

Minutes of the Multi Agency Stakeholder Flood Defence Meeting held on
Thursday 10th December 2020 by Zoom at 11.00 am

- PRESENT:** Walter Leach, Lydney Town Council **(WL)**
 Joe Baker GCC **(JB)**
 D Bates **(DB)** Joined later
 Andy Bryant, Watts Group **(AB)**
 Rose Christodoulides, Lakeside Resident Rep **(RC)**
 James Fisher Severn Trent **(JF)**
 Matt Jeynes Network Manager Severn Trent **(MJ)**
 Richard Kemsley Lydney Town Council **(RK)**
 Chris McFarling FoDDC **(CM)**
 Richard Munday Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust **(RM)**
 Sid Phelps FoDDC **(SP)**
 Peter Siret GCC **(PS)**
 John Thurston, Watts **(JT)** Joined later
 Brian Watkins, Gloucestershire County Council Highways/Amey **(BW)**
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Carolyn Whittington, **(CW)** Lydney Town Council (Minute Taker)
- APOLOGIES:** Liz Fowler E/A, Stephen Holley Lydney Town Clerk.

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</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Apologies were received from L Fowler E/A and S Holley LTC - The meeting notes of the meeting held on the 27th October were accepted as a true record. 	
3.	<p>PRESENTATION FROM JOE BAKER GCC Prior to the meeting Joe Baker distributed comprehensive briefing notes (attached) of the recent meeting with GCC, E/A, GCCH and FoDDC, which he proceeded to talk through with the group. JB stated he joined GCC in December 2019, and can see that LTC are working to obtain a consistent agency understanding. He had spoken with Dawn Morgan prior to her leaving FoDDC to understand the issues and is aware a major issue is the Harbour Gates and how they are managed. It is widely perceived the Harbour Gates should be open and that flooding does subside when the gates are open. The E/A do not see the Sluice Gates or the opening of the Bypass Channel as flood risk assets. E/A are currently removing silt from the outer sea basin for navigation purposes. JB is aware a separate local group in Lydney is feeding back plans to E/A from the model. RC confirmed this is the Coastal Community Team, attended by S Phelps Stakeholder Group, R Morgan as part of the Regeneration scheme and Heritage Lydney Docks with Wendy Jackson Regeneration Manager. CMF stated that anecdotal when high flooding the opening of the</p>	

gates have shown a dramatic drop in flooding levels. CMF praises JB's report and with the E/A engaging with GRCC further investigation into the operating of the gates could be undertaken.

AB asked why the E/A feel the opening of the gates does not make a difference, as he has been present at flooding events at Mead Lane with the Lyd Levels at the lake high, once the gates were opened the levels dropped dramatically. RK was present at Lakeside and too has watched the water just disappear.

LTC have historical information when two previous Councillors witnessed first-hand the dramatic immediate drop when the gates were open. JB confirmed he did fight Lydney's corner and recognises local feedback and how it conflicts. AB stated E/A use navigation as a reason, but feels a flood event should take precedence over everything.

The study would reconsider if it was an effective way of reducing flood risk.

RC feels the 2013 study regarding the flood risk management assist modelling is a 1/100-year event and felt this to be misleading with 1% chance perceived of it happening in any one year. Climate change has not been included in the model. RM agreed the model is one of a smaller volume of water. JB queried whether E/A have feedback information that could be provided to the group. The new modelling will relook at it.

JB witnessed how high the levels were at Lakeside, GCCH are looking to investigate existing drainage around Lakeside and will be carrying out CCTV work in the future.

JB confirmed LK of FoDDC is and has been doing valuable work on the Government Flooding Resilience Recovery Framework and has gathered data for the E/A regarding Storm Dennis.

E/A have commissioned a study to investigate the NFM and Blue Green infrastructure including the River Lyd catchment.

JB stated main action as per the briefing notes is to provide a snapshot of agencies perspective to get a holistic study of Lydney with individual actions, then catchments areas. Once the study is completed quotes can be obtained. Need to manage expectations to get study underway with results for summer. GCC is the lead local authority with E/A contributions, but does not mean GCC take full action for Flood Risk. The study will identify whose responsibility and use agency groups to coordinate it, may take longer to obtain funding. Need local feedback incorporated. AB and RC have times that relate to the opening of the Harbour Gates, as evidence based will be the key to the way forward. JB confirmed a justification for the study, the study will be a fresh look with the E/A on board to agree scope. JB confirmed the report would be independent.

AB thanked JB for taking the lead, AB stressed the importance of the local knowledge and people.

AB stated that there are issues with drainage that are Severn Trent responsibility and add to the problems both at Watts site and throughout Lydney. Rebecca Mclean at Severn Trent is in the process

	<p>of collating modelling that will link in to it. CMF thanked JB for heading discussions, good to share responsibility as the fall out is the public have homes flooded. Good to see better engagement, which has been sorely missed over the last few years. FoDDC have published reports for Cinderford Brook and the Lyd as a potential Boscastle is very real threat. Acceleration effect due to extreme rainfall needs to plan into new model. JB agreed climate change and localised event rainfall add to risk for life. Data is behind the event, levels in Lyd high causing concern without localised rain – both elements together cause worse affect.</p> <p>PS stated the problem was the wide spread intensity rainfall SP/RM stated need to diagnose the problem right and have access to rapid response plans. The group collectively were disappointed the E/A had not be able to attend the last few meetings but appreciative they are liaising with JB and things are moving forward. JB will link up with the National Flood Group, who hold weekly Zoom meetings. JT asked with the timescale of actions if H&S and ST sewerage is included, but as urgent H&S is a different responsibility. Aitkens did a survey adjacent to the area. JB couldn't comment with regard to ST, would like copy of Aitkens study. Large areas largely E/A issues but not all as in Lakeside there are outstanding ST problems also. JB has another meeting with the agencies in February and will feedback at the next meeting to be held sometime in February date to be arranged.</p>	<p>AITKENS REPORT TO BE OBTAINED FOR JB</p> <p>JB TO REPORT BACK AT NEXT MEETING</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>FLOOD WATER RELIEF VIA THE HARBOUR SLUICE GATES AND MONITORING OF –</p> <p>Discussed in Agenda item 3</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>TO DISCUSS THE RIVER SEVERN PARTNERSHIP</p> <p>CMF provided information that was circulated prior to the meeting with regard to an expression of interest in the River Severn Partnership. CMF emphasised value of expression of interest to actively engage with E/A. The aim is to reduce the flooding risk and improve bio diversity, catchment with FOD Natural Heritage and protect for the future. Planting trees as part of the NFM techniques and store carbon neutral, Need E/A to look at whole catchment to help what is needed to be done. PS stated GCC had put in an expression of interest submitted as part of a wider bid. CMF stated a number of groups had expressed an interest and need to share and work together. Will discuss further with PS after the meeting. RM stated Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust had also placed an expression of interest. The Severn Partnership is working with willows and hoppers, being effectively globally. RM aware a study was completed by F. Comms and asked if anyone could provide a copy, of which JB would like one. RC asked if the copy would be the Halcrow</p>	<p>PS AND CMF TO DISCUSS</p> <p>TO ESTABLISH WHICH REPORT THIS WAS AND OBTAIN A COPY</p>

	report that was commissioned by FoDDC done in 2010 -2013	
6.	<p>MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Balancing Pond - BW advised was cleared out two weeks ago. BW will be visiting next week. Penstock: BW will visit next week when visiting Balancing Pond. Flood Meter monitoring: Nothing to report Cookson Terrace: Stalled since last meeting, Improvements at Harbour Road will look at drainage system, Mead Lane FoDDC cleared the clearance channel. Brickwork towards railway line a large NRV that feeds into the channel and ditch. JB visited in March with Dawn Morgan, E/A have looked at it and cleared a section and working their way up. JB will arrange a meeting with AB, RC and WL to walk round the area before Christmas. 	JB,AB,RC & WL TO AGREE A MUTUAL DATE FOR SITE VISIT
7.	<p>LAKESIDE AVENUE LYDNEY- Report on any outstanding issues.</p> <p>Covered in Agenda item 3</p>	
8.	<p>LYDNEY COMMUNITY FLOOD RESILIENCE PLAN (v8 JUNE 2017) RAIN GAUGE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lydney Town Clerk looking into the latest version with E/A input to update. 	SH TO COMPLETE UPATE WITH E/A AND CIRCULATE
9.	<p>CORRESPONDENCE and A.O.B</p> <p>RC asked BW to look into water puddling by the new crossing when heavy rainfall as causing puddles.</p> <p>AB asked about the mitigation works at Mead Lane, JF unable to give specifics as being dealt with by R Mclean and colleagues, JF will arrange a follow up with the group at a future meeting.</p> <p>RC advised that local historic information suggests residents built the footbridge at Station Road for access. BW stated with the bridge privately owned and not a GCC structure, there would be no public right of way across if it is removed.</p> <p>The footbridge close to culvert has material behind it constricting the flow, JB will look at as part of the study when on site with arranged date with AB/RC/WL.</p> <p>WL suggested that LTC collate the historic reports and recent information to bring all reports together. AB offered to forward the information he has across to LTC.</p>	<p>BW TO LOOK INTO PUDDLING</p> <p>JF TO LIASE WITH RMC AND ARRANGE FOLLOW UP WITH CURRENT STATUS</p> <p>LTC TO COLLATE ALL INFORMTIAON TOGETHER</p>

10.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Next Meeting TBA –• Meeting closed at 12.38 • Arranged after meeting for 25 February 2021 @ 11am.	