

Minutes of the Multi Agency Flood Defence Meeting on
Wednesday 11 September 2013 held in Lydney Town Council Chambers
at 10.30 am

PRESENT:

Cllr Christine Jones, West Dean Parish Council
 Cllr Roger Gwynne, West Dean Parish Council **(RG)**
 Cllr Bill Graham, West Dean Parish Council
 Robert Frankton, Lydney Park Estate
 Peter Adams, Dean Forest Railway **(PA)**
 Cllr Brian Pearman, Lydney NDP/Finance & Scrutiny Committee
 Chairman **(BP)**
 Jayne Smailes, CEO Lydney Town Council **(JS)**
 Claude Mickleson, Lydney NDP
 Dave Street, Lydney NDP/Planning Committee Co-optee **(DS)**
 David Graham, Gloucestershire County Council **(DG)**
 Dr Jerry Birch, Glatfelter **(JB)**
 Barry Bridgewater, Severn Trent **(BB)**
 Greg Daniels, Severn Trent
 Dan Howell, Forestry Commission
 Chris Johns, Forest of Dean District Council **(CJ)**
 Brian Watkins, Gloucestershire Highways

IN ATTENDANCE: Carol Wheeler, EO Lydney Town Council (Minute Taker)

APOLOGIES: District Cllr Marion Winship, District Cllr Martin Quaile, Chris Bull (Dean Forest Railway), Cllr Janice James (Lydney Town Council), Rachel Reeves (Oakdale Links), Cllr Val Hobman (Lydney Town Council), Bill Hobman (Lydney Area in Partnership)

		ACTIONS
1.	<p>WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS Cllr Brian Pearman chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone. Introductions were made around the table.</p>	
2.	<p>NOTES OF LAST MEETING (3 July 2013) Notes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true record.</p> <p>The following comments were made relating to actions undertaken since the last meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That Grey Water had been incorporated into Forest of Dean District Council's (FODDC) Planning material considerations for a number of years; all planning applications encouraged applicants to utilise sustainable drainage methods. 	

	ACTIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It had been verified that the watercourse on the MMC site was now clear and that FODDC was arranging for a contractor to enlarge the watercourse. <p>A substantial amount of work had taken place to clear the section of the River Lyd which ran from the Hams Road Car Park to the Albany Bridge. Cost of work defrayed between FODDC (50%), Lydney Recreation Trust (25%) and Lydney Town Council (25%). Thanks expressed to Chris Johns for his assistance.</p>	
<p>3. LYD MAP AND RIPARIAN OWNERSHIP</p> <p>Draft Riparian ownership map produced and Riparian owners in attendance were asked to confirm the map correctly recorded their areas of ownership.</p> <p>No further action has been taken by West Dean Parish Council in respect to map collation/identifying Riparian ownership.</p> <p>DG advised that internal flooding needed to be experienced by residents if said flooding was to be included in Local Authority flood figures. If it was caused through lack of capacity in sewers then it was not classed as flooding. BB stated that such instances would need to be reported directly to Severn Trent who would treat as a priority.</p> <p>BB advised that the Pumping Station by Lydney Lake has been designed to pump to a certain level (250 ltrs/second), once this level has been reached a different set of pumps are activated at the rear of the site. The pumps are monitored by telemetry 24 hours a day, therefore if the pumps do stop working Severn Trent engineers are immediately on site to rectify the situation. Whereas approximately 5 years ago the pipes at the Pumping Station had burst a number of times, BB advised that said pipes had been replaced and stressed that the Station was large enough to handle the quantity of effluent that it was licenced to take.</p> <p>CJ reported that FODDC had been invited to apply for Flood Grant Aid, such Grant would be based on the number of houses flooded and whilst approximately 50 schemes were funded, FODDCs scheme had not scored highly enough.</p>	<p>D Kent</p>

	ACTIONS
<p>DG felt that that all parties needed to appreciate the effect that the clearance of the water courses would have on the flowrate of the flood water. DG suggested that areas of high risk would need to be identified and stressed the need to record the number of instances where internal flooding was experienced in order that the appropriate Authorities can utilise the information gained to assess the benefit to the community over the life of a scheme vs. cost.</p> <p>PA voiced the possibility of producing an indemnity scheme for flooded properties in order that Authorities undertake repair for losses incurred. PA stressed the impact of climate change, together with the fact that historical solutions may no longer cope with the increased weather fluctuations. DG highlighted that Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) did not possess Rights to the main rivers and that funding may be available to protect individual houses if they were consistently being flooded, however, the householders would also be required to contribute towards individual protection measures for their property. The need for residents to “self help” was appreciated by all and CJ stressed that only a small number of Lydney residents who experienced flooding 2½ years ago accepted FODDCs offered flood protection methods.</p> <p>Attention was then turned to Appendix 1 attached to the July minutes which had been provided by Martin Young, Environment Agency (EA). BP requested that an explanation of the report be provided in “layman’s” terms, as it was felt difficult to provide a response to members of the public from the document.</p> <p>RG expressed concern over flooding experienced in Parkend and Whitecroft, in particular the regular flooding of 2-3 houses. RG spoke at length on the problems experienced and he expressed a belief that if Cannop Pond was able to accommodate an increased level of water it may prevent flooding problems in Parkend. RG stressed that four culverts were sited in Parkend, with a further two/three prior and he noted that problems with sewerage was also experienced when flooding occurred. Accordingly, RG requested that the flooding problems in Parkend be considered and addressed. BP recommended that West Dean Parish Council would initially need to arrange for the area to be mapped (including Cannop and beyond) as it could then use such information to open dialogue with the appropriate organisations.</p>	<p>M Young</p>

	ACTIONS
<p>JS suggested that West Dean Parish Council may wish to enquire if the Forestry Commission would be able to open the ponds at Pedalabike Away/Blakeney Straights, or if they could identify other areas where ponds could be created to store water. Whilst he did not think the suggestion would provide a solution to the problem, DH agreed to make enquiries.</p> <p>RG questioned if it would be possible to store storm water in a valley on Forestry Commission land, which could be released in stages when deemed appropriate. It was agreed that representatives of West Dean Parish Council would attend a separate meeting with DH to discuss their issues.</p> <p>DS highlighted the issue of the release of flood water at high tide and also the impact of Plummer's Brook and he felt that the only solution to the problem would be via major engineering at the Harbour which would enable water to be released automatically when the level of the River Severn had dropped. However, JB stressed the impact which would be felt further upstream if water was taken out of the River Lyd when not in flood. JS emphasised the need for the Council to be able to contact the Harbourmaster to facilitate the opening of gates, when it judged flooding to be likely.</p>	<p>Dan Howell</p> <p>West Dean Parish Council/Dan Howell and invited attendees</p>
<p>4. RIVER LYD/WATERCOURSE CLEARING</p> <p>BP expressed a belief that Parkend/Cannop needed to be mapped. JS suggested that it would be possible to utilise Lydney Town Council's system; that West Dean Parish Council would be informed if it were necessary to purchase an additional map to cover said area (cost to be covered by West Dean Parish Council); that West Dean Parish Council would need to obtain Riparian ownership information.</p> <p>RF and PA stated that a few amendments to the Draft Riparian ownership map would be necessary and would communicate such information to the NDP Admin Assistant.</p> <p>PA requested that appreciation of the work undertaken to produce the maps be conveyed to the NDP Admin Assistant.</p> <p>West Dean Parish Council were encouraged to open dialogue with FODDC regarding availability of funding for specific flood works.</p>	<p>West Dean Parish Council</p> <p>R Frankton/P Adams</p> <p>J Smailes</p> <p>West Dean Parish Council</p>

	ACTIONS
<p>Meeting to be arranged between Lydney Recreation Trust and Dean Forest Railway in order to discuss the maintenance of the banks of the watercourse south of Albany Bridge, which fall within their joint responsibilities, together with any hydro possibilities.</p> <p>It was noted that Severn Trent would not monitor surface water discharge from new housing developments, but it would monitor foul water discharge. No attendees were aware if surface water discharge was monitored. DG felt that in theory such discharge would not increase, however, he emphasised that in the future stricter laws would be brought into effect for new builds. It was felt that this may be a topic which Lydney Town Council's Planning and Highway Committee may wish to consider and CJ was also asked to make similar enquiries of FODDC Planning Department.</p> <p>DG expressed concern that any maintenance work conducted to the banks of the River Lyd did not go too far. JB advised that the improvements to the Harbour had improved water retention in the Lyd and he highlighted that Glatfelter's owned the land beneath The Cut and the sluices going back to the Lyd. Furthermore, JB stressed the need to ensure a certain level of water was retained in the Lyd as it was crucial to Glatfelters who relied on the water course.</p> <p>DG felt that the Water Framework Directive may be able to fund water course improvements. RF advised that Lydney Park Estate had recently been approached by the EA concerning work to improve the passage for eels and he felt that it would be advantageous for a representative from the EA to attend the next meeting.</p>	<p>J Smailes/ P Adams (DFR)/ D Street/ A Preest</p> <p>C Johns</p>
<p>5. ACTION PLAN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request to be submitted to Environment Agency for a representative to attend next meeting. • EA to provide an explanation in "layman's" terms of report appended to July minutes. • Forestry Commission to consider the possibility of opening the ponds at Pedalabike Away/Blakeney Straights, or if other areas can be identified where ponds could be created to store water. • West Dean Parish Council to arrange meeting with Forestry Commission. • Establish if Lydney Town Council mapping system extends to Cannop: advise West Dean Parish Council if cost involved with incorporating said area into Council's system if West Dean Parish Council confirm this is how they wish to proceed. 	<p>J Smailes</p> <p>Environment Agency Dan Howell</p> <p>West Dean Parish Council J Smailes/ D Kent</p>

		ACTIONS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obtain Riparian ownership details for land bordering water course in West Dean Parish. 	West Dean Parish Council
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide details of required amendments to Draft Riparian ownership map. 	R Frankton/ P Adams
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> West Dean Parish Council were encouraged to open dialogue with FODDC regarding availability of funding for specific flood works. 	West Dean Parish Council
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting to be arranged between Lydney Recreation Trust and Dean Forest Railway to discuss maintenance of the banks of the watercourse south of Albany Bridge. Forestry Commission GIS Polygons to be provided to Lydney Town Council. 	J Smailes/ P Adams (and DFR Rep) Dan Howell
7.	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING Wednesday 13 November 2013 at 10.30 am in Lydney Town Council Chambers.</p>	

Meeting closed at 11.52 am.