

Minutes of the Multi Agency Flood Defence Meeting held on Thursday 24th September 2015 in
Lydney Town Council Chambers at 11.00 am

PRESENT: Cllr Brian Pearman, Lydney Town Council, Lydney NDP **(BP)**
Cllr Bob Berryman, Lydney Town Council **(BB)**
Cllr Dave Street, Lydney Town Council, Lydney NDP **(DS)**
Jayne Smailes, Lydney Town Council **(JS)**
Grace Martin, National Flood Forum **(GM)**
District Cllr Marilyn Smart, Forest of Dean District Council **(MS)**
Chris Johns, Forest of Dean District Council **(CJ)**
John Thurston, Watts Group **(JT)**
Rose Christodoulides, Lakeside Resident Representative **(RC)**
David Graham, Gloucestershire County Council **(DG)**
Abbey Hall, Gloucestershire County Council **(AH)**
Brian Watkins, Gloucestershire County Council Highways **(BW)**
Wayne Ellis, Investment Management, Severn Trent Water Ltd **(WE)**

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

APOLOGIES: Cllr Alan Preest (Lydney Town Council)
Martin Young (Environment Agency)
Chris Bull (Dean Forest Railway)
James Jones (Lydney Park Estate)
Robert Frankton (Lydney Park Estate)

ITEM		ACTION
1.	<p>WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS</p> <p>Cllr Brian Pearman chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone. Introductions were made around the table.</p> <p>District Cllr Marilyn Smart explained that she had invited Keith Leslie, Public Protection Manager at FODDC to the meeting following the action point given to her from the last meeting, however he had responded by saying that he felt he could not provide any contribution having checked the files for Environmental Services he could find no record of any complaint about flooding/sewage affecting Mead Lane and FODDC Officers had not been contacted about the matter at all. Consequently he felt that he had no information to bring to the meeting.</p>	
2.	<p>NOTES OF LAST MEETING (23 July 2015)</p> <p>One amendment to the current Agenda was proposed by CJ; The 'Rapid Response Plan' was designed by the EA not FODDC.</p> <p>The meeting notes were then accepted as a true record.</p>	

<p>3.</p>	<p>FLOODING TO LAKESIDE/FALLER FIELDS</p> <p>BP requested an update from FODDC following an action point from the last meeting in regard to the attenuation pond. CJ advised that the update from Bee Green Energy Ltd was that any outstanding work in that area would be completed by mid-November 2015.</p> <p>BP then requested an update from FODDC regarding Culvert Ownership to the rear of number 115 Lakeside Avenue. CJ advised that District Cllr Smart (MS) had contacted Mrs Claire Hughes, Legal Team Manager and Monitoring Officer at FODDC, who had provided an update on the Council's position in relation to the trash screen at Lakeside Avenue, Lydney. In the response FODDC stated that the trash screen was not within the Council's ownership, but lies on the boundary of land owned by a local resident and Robert Hitchins Ltd. FODDC also stated that in the past they had carried out clearance of the trash screen as a gesture of goodwill and in an attempt to try and alleviate some of the flooding issues which had affected residents in the immediate area. FODDC further agreed that they would continue to arrange for monthly inspections of the trash screen to be carried out, with additional inspections taking place at any time when a yellow or more severe weather warning was issued. FODDC stated however that they accepted no liability in relation to the trash screen or to clear and maintain it, or for any losses arising due to a failure to maintain the same, but the arrangement had been agreed purely on a goodwill basis.</p> <p>BP advised that as a Town Councillor the Town Council's stance was that the landowner would need to sort out the legal situation regarding the trash screen as the Town Council could not become involved as it was outside of its remit. The only time the Town Council would become involved was when the flooding affected residents. RC questioned why FODDC were objecting to the trash screen when they owned the opposite land and were therefore riparian owners. JS advised that the Town Council had advised the landowner of number 115 Lakeside Avenue that he would need to take legal advice. RC advised that she had sought further advice and had been told that whoever owned the structure of the trash screen were entitled to remove it but it was the responsibility of FODDC to protect residents given they have delegated powers from Gloucestershire County Council (GCC). DG advised that if the resident were to remove it then he would need consent from GCC. RC advised that the resident's house deeds stated where his boundary lay and it was felt that it had to be an authority that originally placed the trash screen to the rear of no 115 Lakeside Avenue; she had searched records dating back from 1984 that would suggest that it was under FODDC ownership.</p> <p>MS re-iterated that the issue was a legal matter and felt that it should therefore not be discussed openly in such a meeting. MS advised that she would however speak to FODDC Legal Department</p>	
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	<p>again and ask that they provide the resident with evidence and proceed from there. BP suggested that the resident support MS with that request.</p> <p>BP then proceeded to request a verbal update from GCC Highways concerning the engineer work at Faller Fields. BW advised that he had spoken to the engineer who had confirmed that all drainage works on additional access points and gullies would be completed the same day and that would complete the original package of works. BW then advised that there were some additional items of work which they would look to complete:- amendments to existing man-hole that should re-instate restrictions on drainage at faller fields hard surface which would effectively resolve outstanding issues. RC queried whether the extra work there would result in any additional flooding to Lakeside Avenue? BW advised that GCC Highways were not thinking of re-instating the non-return flap but would reinstate the Weir. BW advised that they had to assume that the system worked correctly and that it would reduce the possibility of anything happening again. BP felt that the real problem at Faller Fields was excess water run-off and asked FODDC whether there was anything they could do which would help further upstream?</p> <p>CJ advised that a tender for work upstream, the attenuation system up above Crump Farm, was due to be considered in Autumn/mid-November 2015. DS questioned the surface water running into Faller Fields drain and asked FODDC/GCC whether they were sure that there were no other watercourses further up which impacted/exacerbated the situation? BW advised that there was nothing on their records to show that there were any extra watercourses. DS felt that ultimately the only way they were going to solve the matter was by constructing major engineering works to the Bypass, through to Lakeside Avenue and down to Oakdale. RC expressed concern that the work being carried out mid-November may be affected by inclement weather? CJ advised that this would be considered in their programme for work in that area and did not envisage a delay in works.</p> <p>BP advised that he had noticed a reduction from the Solar Farm as in water run-off. CJ advised that the penstock and balancing ponds were having a positive effect. Following concerns raised regarding a definitive plan, CJ advised that FODDC held CCTV evidence which he could bring to the next meeting. RC asked whether Chris Swaine could forward a map to LTC showing the plan. RC also requested details in regard to the budget of 31k for Flood Defence held by FODDC. CJ advised that he could provide confirmation of balance held at the next meeting.</p>	<p>Action: CJ to provide CCTV evidence of work being carried out by FODDC including a map showing the plan and confirmation of balance held by FODDC for Flood Defence.</p>
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4.	<p>SEWAGE</p> <p>BP requested a verbal update from Severn Trent regarding the 'desk top exercise' in respect of Mead Lane. Wayne Ellis (WE) from Severn Trent said that the feasibility study was still on-going however he advised that he had met with JT on 8 August 2015 to discuss the area of concern and had appointed a Survey Team to complete the study. Once Severn Trent had obtained the survey information they would feed the information into their system in order to safeguard properties. JT advised that he had spoken to Severn Trent who had explained that there was still objects flowing through to drains and they were unsure of where it was coming from. JT advised that he was impressed with how Severn Trent were progressing works and hoped to get a positive response soon in regard to their findings. WE advised that they were hoping to have the survey back later that week and would further their investigations. WE further advised that Severn Trent had currently been dealing with an issue at Lakeside Avenue whereby a resident had reported sewer flooding so they would also be looking at further mitigation in that area.</p>	
5.	<p>ENVIRONMENT AGENCY FLOOD MAP</p> <p>CJ advised that the guidance from the Forward Planning Department at FODDC was that they did not have any plans to appeal the 'Flood Zone' map as they felt that the map, which is available to view online at http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk was robust. Furthermore he advised that the EA flood risk assessment was an in-depth document however it did include an exception test that could be undertaken if a particular development had to be sited in a particular place allowing the plans to be examined in more detail. JT asked whether they had taken into account the buildings in the centre of Lydney, Hams Road and Newerne Street, as they were all located on a 'flood plain' and the map still therefore affected any form of regeneration of Lydney town centre, given it suggested that the town was within a high flood risk? CJ advised that the approved development on the corner of Hams Road and Newerne Street for retail use had included mitigation measures however he advised JT to email Nigel Gibbons, Development Forward Planning Manager at FODDC to highlight his concerns. BP suggested that a separate working party be formed to discuss the map and the 'zones' and to re-evaluate Lydney's flood risk.</p> <p>BP invited District Cllr M Smart to seek the attendance of Nigel Gibbons to form a separate working party to include Mr Thurston and members from the Town Council and the Environment Agency in order to discuss a definitive 'Flood Zone' map for Lydney.</p>	<p>Action: MS to contact Nigel Gibbons to form a working party to discuss a definitive map for Lydney</p>
6.	<p>LYDNEY HARBOUR</p> <p>JT questioned, given the current financial stance of Lydney Harbour, whether the maintenance of the flood gates would remain with the</p>	

	<p>EA once the Harbour had been sold? BP advised that his understanding was that the EA would retain the responsibility for water management but anything to do with maintaining navigation would lie with the new owner.</p> <p>During discussion it was felt that there was a responsibility to 'safeguard' the rest of the town as anything that happened at the Harbour could potentially have an effect on the rest of the town and that FODDC legal team would need to have a document in place for the Harbour. CJ and MS were asked to forward the concerns raised to FODDC legal team and provide a response at the next meeting.</p> <p>In regard to clarification concerning hydraulic measures to the Lock Gates and Weir at Lydney Harbour, as there was no-one present from the EA to provide an update it was felt that the matter would be deferred until the next meeting. All Agreed.</p>	<p>Action: CJ/MS to report back to FODDC Legal team regarding the concerns raised in relation to Lydney Harbour and to provide a response at the next meeting</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>ACTION PLAN/ACTIONS PENDING</p> <p>CJ advised that the EA had identified a number of Rapid Response catchments which were in essence rivers and streams that may react adversely to extreme rainfall, resulting in flash flooding. Furthermore he explained that extreme flash flooding is where a river or stream generates dangerous flood depths and high velocities of water that pose an extreme threat to life. In Gloucestershire Lydney was the first catchment area to be identified as 'at risk' from this type of flooding and a response plan was developed. Since then three other catchments have been identified (Slad, Charlton Kings and Cinderford Brook) and a response plan has been developed for each.</p> <p>JS advised that LTC members found it incredulous that the document produced had failed to recognise the existence of Lydney's Emergency Plan (which was lodged correctly with FODDC) or indeed the Council's Sand Bag Distribution Tree, both of which LTC members felt should be included as an Appendix. LTC members also wanted to state that Lydney's local response was made up of LTC Councillors who have, on numerous occasions, delivered sand bags/monitored the River Lyd levels and who continue to operate an effective communications tree which is operational 'out of hours', during Bank Holidays, and during periods when FODDC have an office closure (ie Christmas). For these reasons LTC members requested that FODDC consider re-issuing Lydney's Rapid Response Plan to include such information.</p> <p>BP advised that the issue had been discussed at a recent Town Council meeting and it was felt that Lydney District Councillors should highlight the existence of Lydney's Emergency Plan to FODDC. CJ advised that Karen Rushworth at FODDC was due to present the Lydney Rapid Response Catchment Plan to Lydney Town Council meeting on 8 December 2015 and that any concern</p>	

	<p>should be raised with her at that time.</p> <p>Grace Martin (GM) from the National Flood Forum agreed that Lydney Town Council should have Lydney's Emergency Plan included in the Rapid Response Plan and therefore agreed to formulate a document alongside LTC to present to Karen Rushworth (FODDC) at the Lydney Town Council meeting in December 2015.</p> <p>Action points for next meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CJ to provide CCTV evidence of work being carried out by FODDC including a map showing the plan and confirmation of balance held by FODDC for Flood Defence (31k) • MS to contact Nigel Gibbons to form a working party to discuss a definitive map for Lydney • CJ/MS to report back to FODDC Legal team regarding the concerns raised in relation to Lydney Harbour and to provide a response at the next meeting • Clarification from the EA required concerning hydraulic measures to the Lock Gates and Weir at Lydney Harbour • GM to formulate a document to be included in the Lydney Rapid Response Plan 	<p>Action: GM to formulate a document to be included in the Lydney Rapid Response Plan</p>
9.	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>Thursday 14 January 2016 at 11.00 am at Lydney Town Council Chambers.</p>	

Meeting closed at 12.10 pm