

Notes of the Multi Agency Stakeholder Flood Defence Meeting held at 1.30pm on
**Wednesday 18th March 2026 at the Lydney Town Council,
 Council Chambers, High Street, Lydney**

PRESENT: **Chairman** Cllr Carol Harris, Lydney Town Council (**CH**)
 Cllr Sue Hillier, Lydney Town Council (**SH**)
 Cllr Emma Taylor, Lydney Town Council (**ET**)
 Cllr Pam Johns, Lydney Town Council (**PJ**)
 Cllr Jon Gregory, Lydney Town Council (**JG**)
 Cllr Roger Holmes, Lydney Town Council (**RH**)
 Cllr Andrew McDermid, Forest of Dean District Council (**AM**)
 Cllr Tasha Saunders, Lydney Town Council (**TS**)
 Sarah-Jane O’Kane, Severn Trent (**SK**)
 Alex Thrift, Forest of Dean District Council (**AT**)
 Joe Baker, Gloucestershire County Council (**JB**)
 Tom Curwell, Environment Agency (**TC**)
 Aaminah Motara, Severn Trent (**AMo**)
 Cllr Bob Freshwater, West Dean Parish (**BF**)
 Ocean Griffin, Forest of Dean District Council (**OG**)
 Dan Furnage, Office of Matt Bishop, MP (**DF**)

Also Present:
 Louise Bendall, Deputy Clerk, (Note Taker) (**LB**)

Item		Action
1.	WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS	
	Cllr Carol Harris (CH) chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone. Introductions were made.	
2.	APOLOGIES	
	Cllr Jackie Fraser, Forest of Dean District Council (JF) Chloe Hatton, Catchment Restoration Officer, Severn Rivers Trust (CH) Cllr Alan Preeast, Forest of Dean District Council (AP) Rose Christodoulides, Lakeside Resident Rep (RC) Nathan Choat, Gloucestershire County Council (NT) Andrew Bryant, Watts Group (AB) Martin Quine, Environment Agency (MQ) Jo Miles, Clerk, West Dean Parish (JM) Cllr Steve Dunford, West Dean Parish (SD)	
3.	NOTES OF LAST MEETING held on Wednesday 29th October 2025	
	Notes received and accepted as an accurate record	

4.	ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING NOT INCLUDED ON PREVIOUS AGENDA	
	None	
5.	GCC CO-ORDINATED PROJECT UPDATE	
	<p>JB provided an update on the flood alleviation works being undertaken in the Lakeside Avenue area. Significant clearance work has been completed to enable water to flow more effectively downstream, alongside the creation of additional areas to substantially increase flood storage capacity. The project team has worked closely with local landowner Rob Bendall and expressed their gratitude for his support. A large area of his land has been cleared, contributing to increased capacity and enabling the separation of water flows from the Lakeside Area Catchment and Plummers Brook. Plummers Brook has been successfully diverted around the lakes, creating an extended floodplain. This work has been particularly important in helping to protect properties in Cookson Terrace.</p> <p>Approximately 80% of the works are now complete and were tested during Storm Claudia, where they proved to be successful. Positive feedback has also been received from residents in Forest Road, who have noted improvements following the storm.</p> <p>The next phase of the project involves working in partnership with the Environment Agency to de-silt areas of Lydney Harbour. Pollution testing will be carried out to determine the appropriate method for silt removal. Some challenges have been encountered, including difficulties in identifying the landowner(s) of land to the rear of Lakeside Avenue. Although this area is not the responsibility of Gloucestershire County Council, works have still been undertaken to dig out and de-silt the watercourse.</p> <p>A bat house survey has also been required, which has caused some delays and frustration. It is hoped that, subject to the outcome, the bat house can be removed and additional culverts installed. Modelling work has been completed, and it is anticipated that this phase will commence within the next few months. Long-term funding has been identified, and works will continue in partnership with the Environment Agency over the coming years. The project has been recognised through a nomination for an award/prize, which will bring positive publicity to the area.</p> <p>Following discussions with the Internal Drainage Board, it has been confirmed that they will take on future maintenance of the area, resulting in no ongoing cost to the Town Council.</p> <p>In response to a query from Cllr McDermid, it was confirmed that dye testing is still ongoing.</p>	

6.	AGENCY REPORTS	
	<p>A.Environment Agency Work has been undertaken at the back of Watts Tyres. Navigational dredging allowing boats to move around continues within the outer lock and harbour. General improvements of the area are ongoing. At the last meeting it was agreed that the EA representatives would look into the Flood Warning Service; as it was discussed that there had been issues with flood warnings not issued soon enough, a query for the levels at which a warning is triggered was asked to be looked into, previous warning issued had occurred after flooding had already happened.</p> <p>TC confirmed that when a river is to breach its banks will trigger the flood warning, it will not be triggered by heavy rain or surface water flooding, and he was not aware that the EA had ever historically provided surface water warnings. A comment was made that Forest Road properties were flooded due to the river and not surface water. TC will check data from the flood warning gauge upstream of Forest Road and will look at what warnings were received during previous flooding.</p> <p>The Parkend gauge was not designed to give river flood warning; this was initially installed by Severn Trent for the purposes of low flow regulation. More gauges to be installed.</p> <p>TC mentioned that the Forest area was unique, the Norchard area has larger water catchment than normal, with up to 60,000 litres per minute of water caused by historic mining and other towns higher upstream.</p> <p>TC confirmed the Lidl gauge was owned by Lidl and does not record data; it was installed as part of planning requirements to alert the local shop of a potential flood for them to evacuate the car park at local discretion. The Lidl shop manager was not aware of this. TC will check the planning application.</p> <p>B. Severn Trent On site checking around Watts land continues and designs and plans should be carried out this summer.</p> <p>Funding is in place and part of funding criteria is for partnership work so S/Trent will look to work with FoDDC. It was commented that the work being undertaken was amazing.</p> <p>A large amount of investment has been granted to tackle sewer overflows and spills, 3 large storm tanks have been installed at the Treatment Works, 1 is up and running and with the better weather the other 2 will be connected.</p> <p>Work is ongoing to keep surface water out of the system. Infiltration causes significant problems, so work is scheduled to seal the system.</p> <p>Where surface and Highways drains are connected to Severn Trent systems works will be undertaken to separate.</p>	<p>TC</p> <p>TC</p>

AMo introduced herself as a member of the recently formed Community Flood Team, she is working on understanding her designated area and would like to partnership work.

Historically, Severn Trent installed flood gates and doors within properties in Lakeside, and whilst it was residents' responsibility to maintain Severn Trent will visit the properties and inspect them and ensure residents are aware.

Cllr McDermid noted excessive sewage spills recorded at Lydney SVT014417, taking 16th & 17th March as recent examples – 17th March spills duration totalled nearly 8 hours that day (weather was not inclement).

This is not acceptable and a request for this to be looked into.

SK confirmed this was not acceptable and she is aware they are working on this. There are three areas within Lydney; East Marsh, Church Road and Treatment Works but the exact location of spillage is not identified it is simply recorded as SVT014417 Location Lydney.

Amo/SK to look at why the areas are not separately identified

Amo/SK

C. FoDDC

AT continues to support **JB**, who feels he has not emphasised the amount of excellent work that has been completed.

AT commented whilst multiple properties and areas have been flooded this winter Lydney has been very quiet as no flooding! Regular meetings have helped keep up the good work.

AT will liaise with **AMo** to help point out known problem areas within the Forest.

A question was asked on what input **AT** had in regard to the Local Plan; **AT** confirmed that there was a specific team within FoDDC that were responsible for the Local Plan and he has no input; the team would consult with GCC for this.

Development of the area is usually identified by areas owned by one landowner and technical questions are often asked after a site has been earmarked for development.

The Local Plan outlines the principles and does not consult with agencies such as Severn Trent, EA or Highways.

It is recognised that under the draft Local Plan new housing requirement across the district amounts to almost 13,000 in the next 20 years.

SK from Severn Trent reiterated that they are not a statutory consultee and have no power to say no to new developments. If there is a scheme of works in place by Severn Trent, then they can ask for a development to be delayed until the scheme is delivered.

Severn Trent adopt new housing developments up to 4 years after development which causes additional strain on the water company.

