

Minutes of the Multi Agency Stakeholder Flood Defence Meeting held on Thursday 10th December 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)**
 District Cllr Marilyn Smart, Forest of Dean District Council **(MS)**
 Chris Johns, Forest of Dean District Council **(CJ)**
 James Jones, Lydney Park Estate **(JJ)**
 Christine Jones, West Dean Parish Council **(CJ)**
 Cllr Colin Legg, Lakeside Resident Rep/Lydney Town Council **(CL)**
 Matthew Kerry, Environment Agency **(MK)**
 Martin Young, Environment Agency **(MY)**
 Matthew Jeynes, Severn Trent **(MJ)**
 Neil Hurcombe, Severn Trent **(NH)**
 Cllr Rose Christodoulides, Lakeside Resident Rep/Lydney Town Council **(RC)**
 Grace Martin, National Flood Forum **(GM)**
 Sarah Payne, National Flood Forum **(SP)**
 Tabitha Whitcombe, National Flood Forum **(TW)**
 Dawn Morgan, Forest of Dean District Council **(DM)**
 Lawrence King, Forest of Dean District Council **(LK)**
 David Graham, Gloucestershire County Council **(DG)**
 Abbey Hall, Gloucestershire County Council **(AH)**
 Brian Watkins, Gloucestershire County Council Highways **(BW)**

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

APOLOGIES: John Thurston (Watts Group)
 Wayne Ellis (Severn Trent Water Ltd)
 Robert Frankton (Lydney Park Estate)
 Jerry Burch (Glatfelter)
 Chris Bull (Dean Forest Railway)

ITEM		ACTION
1.	WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS Cllr Bob Berryman chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone. Introductions were made around the table.	
2.	NOTES OF LAST MEETING (24 September 2015) The meeting notes were accepted as a true record.	
3.	FLOODING TO LAKESIDE AVENUE/FALLER FIELDS All members were provided with photographic/video evidence concerning water run-off/potential flood risk to Lakeside Avenue. Items discussed included: the attenuation pond, the penstock, Solar Farm Swailes, Crump Farm and Stream. Cllr Colin Legg, Lakeside	

Resident Rep/Lydney Town Council (CL) explained each picture/video and expressed his concern over various matters including excess water from south of the penstock on the solar farm side (which had never been seen there before) and also at the headway attenuation where surface water had been overflowing and going over the top of the attenuation stone structure. CL believed that all of these issues were adding to the problems faced with flooding at Lakeside Avenue and requested assistance from Forest of Dean District Council.

Chris Johns (CJ) advised that Dawn Morgan, Forest of Dean District Council (DM) and Lawrence King, Forest of Dean District Council (LK) had been appointed as Flood Risk Engineers/Advisors and were looking at the flood issues in the whole of the Forest of Dean including Lydney. DM advised that FODDC had to stop work on the attenuation structures north of Crump Farm as they had not received a written agreement from Robert Hitchins Ltd to carry out the work. They were however investigating a potential attenuation by the road at Crump Farm and were due to carry out a CCTV survey on the road and the marsh area within the next few days. DM further advised that she had been to Hurst Farm (Solar Farm) and had noticed that there was a gap in the bunds constructed by Bee Green Energy Ltd, which she would further investigate.

RC advised that her understanding from Robert Hitchins Ltd was that they had not heard from FODDC since Mr Westmoreland had left his position at the end of Summer 2015 and that Robert Hitchins Ltd were not trying to be obstructive to any of the planned works but they had concerns about the maintenance of the watercourse/culvert (rear of 115 Lakeside Avenue) once the development had been completed.

LK confirmed that due to both himself and Dawn Morgan only recently taking their positions with FODDC, they were concentrating on looking at the issues with the culvert and potential water run-off and then they would present the whole picture to Robert Hitchins Ltd showing the overall scheme. LK further advised that future maintenance of all rural SUDS was an issue, but it was a discussion that FODDC would need to undertake directly with Robert Hitchins Ltd.

CL expressed his frustration that (as FODDC have previously stated that the trash screen was not within the District Council's ownership, but lay on the boundary of land owned by a local resident and Robert Hitchins Ltd) the resident had not been consulted regarding any schemes and development that would affect his property but instead planning permission had been granted for the development by the planning authority without consideration given to the affect it would have on the resident/Lakeside Avenue.

	<p>BP felt that there were a few issues that needed addressing with FODDC. Point one being ownership of the Trash Screen at 115 Lakeside Avenue that the resident and FODDC legal team needed to discuss further as a private matter. Point two being the main issue which is the culvert. Point three being that the Multi Agency Stakeholder Flood Defence Meeting needed the attendance of a group manager from the Planning Department at FODDC who would hopefully explain planning decisions and Grampian conditions to members in order that everyone had an understanding and matters could then be moved forward.</p> <p>BB invited District Cllr M Smart to request the attendance of the group manager of the Planning Department at FODDC in order that planning matters could be explained/discussed with members. All agreed.</p> <p>BB requested confirmation of the work being carried out by FODDC including a map showing the site plan and confirmation of balance held by FODDC for Flood Defence to date. In response CJ advised that the plan was for the attenuation upstream which had been sent directly to Robert Hitchins Ltd. The balance allocated for Flood Defence to date were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - £40,000 allocated by Gloucestershire County Council - £9,000 spent on surveys etc at Lakeside Avenue - £7,650 spent on penstock - £240 spent on survey and CCTV at Crump Farm <p>Total balance left for Flood defence stands at £23,110.</p>	<p>Action: MS to contact the Group Manager for Planning Department at FODDC to request attendance at the next meeting. The date of the next meeting would be scheduled once their availability was known.</p> <p>Action: Meeting date to be arranged once confirmation received from FODDC Planning Group Manager</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>NATIONAL FLOOD DEFENCE FORUM</p> <p>Grace Martin, National Flood Forum (GM) provided a verbal update in respect of Lydney Community Flood Resilience Plan, advising that the response of people at risk of flooding was important and the plan included measures to improve local community resilience so that the community are better prepared against the risk of flooding. Quite often simple actions by householders and communities can significantly reduce local vulnerability and the level of any damages from flood events. It was advised that the plan was still in its 'draft version' with a flood map being awaited which would include assistance from the EA and Stakeholder Flood Defence members and all members were invited to have an input before the final version was to be issued.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>FALLER FIELDS</p> <p>Prior to the meeting all members were provided with a copy of the proposed drainage works for Faller Fields provided by the Highways Flood Risk Management Team (AMEY).</p> <p>BW advised that the planned work behind Lakeside Avenue and Faller Fields had been completed by AMEY with the only outstanding work in Faller Fields being that which the developer had</p>	

	been asked to do. AMEY had offered to carry out the work but the developer had yet to agree to any works.	
6.	<p>SEWAGE</p> <p>BB requested a verbal update from Severn Trent regarding the 'desk top exercise' in respect of Mead Lane.</p> <p>Neil Hurcombe (NH) from Severn Trent advised that they had been working closely with Mr John Thurston (Watts Group) and issues/concerns that Mr Thurston had regarding Mead Lane were being rectified. NH further advised that no severe hydraulic flooding reports had been received to date for anywhere in the Lydney area.</p>	
7.	<p>ENVIRONMENT AGENCY FLOOD MAP</p> <p>BB requested an update from District Cllr M Smart in respect to the progress of the working party discussion (Environment and Planning Department FODDC) re; a definitive map for Lydney which allows for economic growth and seeks to support Brownfield Site planning application submissions.</p> <p>Matthew Kerry (MK) from the Environment Agency advised that the EA were not aware of any development that they have lodged an objection on and that the idea of the flood map produced by the EA was to highlight the 'likely' areas of flooding.</p> <p>JS advised that the issue felt was that the 100 year feasibility study should not necessarily be applied to Lydney town centre as stringently by FODDC, especially as the interpretation of the EA map had a detrimental effect on town centre regeneration improvement plans and hoped that the Group Leader for Planning could clarify FODDC's stance re: Brownfield site regeneration/use of EA 100 year projected flood map.</p> <p>MK advised that the map should not have an effect on planning decisions or planning proposals on brownfield sites. As long as the planning application had a risk assessment and a hazard rating then there should not be a problem with the application or planning decision.</p>	<p>Action: MS to provide update re; Applications not permitted in Lydney town centre due to flood risk concerns</p>
8.	<p>LYDNEY HARBOUR</p> <p>BB requested clarification from the EA concerning hydraulic measures to the Lock Gates and Weir at Lydney Harbour.</p> <p>MY distributed photographs to members of the group displaying the before and after of the Lock Gates and Weir which demonstrated what was in place prior and what was in place now. Furthermore it showed the Gates and Weir operating and performing as well as they could. MY advised that he would forward a copy of the photographs to Mr Thurston for his perusal.</p>	<p>Action: MY to forward a copy of the photographs of the Lock Gates and Weir to Mr Thurston for his perusal.</p>

	BB requested an update from District Cllr M Smart and C Johns in respect to the response from FODDC Legal team regarding concerns raised in relation to the sale of Lydney Harbour. CJ advised that FODDC Legal team had looked into the matter and had been advised by their Solicitor that FODDC were under no legal obligation in the event that the Harbour was sold, to provide a legal document.	
9.	<p>ACTION PLAN/ACTIONS PENDING</p> <p>Action points for next meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MS to contact the Group Manager for Planning Department at FODDC to request attendance at the next meeting. The date of the next meeting would be scheduled once their availability was known. (Meeting date to be arranged once confirmation received from FODDC Planning Group Manager) • MS to provide update re; Applications not permitted in Lydney town centre due to flood risk concerns • MY to forward a copy of the photographs of the Lock Gates and Weir to Mr Thurston for his perusal. 	
10.	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p><i>Provisionally Thursday 14 January 2016 at 11.00 am at Lydney Town Council Chambers.- TO BE CONFIRMED BY FODDC (MS)</i></p>	

Meeting closed at 12.00 pm