

**Notes from discussion group following Flood Defence Meeting held in the Council Chamber,
Claremont House, High Street, Lydney**

Date and Time of Discussion: 1 May 2014 at 12.10 pm

Present: Cllrs Pearman and Vaughan, Lydney Town Council
Mr J Westmoreland, Forest of Dean District Council
Mr C Johns, Forest of Dean District Council
Mrs J Smailes, CEO, Lydney Town Council
Mrs R Christodoulides, appointed Lakeside Resident representative for Flood Defence Meetings

Note Taker: Miss C Wheeler, EO, Lydney Town Council

The necessity for the meeting was agreed by all, due to topics raised at the proceeding Flood Defence meeting. Cllr Pearman agreed to report to Lydney Town Council at its Annual Council meeting.

It was noted:-

- That the Council had previously disposed of Statutory Allotment land (subsequently developed into Fallers Field)
- That the disposal process had not been correctly followed/adhered to by the Council (i.e. approval for the disposal had not been obtained from the Secretary of State)
- That at the time of the disposal (2005) Mrs Christodoulides had questioned the Council re. the need to obtain permission from the Secretary of State and had been informed that it was not necessary.
- That members of the public were still utilising the site as allotment space when the sale was mooted.
- That the Council had utilised the funding from the sale of its former allotment site to purchase its current Council Chambers.
- That when the land had been operated as an allotment site flooding problems were rarely experienced by Lakeside residents who abutted the site. Run-off water from the development diverted around the rear of the boundary fencing from said Lakeside residents properties and rarely entered their curtilage.
- That once the development had been conducted on the site, significant problems were experienced by said Lakeside residents, caused through the raising of the land levels on site which worsened water run-off.

It was felt that:

- The Town Council needed to receive an Engineer's report to suggest remedial action which could be taken to resolve issues experienced by residents abutting the site. Officers from Forest of Dean District Council agreed to examine the area and produce a report detailing "sensible" solutions.
- Forest of Dean District Council could not have requested proof from that of the Town Council that the appropriate consent had been obtained from the Secretary of State by the Town Council, otherwise the development of the site would not have proceeded.

- Considering the above points, if “sensible” solutions were suggested by Forest of Dean District Council officers, it may be necessary for the Town Council to consider contributing towards flood defence improvements.
- It may be necessary for the Town Council to offer residents affected by the water run-off flood doors.

It was agreed that a copy of these notes would be tabled at Lydney Town Council’s Annual Council Meeting in May 2014 in order that the matter could be raised before the Council.

Meeting closed 12.28 pm.