

Minutes of the Multi Agency Flood Defence Meeting held on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2015 in  
Lydney Town Council Chambers at 11.00 am

**PRESENT:**

Cllr Brian Thomas, Lydney NDP **(BT)**  
Cllr Brian Pearman, Lydney NDP **(BP)**  
Cllr Alan Preest, Lydney Town Council **(AP)**  
Dave Street, Lydney NDP **(DS)**  
Dawn Morgan, Gloucestershire County Council **(DM)**  
Matthew Panou, Gloucestershire County Council **(MP)**  
Chris Johns, Forest of Dean District Council **(CJ)**  
Martin Young, Environment Agency **(MY)**  
Jason Westmoreland, Forest of Dean District Council **(JW)**  
Brian Watkins, Gloucestershire County Council Highways **(BW)**  
Rose Christodoulides, Lakeside Resident Representative **(RC)**  
District Cllr Marilyn Smart, Forest of Dean District Council **(MS)**  
Richard Price, Lydney Park Estate **(RP)**  
John Thurston, Watts Group **(JT)**  
Cllr James Bevan, Lydney Town Council **(JB)**  
Chris Bull, Dean Forest Railway **(CB)**  
Ben Gray, Dean Forest Railway **(BG)**

One Member of the Public (Mr Owen)

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Kate Hammond, Admin Assistant, Lydney Town Council (Minute Taker)

**APOLOGIES:**

Dr Jerry Burch (Glatfelter Lydney Ltd)  
Members of West Dean Parish Council  
Cllr Christine Jones (West Dean Parish Council)  
Jayne Smailes (CEO Lydney Town Council)  
Cllr Bob Berryman (Lydney Town Council)

ITEM		ACTION
1.	<b>WELCOME &amp; INTRODUCTIONS</b> Cllr Brian Thomas chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone. Introductions were made around the table including the welcoming of District Cllr Smart's appointment to the Discussion Group in place of District Cllr Quaile.	
2.	<b>NOTES OF LAST MEETING (11 November 2014)</b> One amendment was proposed by DS: paragraph 5, item 3, last paragraph regarding River Lyd/Watercourse clearing, Although DS did try and access Plummers Brook it was to check the culvert under the railway; the water in that area was now flowing.  AP also confirmed that Cllr Mark Hawthorn was aware of the issues regarding the Planning Application and concerns Lydney Town Council have experienced in relation to water run-off (SUDS).	

	<p>JT expressed concern that the issue of 'Sewage' was still to be resolved and was not on the current agenda.</p> <p>The meeting notes were then accepted as a true record.</p>	
3.	<p><b>RIVER LYD/WATERCOURSE CLEARING</b></p> <p>BT requested an update from Dean Forest Railway concerning the clearance work conducted South of Albany Bridge.</p> <p>CB expressed thanks to both FODDC and GCC who had part funded the works. CB also advised that DFR had worked closely with LTC to gain permission from Lydney Recreation Trust for the tree works to be carried out. A total of 98 trees had been felled on Lydney Recreation Trust ground and land opposite, with a further 30 trees out of 100 on DFR land, due to be felled when weather conditions improved.</p> <p>BT expressed Lydney Town Council's/Lydney Recreation Trust's thanks and appreciation.</p>	
4.	<p><b>PLUMMERS BROOK</b></p> <p>BT requested an update/verbal overview in regard to Plummers Brook and the necessity to produce a riparian ownership map specifically for Plummers Brook. BP advised that the walk of Plummers Brook was yet to take place, partly due to weather conditions and partly due to the pressing issue of the solar farm proposal for Purlieu Farm and felt that the immediate risk was the SUDS from said site, however he advised that DS had walked part of Plummers Brook with his GPS and had seen some clearance work taking place including Japanese Knotweed investigations but felt that the urgency for mapping Plummers Brook was low priority at this time.</p> <p>AP advised that both he and BP were due to meet with CCllr Vernon Smith, Highways and Flooding, the previous week and were due to take him on the walk of Plummers Brook and Lakeside, however due to unforeseen circumstances the meeting had not taken place and would therefore be re-arranged as a priority.</p> <p>DS advised that he had walked part of Plummers Brook and noted the watercourse running along the bottom of Purlieu Farm; he was concerned that the run-off from that area was considerable into Plummers Brook.</p> <p>BT mentioned that RC had reported these concerns prior regarding the conduit by the masonic hall which needs to be 'plotted' to see how it affects the overall level/culvert capacity.</p>	

<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>FLOODING TO LAKESIDE/FALLER FIELDS</b></p> <p>JW confirmed that the total sum spent to date on flood defence measures in the Lakeside area was £3,900 and the sum remaining of £31,000 had been ring fenced in order to complete the flood defence within the Lakeside area.</p> <p>JW also advised that FODDC have had some issues with TPO's on the stretch of the watercourse which leads to the culvert (rear of 115 Lakeside Avenue). FODDC recently discovered that there was a historic old low dry stone wall as such FODDC were now looking to build upon this by placing boulders and embedding large stone jumpers reducing flow rate. JW further advised that these measures would not be delayed by the current TPO issues.</p> <p>BP questioned whether FODDC had spoken to the Developer as LTC had recently received a planning application which shared sewage would run almost parallel to Rodley watercourse and Crump Farm, believing this may prove a further concern. BP further questioned what affect it would have on the work that FODDC was proposing carrying out?</p> <p>JW advised that FODDC had a provisional agreement with the developer who had provided FODDC with extensive data free of charge; the developer was fully committed to supporting flood alleviation if the development were to progress.</p> <p>RC queried the planning application and asked what impact the development would have on the Lakeside area?</p> <p>JW advised that it would reduce the impact (rear of 115 Lakeside Avenue) and that it was a planning condition which would need to be enforced.</p> <p>RC queried whether the measure at the bottom of Crump Farm was an addition or instead of the work upstream? JW confirmed it was an addition. RC then requested timescales for both the addition at Crump Farm and the work upstream. JW confirmed that work to embed stone jumpers was planned for the following month and the work upstream would commence mid-summer depending on negotiations regarding the TPO's.</p> <p>BP advised that the planning application for Hurst Farm included swales, which were due to be implemented shortly, which it was anticipated would have a beneficial effect on the flow level to Lakeside.</p> <p>RC expressed concern that following a recent heavy downpour she visited the area behind 115 Lakeside and viewed that the drainage pipes were full to capacity with the same situation experienced at the Copse. RC further advised that Mr Colin Legg</p>	<p><b>Action: RC to provide footage/</b></p>
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<p>had visited the attenuation pond where the water level had been quite high and both felt that there was a threat that the water could spill over. RC advised that she was able to provide footage and photographic evidence to substantiate her concerns. BT requested that RC provide him with the footage and photographic evidence for the aforementioned areas.</p> <p>JW advised that officers had been monitoring the penstock on an adhoc basis the penstock and felt that was performing quite well. However, attendees were advised there would always be a requirement to monitor the flow rate. JW further advised that the attenuation pond was a storage area; whilst it potentially may overflow predominately the flow of water would remain a gentle trickle. RC thought the area was not necessarily doing its job as it may breach the wall however JW advised that the capacity calculations weren't based from the roadside down to the pipe.</p> <p>BT then requested an update of the measures which were to be implemented for the Faller Fields area. JW confirmed that FODDC were in communication with GCC and their contractor AMEY who were still working on the measures for Faller Fields. FODDC were also looking at whether there were any further details on the original planning application to ensure that flood alleviation had been considered correctly by the Planning Department. FODDC had also completed an investigation regarding the chamber flow to ascertain whether they could run more water through this channel and whether capacity could be raised but it was noted that this was dependent on permission from the land owner.</p> <p>BW advised that GCC Highways had sent FODDC a follow up email requesting that they gain a response from the Developer re. Faller Fields concerning a number of questions which had been asked of the Authority. Once a response was received, GCC would then investigate the steps which would need to be taken to improve drainage in said area. BW further advised that GCC Highways and FODDC had attended a meeting two weeks prior to discuss ways forward to improve the drainage in the low spot in Faller Fields which had resulted in a number of options which may provide a solution to the current situation. It was hoped that GCC Highways and FODDC would be able to implement a flood alleviation measure, once the Developers had been informed of the solutions.</p> <p>BP felt that the issue was to stop flooding at the rear of 115 Lakeside Avenue. BP further advised that there was a sum via Hitchins A permission (s106 agreement of £102,878.14) for design and installation of a properly engineered screen to the culvert of the rear of 115 Lakeside Avenue, however as there was still ownership issues surrounding the culvert concern was</p>	<p><b>photographic evidence of high level flood water at Lakeside &amp; attenuation pond</b></p>
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	<p>expressed that the money would be lost if ownership wasn't established.</p> <p>CJ/JW/FODDC were requested to speak to their Legal Department in order that the point could be resolved.</p> <p>BT expressed concern that land title was still to be established.</p> <p>RC questioned ownership of the trash screen and referred to a meeting held last February, courtesy of Sue Pangbourne, whereby Mr Colin Legg was present but had been informed by Mr Peter Hibberd that the meeting was not the correct forum to address the concerns raised. Accordingly, RC questioned when the concerns highlighted to Mr Hibberd would be addressed.</p> <p>BT advised that he too would take the matter up with Mr Hibberd in an attempt to progress the matter with a report back to the next meeting.</p> <p>JB referred to a previous comment made by BP in regard to concerns about drainage on the solar farm proposal at Purlieu Farm and stated that he would like to see the community benefit from it by proper flood alleviation controls being installed. Furthermore in regard to Faller Fields, as the area had not been adopted by the County Council and remained in ownership of the Developer, he felt that pressure should be put on the Developer to provide flood alleviation.</p> <p>RC referred to the drainage at Faller Fields and suggested that the overflowing water originating from the culvert was not concerned with the drainage in Faller Fields proposing that it needed to be fed back into the system (e.g from the corner of the back lane at the bottom of Mount Pleasant near the Coach House). RC reiterated that Lydney Town Council had sold its Statutory Allotment land and that there was a Duty of Care owed by the Drainage Authority (FODDC) who also endorsed the planning application.</p> <p>BT proposed that a Working Party meeting be set up with a map made available so that everyone was aware of the area being discussed.</p>	<p><b>Action: BT to contact Mr Peter Hibberd re Trash Screen Ownership</b></p> <p><b>Action: BT to formulate a Working Party meeting with RC and other members</b></p>
<b>6.</b>	<p><b>NATIONAL STUDY ON FLOODING AND HEALTH</b></p> <p>Prior to the meeting members were provided with documentation advising that Public Health England (PHE) would conduct the first ever long term study into the impact of flooding on health and wellbeing. A sample of householders in Gloucestershire would be contacted directly by PHE and requested to complete a health questionnaire. BT felt that this would be of particular interest to Faller Fields and Lakeside residents who were urged to</p>	

	<p>participate.</p> <p>JT questioned why the questionnaire was not being circulated to businesses as well as households? BT advised that it was his understanding that it was a National Study and was therefore an attempt to try and 'spread the word'. Furthermore the intention was to measure health and wellbeing impacts on people not only directly affected by property flooding but also indirectly affected by flooding incidents, for example if the community had been isolated by flooding obstruction to the carriageway.</p> <p>BP felt that communication should be made to Sue Humm, Strategic Flood Risk Management Officer at GCC, expressing the view of this forum on the survey that the survey needed to be better targeted. BT advised that it would be interesting to know whether the study included contact with the EA as at least they would then gain quantitative information. MP confirmed that the press release was an attempt to try and 'spread the word'. BP maintained that Sue Humm could still put forward the views felt by the forum.</p> <p>Noting that the study would be undertaken on a National basis DS queried how the information would be used. Furthermore DS felt that similar studies and considerations about local problems could be better utilised by feeding it back to the people that matter e.g FODDC Planning Department or the Developer so that such issues could be eradicated.</p>	<p><b>Action: MP to convey view of Forum to GCC</b></p>
7.	<p><b>ACTION PLAN/ACTIONS PENDING</b></p> <p>BT proceeded to ask members for any further comments they wished to raise.</p> <p>JT referred to sewage again advising that it had been established that the sewage plant in Lydney was at capacity and felt that capacity issues necessitated its upgrade as a priority. Whilst Severn Trent had completed a survey there were still concerns in regard to the discharge into Mead Lane. JT looked forward to an update from Severn Trent at the next meeting, but was concerned given they had not attended any meetings for a long time. BP advised that previous minutes had mentioned how many times the plant discharged (41 times) but it would be beneficial for Severn Trent to be contacted in order to obtain the full sewage report.</p> <p>BT advised that he would ensure that Severn Trent would be formally invited to attend the next Flood Defence Meeting to provide a report.</p> <p>BG advised that whilst carrying out their clearance work it had been identified that the boundaries on the conservation area map at FODDC differed to the areas shown through the NDP</p>	<p><b>Action: BT to request presence of Severn Trent at next meeting</b></p> <p><b>Action: BP to confirm</b></p>

<p>Examiners Version. BP committed to investigate and confirm which was the correct version.</p> <p>MS thanked members for welcoming her to her first flood defence meeting and confirmed that FODDC supported all work to mitigate problems at Lakeside. Furthermore she hoped that members were satisfied with the work officers had undertaken and hoped that other issues could be resolved before long. She advised both officers at FODDC were continuously monitoring areas such as the penstock.</p> <p>Mr Owen referred to item 6 regarding the National Study on Flooding and Health and felt that whilst the immediate action had been dealt with at Lakeside, the next action to focus on was the health aspect. Mr Owen also felt that improvements needed to be made and it needed to be highlighted to insurers that there was no longer any flooding at Lakeside, in order that residents in Lakeside could once again obtain house insurance. Following a discussion BT advised Mr Owen that insurers would look to see that there was at least a 12 month period clear of any flood risk before they would consider providing insurance.</p> <p>BP confirmed that FODDC officers receive full support from Lydney Town Council and furthermore residents had highlighted that FODDC officers were appreciated. BP also felt that in regard to item 6 the National Study on Flooding and Health that someone from FODDC should contact Mrs Cooper of 70 Lakeside Avenue (elderly lady that appeared in the local paper after suffering flooding at Lakeside) to assist and provide support with completing the questionnaire.</p> <p>RC thanked Cllr Smart for her reassurances regarding Lakeside flooding and asked GCC Highways whether contact with the developers at Faller Fields could be treated with some urgency. In response BW advised that GCC Highways were keen to progress this point.</p> <p>JB felt that FODDC had increased its efficiency now it utilised “shared services” and felt the Authority to be more pro-active in its approach to certain issues. JB further advised that having been on FODDC’s Planning Committee for quite a time, he had supported the 130 extra dwellings at Cross Hands as he believed that the water run off (SUDS) could go directly to Plummers Brook, north east side of Hurst Farm, rather than into the Lakeside culvert. However, JB expressed concern that Severn Trent had not objected to developments which would result in extra sewage. JB felt the current sewage plant to be at capacity and that any further increase may have a detrimental effect.</p> <p>JT welcomed news of a grant towards Transport Plans and</p>	<p><b>boundaries for conservati on area</b></p> <p><b>Action: FODDC Officers to contact Mrs Cooper 70 Lakeside Avenue</b></p>
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	<p>Newerne Street area however he felt that when any new roads were discussed everything should be done to alleviate the present situation re. perceived flood risk given buildings such as Lloyds Chemist etc, would not be granted planning consent in today's climate. JT also felt that if the Newerne Street link had proceeded the banks of the River Lyd could have been reinforced to enable the creation of a town centre without risk of flooding. In response AP advised that LTC had a robust community emergency plan in place to cover flooding incidents which included a 'sand bag tree' involving all Councillors which had proven to be quite effective. JB also advised that the Annexe Inn, High Street, which he felt to be the lowest property in the area, had not flooded since 1968. JT spoke on the EA Flood Map and felt it to be a major reason why regeneration of the Town Centre had not been undertaken. Accordingly he felt that the issue must be addressed/considered afresh. BP requested MY investigate what steps could be undertaken to change the designation of the flood zone in said area. JW advised that FODDC could submit a request to the EA and the EA could provide the results to the next Flood Defence meeting.</p> <p>CJ spoke on the initiative FODDC were implementing with the assistance of Parish and Town Councils to draw up a list of flood wardens and encourage local residents to become flood wardens. The aforementioned was currently an on-going commitment from FODDC who would be contacting all Parish and Town Councils in the forthcoming months.</p> <p>Action points for next meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RC to provide footage/photographic evidence of high level flood water at Lakeside &amp; attenuation pond</li> <li>• BT to contact Peter Hibberd re Ownership of trash screen to the rear of 115 Lakeside Avenue</li> <li>• BT to formulate a Working Party meeting in regard to Mount Pleasant/Coach House</li> <li>• MP to convey views of Forum to GCC</li> <li>• BT to request presence of Severn Trent at next meeting</li> <li>• Severn Trent to provide full sewage report for Mead Lane</li> <li>• BP to confirm boundaries of conservation area</li> <li>• FODDC Officers to contact Mrs Cooper of 70 Lakeside Avenue to provide support with the completion of the questionnaire</li> <li>• FODDC to submit request to EA re designation of Flood Zone</li> </ul>	<p><b>Action:</b>  <b>FODDC to put in request to EA and EA to provide report to next meeting</b></p>
8.	<p><b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b>  Thursday 23 April 2015 at 11.00 am at Lydney Town Council Chambers.</p>	

Meeting closed at 12.00 pm