

Minutes of the Multi Agency Stakeholder Flood Defence Meeting held on Thursday 21st January 2016 in Lydney Town Council Chambers at 2.00 pm

PRESENT: Cllr Bob Berryman, Lydney Town Council **(BB)**
 Cllr Brian Pearman, Lydney Town Council, Lydney NDP **(BP)**
 Cllr Dave Street, Lydney Town Council, Lydney NDP **(DS)**
 Cllr Alan Preest, Lydney Town Council/Gloucestershire County Council **(AP)**
 Cllr Colin Legg, Lakeside Resident Rep/Lydney Town Council **(CL)**
 Cllr Rose Christodoulides, Lakeside Resident Rep/Lydney Town Council **(RC)**
 Jayne Smailes, Lydney Town Council **(JS)**
 Peter Williams, Forest of Dean District Council **(PW)**
 District Cllr Marilyn Smart, Forest of Dean District Council **(MS)**
 Chris Johns, Forest of Dean District Council **(CJ)**
 Dawn Morgan, Forest of Dean District Council **(DM)**
 Matthew Kerry, Environment Agency **(MK)**
 Matthew Jeynes, Severn Trent **(MJ)**
 Tabitha Whitcombe, National Flood Defence Forum **(TW)**
 David Graham, Gloucestershire County Council **(DG)**
 Brian Watkins, Gloucestershire County Council Highways **(BW)**

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

APOLOGIES: James Jones (Lydney Park Estate)
 Robert Frankton (Lydney Park Estate)
 Christine Jones (West Dean Parish Council)
 Martin Young (Environment Agency)
 Grace Martin (National Flood Forum)
 Lawrence King (Forest of Dean District Council)
 John Thurston (Watts Group)
 Wayne Ellis (Severn Trent Water Ltd)
 Edward Argent (Robert Hitchins Ltd)

ITEM		ACTION
1.	WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS Cllr Bob Berryman (BB) chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone. Introductions were made around the table including the welcoming of Mr Peter William's (PW) appointment to the Discussion Group.	
2.	NOTES OF LAST MEETING (10 December 2015) The meeting notes were accepted as a true record.	
3.	FLOODING TO LAKESIDE AVENUE/FALLER FIELDS BB requested confirmation as to the remaining budget for flood alleviation measures held by FODDC.	

CJ advised that the amount had not changed since the last meeting whereby it was advised that the total balance left for flood defence work amounted to £23,110.

Following a discussion concern was raised over how the flood defence money had been spent, ie. surveys undertaken, when Lakeside residents were still awaiting work to the upstream attenuation.

JS asked whether FODDC could provide information to substantiate against the expenditure the work already undertaken to the penstock/surveys/CCTV etc in order that everyone could have a better understanding as to exactly how the flood defence budget had been spent to date. DM advised she would bring the information to the next meeting.

BB requested details of maintenance programmes put in place by FODDC regarding the watercourse, including upstream attenuation measures.

CJ advised that FODDC had contracted the work out to Dean Park Contractors to undertake land clearance work and they were expected to start work week commencing Monday 1st February 2016. CJ also advised that FODDC had offered to clear part of the watercourse under Robert Hitchins Ltd ownership however Robert Hitchins Ltd had declined the offer advising that they would undertake the work themselves.

DM advised that her colleague Lawrence King, FODDC, had been in contact with Robert Hitchins Ltd regarding surveys on land under their ownership including land leading up to Crump Farm. DM also advised that they had discovered an historical duck pond upstream and that they were looking at five areas for potential bunds. It was further advised that they were looking to improve the culvert under the highway by attaching wooden sleepers, but work to this would need to be further investigated prior to commencement.

JS asked Peter Williams (PW) (Group Manager, Planning and Housing, FODDC) whether FODDC had managed to resolve the issue regarding Planning/Ownership of the trash screen behind number 115 Lakeside Avenue? In response CL advised that he had been in various communications with FODDC who had stated to him that the trash screen was under ownership of himself as resident of 115 Lakeside Avenue. CL also advised that the Secretary of State report stated that the trash screen and culvert needed to be upgraded so that it complied with planning regulations due to the increased flood risk that a potential new development could have on Lakeside Avenue. CL felt that if the ownership lay with him in regards to the trash screen then surely the Planning department would need consent from him for any potential new development

Action: DM to provide information/figures from FODDC to substantiate against the expenditure taken from the flood defence budget

	<p>that that such would increase the flood risk to Lakeside? PW advised that it was the understanding of the Planning and Housing department at FODDC that any negotiations with the land should be made directly with Robert Hitchins Ltd and the resident of 115 Lakeside Avenue however if the planning application that had been submitted to the Planning and Housing department included detail that the scheme did not affect the property at 115 Lakeside Avenue, or the other properties in Lakeside Avenue, then the planning department may have deemed it acceptable to approve the application.</p> <p>BB requested an update as to the maintenance programme put in place by GCC Highways regarding the balancing pond/penstock off Lydney Bypass.</p> <p>BW advised that GCC Highways had provisionally set aside a few days in March 2016 to do any clearance work that may be required in the area however it was felt that the balancing pond/penstock was working effectively.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p>NATIONAL FLOOD DEFENCE FORUM</p> <p>Tabitha Whitcombe, National Flood Defence Forum (TW) provided a verbal update in respect of Lydney Community Flood Resilience Plan advising that the plan was almost complete. It was advised that the National Flood Defence Forum had been working closely with Lydney Town Council and Stakeholder Flood Defence members to ensure that the Flood Map, which would be included in the final plan, was accurate.</p> <p>Once all areas were confirmed then Lydney Town Council would forward a copy of the map to be included in the final Lydney Community Flood Resilience Plan. This would then be presented to Lydney Town Council and would then be rolled-out with the assistance of the National Flood Defence Forum.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>HURST FARM/SOLAR FARM</p> <p>Prior to the meeting members were provided with photos concerning the Bund at Hurst Farm/Solar Farm by Bee Green Energy Ltd.</p> <p>DM explained that she had visited the area prior and raised concern regarding a gap in the bund constructed by Bee Green Energy Ltd. DM confirmed that the issues had since been rectified and furthermore she had asked Bee Green Energy Ltd to keep FODDC updated should they experience any further issues.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>SEWAGE</p> <p>Matthew Jeynes (MJ) from Severn Trent advised that nothing had changed since the last meeting and that the mitigation work undertaken by Mr John Thurston (Watts Group) in respect to Mead Lane had appeared to be rectified. It was further advised that no</p>	

	<p>severe hydraulic flooding reports had been received by Severn Trent to date for anywhere else in the Lydney area.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>ENVIRONMENT AGENCY FLOOD MAP</p> <p>Prior to the meeting members were provided with a copy of the response from FODDC Planning and Housing department regarding which planning applications, especially those relating to Lydney Town Centre, had been refused based on flooding concerns/use of the EA Flood Map.</p> <p>FODDC response advised that members could get information from the Public Access system which is available via the Council's website and allows interrogation of planning application records using variable parameters.</p> <p>PW had attached a list of applications received between 31/12/2010 and 31/12/2015 where the decision was refusal. It was advised that from a brief review of the decisions, none were refused on flooding grounds. PW further advised that he did not see a refusal for J Thurston, but was aware of an approval (P0332/13/OUT) which was allowed, following detailed flood analysis work. Furthermore it was advised that the Town Council were in support of the proposal and had spoken at the Planning Committee in Nov 2014 when it was considered.</p> <p>JS questioned whether PW in his capacity as Group Manager, Planning and Housing FODDC, could confirm with the EA that although planning applications required submission of a risk assessment and a hazard rating with their application, whether these were looked at and considered by FODDC as part of a planning application? In response PW advised that it was dependant on the scale of the site and that each application was considered on its own merit.</p> <p>During discussion a question was raised regarding the different 'levels of flood risk' dependent on the site. In response MK advised that both Industrial and Commercial sites were classified as the same risk, as they could both be suitably mitigated. There was no difference in the risk between whether the site was classed as Industrial or Commercial.</p> <p>Prior to the meeting members were provided with a copy of Lydney Town Council's response to FODDC regarding the Allocations Hearing which specifically requests Flood Risk Assessments/Hazard Documents be submitted to the Planning Authority (plus a copy forwarded to the Town Council for them to be able to give due consideration to material planning concerns) in respect to all Planning Applications that pose a concern/are allocated in the Flood Zone.</p>	

	<p>As part of the response it was highlighted to the programme Officer at FODDC that the EA advised that their Flood Map should not necessarily have a detrimental effect on planning decisions/proposals on Brownfield sites provided that the decision/proposal included a risk assessment and hazard rating. Lydney Town Council therefore called for inclusion of a flood risk assessment and a hazard rating to be included for any development sites included in the Allocations Plan and would request that due consideration to the aforementioned points be given by FODDC when considering redevelopment opportunities for Lydney Town.</p> <p>PW advised that with each individual planning application if flooding concern is relevant then the planning authority would take that into account when considering the application however FODDC could not give higher rating than National Guidance would allow.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>LYDNEY HARBOUR</p> <p>Prior to the meeting members were supplied with photos provided by the EA concerning hydraulic measures to the Lock Gates and Weir at Lydney Harbour.</p> <p>The photographs 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.</p> <p>JS asked CJ to confirm FODDC stance in relation to the maintenance of the Gates and Weir and the future potential sale of Lydney Harbour. CJ confirmed that on the advice received by the FODDC Legal team, FODDC were under no legal obligation in the event that the Harbour was sold, to provide a legal document concerning the owner's responsibility to maintain.</p> <p>BP felt that it would be interesting to know FODDC take on the watercourse from the Town down to the Harbour and wondered how much an increase in flow of water in the Lyd would have on the Harbour? If it did have an effect, it was felt that the maintenance aspect was important and that a regular maintenance programme should be invested in.</p> <p>MK advised that from the EA point of view, the Lyd did not have any impact on the outfall into the Harbour.</p>	
<p>9.</p>	<p>ACTION PLAN/ACTIONS PENDING</p> <p>Action points for next meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DM to provide information/figures from FODDC to substantiate against the expenditure taken from the flood defence budget 	
<p>10.</p>	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p><i>To Be Confirmed</i></p>	

Meeting closed at 2.40 pm