 15 inch pipe to East Marsh pumping station and in high water when it is over capacity and floods properties in Lakeside. There is an ability/licence for Severn Trent to deposit diluted sewage into the Lyd. Although Severn Trent completed works recently, the scheme helped but did not solve the issue. Severn Trent needs to understand why this flooding is happening and have flow meters recording. These reading will be completed in March time and brought to the meeting.</p> <p>SC every time there is flooding there is an overflow of sewerage. BB stated that he was not aware of any planned/extra work by Severn Trent to address this, but he advised Severn Trent were working within their licence. Any flooding goes onto our flood register and is logged daily.</p> <p>CJ was asked to examine the Environment Agencies licence to Severn Trent allows for such and the frequency. CJ will report back to next meeting.</p> <p>BP wished to return to the Lakeside issue as there were members of the public in attendance affected by said issues. BP wished to find a solution to the issue. The trash screen traps debris but if it could push the trash to one side instead and this may help clear the watercourse. The recent dye test was encouraging, showing that the water course is free flowing.</p> <p>MQ reported that the fall at the by-pass was almost flat and the water then went under Network Rail track. On looking it appeared a further water course links into the culvert near Lakeside although MQ was not able to track back and there was no man hole cover. MQ felt there was possibly also an overflow pipe running into the watercourse as well. Whilst Faller Fields slops adequately water appears to pool there. MQ will check the planning document to ensure "run-off" direction. MQ stated that FoDDC are looking for a solution for Faller fields.</p> <p>MQ stated further along and below the square man hole cover there was two sticks trapped; it was not possible to remove them without removing the man hole cover and suggested that those two sticks are from the other side of the trash screen.</p> <p>Gordon Blake questioned MQ whether the dye test would have shown the water flowing well before the timber had been removed.</p> | <p>AH</p> <p>Severn Trent</p> <p>CJ</p> <p>MQ</p> |
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| | <p>Mr Blake reiterated the timber needed removing.</p> <p>MQ felt that if the trash screen had been totally blocked the dye test would have not worked and in his opinion even a partially blocked screen would have shown free flowing water course.</p> <p>DS reported old maps indicated there were two main watercourses through the Lakeside estate. CJ confirmed this was FoDDC understanding and they have been confirming this in current investigations. DS argued the only solution was to divert the watercourse and there is a good opportunity to do so when the Hitchins land was developed.</p> <p>DS explained he had tracked the watercourse where it goes under the railway and into Recreation Trust ground, but could not find any sign of the culvert on the far side of the road but a lintel was found on the other side where the water should come out and there was only a small flow at that time.</p> <p>JB reminded the meeting that the other side of the by-pass from the boating lake was called the East Marsh and historically the water drained into the East Marsh before it became a land fill site. There is also a stone culvert under the railway going up to the Federal Mogal site. Plummer's Brook joins the River Lyd lower down. Lydney has a high water table and until a better fall can be created and the East Marsh is cleared, nothing will improve.</p> <p>CJ confirmed FoDDC have instructed their contractor to re-shape the bank in the next two weeks. CJ has also spoken to Hitchins who will do the same within the next few weeks. They had already removed some of the debris and this has made a difference. CJ acknowledged Hitchins will not remove the detritus behind Mr Legg's neighbours, as there are ownership issues but suggested that maybe the community could do this. Mr Legg stated the clearing Hitchins Ltd had done was excellent.</p> <p>Members of public leave.</p> <p>BB and AH from Severn Trent Water left the meeting.</p> | |
| 2. | <p>NOTES OF LAST MEETING</p> <p>This item will be dealt with at the next meeting</p> | |
| 3. | <p>LYD MAP & RIPARIAN OWNERSHIP</p> <p>JS explained the River Lyd maps will not be updated further until West Dean Parish Council confirm if they wish to extend the mapped area to include West Dean area. DK confirmed he will confirm with JS following their next meeting on 29/1/2014.</p> | DK |

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| | <p>JS asked meeting what other watercourses should to be included in the mapping? BP suggested that these could be identified after conducting a walk through the area with FoDDC in the following week. MQ felt that Plummer's Brook should be included in this planned walk. CJ will confirm time for walk through next week.</p> <p>DS stated Plummer Brook was important and will become more so in time. It rises at A48 and flows down to railway and lower A48 where it meets the Lyd at the Harbour. There is likely to be 2 solar farm applications close to the Brook soon, which will have an effect on the watercourse. DS asked if there would be the possibility of putting a culvert at Kears wood under the railway straight into the Severn to reduce the water converging on Lydney?</p> <p>MR stated the Environment Agency would not touch the Network Rail bank and this would need to be something which was brought up with them direct.</p> <p>DK explained that Oak Wood Brook also has an implication on flooding by The Fountain to Whitemead. BT suggested that maybe a numbering system scaling important and to show priority should be used.</p> | |
| 4. | <p>RIVER LYD WATERCOURSE CLEARING</p> <p>JS reported that LTC had addressed the clearance of the watercourse on land owned by Lydney Recreation Trust from the Hams Road Car Park to the Albany Bridge. Lydney Recreation Trust/Lydney Town Council were currently investigating the possibility of undertaking further clearance work on land south of Albany Bridge where riparian ownership responsibilities were shared with Dean Forest Railway (DFR). BG confirmed DFR had recently received quote for the work to clear their section as soon as possible. JS asked if there was FoDDC money left to help with funding this work? CJ confirmed all applications would be looked at and if put through early (before 4th April). CB confirmed that DFR have a better understanding of the work needed now and it will need to be in conjunction with LTC/Rec Trust as tree clearing on their side of the river is needed at the same time. It is not possible to do work on the river at the moment as the watercourse is too high but they aim to begin soon and will seek funding within 4 weeks.</p> <p>BP has looked into the high flow telemetry provided by the Environment Agency, which investigates the harbour gates and the effect of the paddles. The effect of the paddles has less effect at the boating lake compared to the effect it has at harbour. MR confirmed the Environment Agency has completed tests at the boating lake when they have lifted the paddles at the harbour and it had no effect on the level around the lake, but it does depend on the timing and capacity.</p> | |

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| | <p>BT stated the football pitch eased the watercourse level as it flooded however water on the football pitch drained away quickly.</p> <p>JT pointed out that Newent Street is shown to be a flood risk as well through the Environment Agency report. No further buildings will therefore receive planning permission for this area.</p> <p>RG reiterated that Parkend also floods and whatever is done in Lydney affects Parkend and that Cannop ponds is the start of the problem. BT agreed that working together is important and that West Dean Parish Councillors identify problems faced by them in advance of attending in order at such meetings they can be addressed as appropriate.</p> | |
| 6. | <p>ACTION POINTS FOR PREVIOUS MEETING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> West Dean Parish Council to be provided with a cost for mapping area from Parkend to Lydney. DK to advise in writing if wish to proceed - <i>To be confirmed</i> Lydney Park Estate requested to confirm satisfaction with draft Riparian Ownership plan. - <i>To be confirmed</i> Lydney Recreation Trust/Lydney Town Council to obtain quotations for clearance of watercourse on land south of Albany Bridge - <i>Done</i> Forest of Dean District Council to provide CEO with a list of green methods to address - <i>CJ passed copies of DEFRA information to JS</i> Contact information to be provided for Nicola Manley, Rapid Response Advisor, West Area, Midlands Region, Environment Agency, who is keen to work with the local Community and potential flood wardens. (Details appended). It was noted that a Rapid Response Catchment Plan for Lydney had been developed/updated. LTC already has contact details for EA officers in times of flood. - <i>Done</i> Forest of Dean District Council to ascertain if grey water "back up" counted towards flooding statistics. - <i>FoDDC does not monitor grey water particularly. MQ supports grey water re-use/collection. The Flood Risk stats are measured against how many properties are flooded</i> Forestry Commission/West Dean Parish Council (WDPC) to provide shape/gif files which may be uploaded directly onto the mapping software. - <i>Not done yet as there are compatibility issues. Forestry Commission can provide</i> | <p>DK</p> <p>Lydney Park Estate</p> <p>DK/DH</p> |

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| | <p><i>SHAPE files but the area needs to be specified first. DK will seek authorisation first and provide WDPC with the specific areas that are required. The FC mapping system is ArchMap.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BP to provide MY with the date of the last event, to ascertain what the telemetry at the harbour had recorded. Results to also be relayed to West Dean Parish Council.- <i>Done, see item 5 above.</i> • MQ to speak to Network Rail to ascertain if the culverts on the rail track were checked on a regular basis. - <i>Outstanding</i> • CJ to investigate the costs for monitoring two areas of Plummer's Brook. - <i>These potential costs will be clear after walk with Cllr Brian Pearman next week</i> | <p>MQ</p> <p>CJ</p> |
| 7. | <p>OTHER POINTS RAISED</p> <p>MQ stated there have been high winds, large tidal bore & flood water recently and these are set to continue. Next month there will be a large bore on 31st Jan, 1st and 2nd February. Other large bore/high tides are expected for 2014 and 2015.</p> <p>MR confirmed Environment Agency officers are prepared and will be checking the effects of bore. MR will circulate the dates of the future high bores.</p> <p>JB was amazed at the sewage capacity that they are having to cope with in a normal day and estimates 30-40K of sewerage must be going directly into the Lyd at difficult times. As Lydney will have more residents the pumping station capacity must be recognised. JB asked if the canal's upper basin and Cannop ponds could be used as attenuation ponds. MR confirmed this would not be possible.</p> <p>CS asked that Severn Trent provide the flow results. They need to show every time they exceed their capacity and utilize their licence to pump dilute sewage into the Lyd.</p> <p>JT asked that sewage be added as an agenda point for the next meeting.</p> | <p>MR</p> <p>CS</p> <p>JT</p> |
| 8. | DATE OF NEXT MEETING | |