

Minutes of the Multi Agency Stakeholder Flood Defence Meeting held on
Thursday 29th October 2020 by Zoom at 11.00 am

PRESENT: Walter Leach, Lydney Town Council **(WL)**
Rose Christodoulides, Lakeside Resident Rep **(RC)**
Nick Coulson, Persimmon Homes **(NC)**
Richard Kemsley Lydney Town Council **(RK)**
Laurence King, FoDDC **(LK)**
Colin Legg, Lakeside Resident **(CL)**
Chris McFarling FoDDC **(CM)**
Peter Siret GCC **(PS)**
John Thurston, Watts **(JT)**
Brian Watkins, Gloucestershire County Council Highways/Amey **(BW)**

IN ATTENDANCE: Carolyn Whittington, **(CW)** Lydney Town Council (Minute Taker)

APOLOGIES: Liz Fowler E/A, Ed Argent Robert Hitchins, Barry Kilner E/A. Andy Bryant, Watts Group, Joe Baker GCC, Stephen Holley Town Clerk, Rebecca McLean Severn Trent.

ITEM		ACTION
1.	<p>WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS Cllr Walter Leach (WL) chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone.</p>	
2.	<p>APOLOGIES and APPROVAL OF THE NOTES OF THE LAST MEETING <i>(Copy attached)</i> The meeting notes were accepted as a true record.</p>	
3.	<p>TO DISCUSS FLOODING ISSUES IN LYDNEY As there had not been a meeting since February due to COVID 19 the Chair went round the group to ask of their concerns in Lydney.</p> <p>RH advised that water from the Persimmon site had caused 100 and 102 Lakeside to be water logged. The Site Manager visited the site but the understanding was there were no major issues on site regarding drainage.</p> <p>NC inspected the Northern Boundary and a number of areas were highlighted to replace with new stone.</p> <p>RC stated they had tidied up the site but the cut off drain causes major issues every time there is heavy rainfall, with clay coming down off the site causing issues.</p> <p>RC wanted confirmation of who would maintain the cut off drain when Persimmon complete work on site.</p> <p>NC confirmed that once Persimmon finish on site maintenance would be the responsibility of a management company. NC advised things would improve once the site had been built out.</p> <p>NC and the site manager walk/check the area regular.</p> <p>Persimmon had altered the housing mix and GCC had written in conditions which had been implemented regarding the surface water.</p>	

RC asked if Persimmon was aware of the natural springs on site before they built, as the bungalows had never had a problem in the past. Numbers 98 and 100 were now experiencing problems. NC had been given information at a meeting with residents that the northern side of the boundary always flooded but RC with her knowledge of the area confirmed that No's 100-104 had not had problems before.

RC stated Persimmon had a duty of care to existing residents and that someone had to do something radical in Lakeside to prevent further continuing problems.

WL stated that problems appear to be both historic and new flooding issues.

LK confirmed he had a detailed list of all the properties affected and would liaise with RC to ensure the list is up to date.

There was a concern that with winter coming on the problems will only get worse.

RK was concerned not to see a repeat of what happened in February and advised the group that the electric at the pump house had blown and had been awaiting a repair once the electricity company was able to work again. RK confirmed it is now back in full working order.

In his opinion the River Lyd needs dredging as the water is not flowing.

NC had spoken with James Fisher, the site manager as a property at Par Four Lane had flooding in the garden due to heavy rain. Persimmon would install a bund to divert water away from the properties. NC confirmed it would be diverted to the road front of the properties and go off site towards the bypass.

CM advised that he used to attend the group in his capacity as a District Councillor and Cabinet Member of Environment. He was now a Cabinet Member for planning and climate, with climate linked to flooding. He was aware the flooding issues at Lakeside are a persistent problem. He accepted build out would decrease the problems but was aware that continuing to replace clean stone was not the way forward. A plan was required for the future, rather than future proofing after each event. When top soil was taken off the possibilities have to be managed, CM felt that in preconstruction prior to planning a developer should have checked the drainage and the plans amended accordingly. CM suggested Sid Phelps the cabinet member for flooding should be invited to attend the next meeting. CM voiced concerns that Severn Trent had not attended the meeting.

**SID PHELPS TO BE
INVITED TO THE NEXT
SCHEDULED MEETING**

PS advised his colleague Joe Baker had not been able to attend but had set up a meeting with the Environment Agency with members of FoDDC and GCC Highways attending. The meeting was primarily to discuss the opening and closing of the Sluice Gates and to look at Lydney as a whole. It is hoped the meeting would provide information

	<p>to find a way forward in the future. PS was made aware of Andy Bryant's comments sent prior to the meeting of the groups belief that opening everything during an event does make a difference to flood relief upstream, as does the dredging and silt removal to enable the flow through the Lyd.</p> <p>JT stated that Severn Trent should be part of the meeting as when they backflush this accentuates problems already there.</p> <p>The Environment Agency had been written to by the group in February and CW would forward a copy of the letter with issues raised to PS prior to their meeting.</p> <p>RC stated that the opening of the sluice gates was a major part of preventing flooding in Lydney. Drainage in Lakeside to the river was inadequate and Lydney was continually being told it did not meet the criteria although there was a 60 years history of flooding.</p> <p>WL reiterated the groups feeling that clarification was required from E/A of what was going to happen and when, both short and long term.</p> <p>JT states the opening of the Sluice gates should happen to prevent flooding and dredging was also required.</p> <p>CL advised that the since R Hitchins had installed the trash screen at the entrance to Lakeside culvert it had worked really well and has not come over since installation. It was a major advantage to prevent flooding and reduce problems to Lakeside.</p> <p>LK advised money had started to be paid out to the flooded houseowners under the Local Flood Resilience Scheme.</p> <p>Prior to the meeting information had been circulated from Ed Argent - Robert Hitchins together with a picture of the bund repair.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p>FLOOD WATER RELIEF VIA THE HARBOUR SLUICE GATES AND MONITORING OF –</p> <p>No members of the E/A were able to attend this meeting. The group discussed the dredging and silt removal at the Harbour is of major importance. E/A continue to advise that the opening of the gates did not make a difference but had never provided negative feedback, LK felt they should then be open as a first step. JT had historical evidence to prove opening the gates do make a difference and would provide the information. It was previously understood money had been put aside by the E/A and confirmation was required to establish if the money was still available. It was also felt there may be contamination issues on dredging.</p>	<p>TO RECEIVE CONFIRMION IF MONEY STILL AVALAILBE FROM THE E/A</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>TO DISCUSS THE “POTENTIAL FOR CATCHMENT MANNAGEMENT”</p>	

CM provided a synopsis of the increasing climate change induced extreme flooding events and FoDDC's emergency flooding response plans for the River Lyd and Cinderford brook.

He stated a catchment-based approach was needed to help reduce volume and frequency of flooding by using Natural Flood Management techniques in the higher catchments.

By looking at the deteriorating national picture it was hoped to influence government to legislate accordingly to help invest in reducing the causes of flooding whilst increasing biodiversity protection and carbon storage using natural flood management techniques.

CM had approached the National Flood Forum for advice and experience of projects that had effectively stored water and released it in a more controlled way to not overwhelm the drainage systems. The example in Stroud was given and Stroud District Council had worked with partners and landowners in the Slad Valley using woody debris to make leaky dams, which released water in a much more balanced way. Stroud used to flood but this project, together with other planned schemes was now having a significantly positive effect on flood relief downstream.

The NFF had suggested that a local flooding action group would be necessary to join the River Severn Partnership through the local Catchment Based Approach (CaBA) partner the Severn Vale Trust, in order to work with the EA to source funding and expertise. CM had written to Jenny Parsons of the Wildlife Trust and Chair of the Severn Vale Trust to establish if the Lydney forum could act as a flooding action group. He would attend the next RSP meeting as the Lydney/Forest of Dean representative.

Successful projects, working with partners in the whole of the catchment would provide economic savings through a significant reduction in post-flooding clear up costs. CM was happy to explore possibilities of joining the RSP.

LK advised the meeting with the E/A would be to discuss the catchment of the Lyd coupled with hard engineering and the riparian maintenance of the gates, put together as a package that could then attract funding. LK had a good database of Lydney and flooded properties which would be one of the key tools to present to E/A to ensure they meet the national criteria to provide anti-flooding support to meet long term plan to protect Lydney to the best of their abilities. Needs to be put as one case.

CM suggested that a partnership including this forum would provide the best vehicle for engaging with all stakeholders. CM would explore the partnership CaBA further and report back.

6.	<p>MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BW advised contractor due next Tuesday to take out tree debris. BW last visited site July, with a small amount of debris taken away. BW would provide photos after the clean-up. • Penstock: LK confirmed it was a FoDDC asset. There were no current problems. If anyone was aware of any issues please advise LK. • Flood Meter monitoring: No update provided. • Cookson Terrace: GCC have some funding, which would be available next financial year. It would not be sufficient to do all the work required, but without engagement from residents no more could be done. BW advised the drainage improvement scheme put forward by GCC Highways would not be done at the same time as the carriage way works would. • Mead Lane: Andy Bryant provided information in his absence, WL read out “We need to keep pushing for continued maintenance/clearance of the channels, keeping all the NRV’s clear and maintained, E/A should be checking.” 	
7.	<p>LAKESIDE AVENUE LYDNEY- Report on any outstanding issues.</p> <p>LK had a walk around properties in Lakeside (26-28 30-32) which had the NRV chamber behind them. The NRV controlled outfall from the culvert through the factory to water course. If opened too much the water would flow back and flood the back of the properties. It was necessary and need to be shut to prevent backflow and flooding. BW to look at Highways drainage point to see if it discharged into area, as source of flooding not yet clarified.</p> <p>There had been property protection measures by Severn Trent that had not been effective.</p> <p>LK suggested if the residents of Cookson Terrace did not engage then the money could be moved to support the area of Lakeside.</p> <p>The ownership lay with a now defunct developer, which posed problems for who to contact regarding access and who was responsible for the NRV, as the party no longer operates it rests with FoDDC.</p> <p>BW would investigate and update at next meeting.</p>	<p>BW TO ADVISE OF OUTCOME OF INVESTIGATION</p>
8.	<p>LYDNEY COMMUNITY FLOOD RESILIENCE PLAN (v8 JUNE 2017) RAIN GAUGE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to representatives from the E/A being unable to attend the item would remain an agenda item for the next meeting, with the Town Clerk liaising with JW prior to the next meeting. 	<p>TOWN CLERK TO LIASE WITH JW REGARDING UPDATING PLAN</p>

<p>9.</p>	<p>CORRESPONDENCE and A.O.B LK advised FoDDC were still visiting people who had contacted them regarding the Flood Resilience Measures. There was a scheme and people need to report any flooding issues. Referring to Agenda Item 8 CM advised the Cabinet had approved emergency plans for Lydney and Cinderford and 80 -100 properties being identified when people may need to be evacuated and rehoused. CM to send information. LK advised FoDDC contact list for such events had been updated, but if in doubt use LK as contact.</p>	
<p>10.</p>	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next Meeting TBA • Meeting closed at 12.38 	