

Notes of the Multi Agency Stakeholder Flood Defence Meeting held at 1.30pm on  
**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2025 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 Andrew McDermid, Forest of Dean District Council **(AM)**  
 Cllr Tasha Saunders, Lydney Town Council **(TS)**  
 Andrew Bryant, Watts Group **(AB)**  
 Nathan Choat, Gloucestershire County Council **(NT)**  
 Liz Fowler, Environment Agency **(LF)**  
 Nicola Manley, Environment Agency **(NM)**  
 Sarah-Jane O’Kane, Severn Trent **(SK)**  
 Alex Thrift, Forest of Dean District Council **(AT)**

Also Present:  
 Michael Greenfield, Town Clerk, (Note Taker) **(MG)**

Item		Action
1.	<b>WELCOME &amp; INTRODUCTIONS</b>	
	Cllr Carol Harris <b>(CH)</b> chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone.  Introductions were made.	
2.	<b>APOLOGIES</b>	
	Tom Curwell, Environment Agency <b>(TC)</b> Cllr Jackie Fraser, Forest of Dean District Council <b>(JF)</b> Chloe Hatton, Catchment Restoration Officer, Severn Rivers Trust <b>(CH)</b> Cllr Alan Preest, Forest of Dean District Council <b>(AP)</b> Rose Christodoulides, Lakeside Resident Rep <b>(RC)</b> Joe Baker, Gloucestershire County Council <b>(JB)</b>	
3.	<b>NOTES OF LAST MEETING held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2025</b>	
	Notes received and accepted as an accurate record  <b>Resolved: Majority Approved</b>	

4.	<b>ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING NOT INCLUDED ON PREVIOUS AGENDA</b>	
	None	
5.	<b>GCC CO-ORDINATED PROJECT UPDATE</b>	
	<p>MG provided an update sent by Joe Baker</p> <p><i>We have cleared an area of land at the back of Lakeside Avenue which a new development drains in to. We could not find the land owner or any agreements with a management company so cleared out this section of land and the development can now drain. It was 600mm high of silt and will now function as a drainage asset.</i></p> <p><i>Nathan, Alex and I will be dye testing these areas to confirm how they drain.</i></p> <p><i>There is a bat house at the back of Lakeside Avenue which has become derelict and an anti-social behaviour hotspot for residents. Residents have informed us that the bats are now gone.</i></p> <p><i>The location is where we are looking at options through the modelling to lower the flood risk to the properties, we are getting an ecology survey to help us remove this house, potentially offering a compensatory habitat elsewhere.</i></p> <p><i>The hydraulic modelling for Lakeside Avenue is in the final stages of the optioning, we have tested a lot and are waiting on a meeting with the consultants to review everything prior to completing the external business case for funding.</i></p> <p><i>We have started today (29.10.25) on clearing out the section of watercourse on Rob Bendall's land which is the opposite side of the railway to where we undertook the significant clearance earlier this year.</i></p> <p><i>We are also carrying out significant works on the Plummers Brook in the same location which will dramatically reduce the flood risk to all properties on Cookson Terrace. Mr Bendall has been incredibly supportive and we are thankful for everything he is allowing us to do here.</i></p> <p><i>The natural flood management project with Forestry England is still ongoing, we are looking to reconnect a significant area of floodplain between Parkend and Whitecroft in February.</i></p> <p><b>END.</b></p>	

	<p>Various discussions occurred stemming from the submitted report.</p> <p><b>In Summary:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The new development near Par Four Lane is locally referred to as <i>High Lydney</i> or the <i>Oakdale area</i>.</li> <li>• AT noted that, in line with JB's report, work is being carried out by Cambourne Place. Clearance and culvert works have been completed and are now fully operational.</li> <li>• Additional clearance work has also taken place behind 30 Lakeside Avenue, just before the bus lanes.</li> <li>• Regarding the Bat Houses, the property owners could not be located as the company reportedly went into administration around 8–10 years ago. <b>CH will attempt to trace the former company's details.</b></li> <li>• NC confirmed that flood clearance has been completed along the stretch from Lakeside Avenue to the canal area.</li> <li>• TS reported that she and other councillors participated in a door-knocking exercise with the Environment Agency (EA) and FoDDC to engage residents affected by flooding. This took place on Tuesday, 2nd September, as part of the Rapid Response Catchment Areas (Lakeside Door Knocking) initiative. Several residents expressed relief that the relevant green (rear) areas had been cleared.</li> <li>• AT reiterated the significant amount of flood alleviation work already completed, noting that it remains an ongoing effort. He added that FoDDC and GCC continue to explore ways of developing good practice in this area.</li> </ul> <p>The Chairman thanked all those involved and commented that it was encouraging to see the work of GCC and FoDDC benefiting Lydney residents, along with the continued efforts of the councillors. The residents recognise the work that is being undertaken.</p>	CH
6.	<b>AGENCY REPORTS</b>	
	<p><b>A. Environment Agency</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The EA thanked the participants of the Rapid Response Catchment Areas (Lakeside Door Knocking) initiative in September.</li> <li>• <b>From the conversation with residents it is was clear that certain residents were unfamiliar with the Flood Warning Service, and as a result the EA will be taking this forward, as an on-going action.</b></li> <li>• NM from the EA is part of the Rapid Response Catchment/Flood Warning Service team and will seek to assist in informing residents further.</li> </ul>	EA NM



## **B. Severn Trent**

SK reported that there are currently 10 schemes across the region, including one in Lydney.

An allocation of £2.5 million has been made for the Lydney project, with up to £3 million available. This funding will support work on infrastructure to accommodate future growth, based on various modelling exercises. All funds must be spent by 2030.

There are partnership considerations, and Severn Trent's work must align with that of other partners to ensure consistency and avoid conflicts. While partners are not required to make financial contributions, their work should be complementary.

Severn Trent also aims to enhance the funding, with part of their remit focusing on diverting surface water away from the sewer network.

SK provided the following updates:

- Installation of new storage tanks is underway.
- Three sewer overflows in Lydney will be developed.
- Future growth in Lydney has been factored into the planning.
- 36 solutions have been developed to date, with five more planned for implementation.
- The Watts Group has met with Severn Trent representatives, and the work has been signed off by SK to deliver an interim scheme.
- Further schemes are scheduled for development from April 2026 onwards, in partnership with the Watts Group.

## **C. FoDDC**

At the previous meeting, Cllr Bob Freshwater raised an issue concerning a bridge near Forest Road, located just beyond Norchard Railway Station, close to Norchard Cottages.

AT subsequently visited the site and confirmed that the necessary work has been completed. Similarly, at the Legacy Stonebridge, water is flowing freely and there are no apparent issues.

AT noted that he remains in regular contact with Lakeside residents, both directly and through RC, as well as with JB at GCC, with whom work is ongoing.

	<p>AT summarised the following updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigatory work is currently being undertaken at Crumps Farm.</li> <li>• UBICO are actively clearing sections of Crumps Farm and are making good progress in their efforts.</li> <li>• In the Lower Field of Crumps Farm, works have been completed in collaboration with JB and GCC.</li> <li>• FoDDC and GCC continue to work jointly on actions relating to combined sewers and surface water management.</li> </ul> <p>AB provided an update on Station Road:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In July 2025, the Environment Agency (EA) Asset Team visited Station Road with AB and local partners for a guided site tour.</li> <li>• A number of actions were identified for the EA during that visit; however, no follow-up information has yet been received by partner agencies regarding any planned EA work.</li> <li>• <b>The EA will liaise with their Asset Team to ensure that appropriate contact details are provided to AB for further coordination.</b></li> </ul> <p>AM commented that Norchard could have been impacted by the cutting back of trees  <b>AT to have a look into this.</b></p> <p>AT commented that one of his roles was to ensure that the Pre Development Run Off Rate is effectively managed:-  Meaning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stormwater from the developed site is controlled and released at rates no higher than pre-development levels,</li> <li>• Through engineered and natural systems that store, infiltrate, or slowly release water,</li> <li>• Preventing flooding, erosion, and downstream impacts.</li> </ul> <p>Discussions centred around Schedule 3 of the Flood &amp; Water Management Act 2010 and sustainable drainage <a href="#">Flood and Water Management Act 2010</a></p> <p><b>SCHEDULE 3</b>  <b>SUSTAINABLE DRAINAGE</b>  <b>“Drainage system”</b></p> <p><i>1(1) In this Schedule “drainage system” means a structure designed to receive rainwater except—</i></p> <p><i>(a) a public sewer, or</i></p> <p><i>(b) a natural watercourse.</i></p>	<p>EA</p> <p>AT</p>
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	<p>(2) <i>The reference to a structure includes a reference to—</i></p> <p>(a) <i>any part of an existing or proposed structure, and</i></p> <p>(b) <i>any feature or aspect of a design that is intended to receive or facilitate the receipt of rainwater.</i></p> <p>(3) <i>“Public sewer” has the meaning given by section 219(1) of the Water Industry Act 1991.</i></p> <p>(4) <i>“Natural watercourse” means a river or stream.</i></p> <p><b>D. Highways Maintenance Programme</b></p> <p>NC provided an update on several areas of work currently being undertaken by GCC Highways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primrose Hill – Resurfacing work is being scheduled.</li> <li>• Drainage – Drains have been cleared from Primrose Hill to Springfield Road and Spring Meadow Road (under the chapel).</li> <li>• Bargain Booze area – Preventative maintenance is planned for January/February 2026. A pipe located under the building will be diverted from the combined sewer to a GCC sewer within Newerne Street Car Park. No road closure is expected for this work. Other businesses on the same block (e.g. Kaplan’s) are on a separate system, so no remedial work is required.</li> <li>• Taurus Craft Roundabout – The works completed earlier this year appear to be effective in reducing surface water.</li> </ul> <p><b>E. LTC Data/Report consolidation</b></p> <p>None</p>	
7.	<b>STAKEHOLDER GROUP UPDATES:</b>	
	<p><b>A. Residents</b></p> <p>None</p> <p><b>B. Business Groups</b></p> <p>AB thanked SK and Severn Trent, alongside GCC for their work. He is still waiting to hear an update from the EA on maintenance. EA to follow up</p>	EA

	<p><b>C. Environmental</b></p> <p>None</p> <p><b>D. Other Parties Present</b></p> <p>NC clarified that the East Marsh works involve a <i>flow restrictor</i>, which allows water to collect in the area and then gradually drain through a restrictor located beneath the railway. This design ensures that water trickles away slowly without overloading the canal system.</p> <p>JB is liaising with railway personnel to facilitate the implementation of this measure.</p> <p>Plummers Brook and Bendall’s are included in the ongoing works, as outlined in JB’s report.</p> <p>Note: A flow restrictor limits how quickly water can move through a system — for example, from a drainage area, pond, or marsh into a canal, river, or sewer. This helps to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Prevent flooding</b> downstream by slowing the discharge of water during heavy rainfall.</li> <li>• <b>Reduce erosion</b> by avoiding sudden surges of fast-moving water.</li> <li>• <b>Protect infrastructure</b> such as canals, culverts, and drainage systems from being overwhelmed.</li> </ul> <p>AM asked about the EA desilting the river. TS mentioned that she and others have a meeting with the Harbour Advisory Group within the next 2 weeks and this and other queries will be raised at that meeting.</p>	TS
8.	<p><b>CORRESPONDENCE &amp; A.O.B.</b></p> <p>None</p>	
9.	<p><b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING:</b></p>	
	<p>The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and for their contributions.</p> <p><b>Date of NEXT Meeting</b>  <b>TBA – February / March 2026; Time: TBC; Venue: Lydney Town Council, Council Chambers</b></p> <p><b>Following the meeting ending: The next meeting will be held:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Date: Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2026</b></li> <li>• <b>Time: 1.30pm</b></li> <li>• <b>Venue: Council Offices</b></li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Meeting ended 2.35pm</b></p>	