

FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT

BOVERTON

MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 6TH FEBRUARY 2014 @ 4:00 P.M.

BOVERTON CASTLE PUBLIC HOUSE, LLANTWIT MAJOR

Attendees:

Miles Punter	(MEP)	Director of Visible Services
Councillor Gwyn John	(GJ)	Elected Member
Councillor Rob Curtis	(RC)	Elected Member
Kerry Keirle	(KK)	Welsh Government
Phil Pickersgill	(PP)	Natural Resources Wales
Richard Wicks	(RW)	Natural Resources Wales
George Baker	(GB)	Jeremy Ben Associates
Colin Bright	(CB)	Vale of Glamorgan Council
Clive Moon	(CM)	Vale of Glamorgan Council
Tamsin Robbins-Hill	(TRH)	Vale of Glamorgan Council

Notes taken by Jane Hobbs

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1. MEP opened the meeting by thanking all for their attendance and gave Jane Hutt's apologies as she was unable to attend. Officers introduced themselves to the residents present. A resident stated that Alun Cairns MP had been delayed due to transport difficulties but was hoping to attend. (Alun Cairns arrived later).
 2. MEP recapped and explained about the fixing of the Council's contributions financially and proceeded to hand over to PP.
 3. PP provided an update and stated that the timescale of the model being available was discussed before Christmas 2013 and a decision was taken to offer the community a chance to see the model. Today's meeting is an opportunity for NRW to show the full modelling process to residents. Funding - £250k in the pot from Vale of Glamorgan Council and the rest has to be obtained from NRW. PP stressed that the complete picture needs to be taken into account and that funding from NRW will require a project to be costed before it can be added to a programme. As far as delivery of the project, Vale of Glamorgan Council and NRW will decide once full funding is obtained. PP

understood the frustration of the residents and thanked them for their patience.

4. GB gave his presentation and went through the study objectives relating to the model.
5. Mr O'Shea asked for clarification as to whether the purple on the plan related to 1m or 1m+. GB confirmed it represented 1m+ and would welcome any further information to improve / aide the model.
6. There was a request for an option of an Irish Bridge to be considered from a resident.
7. Councillor Curtis asked whether climate change had been taken into account. GB stated that the 1 in 100 flow estimate is 9.3, climate change would typically add 20% to the flow estimate.
8. MEP stated that he understood the residents' dispute concerning levels and suggested that a small group of residents who have evidenced the levels could meet with the NRW and the Consultants, in turn allowing the known levels to be re-surveyed.
9. Mr O'Shea asked where the level is taken from. PP stated from OS data levels along with GPS levels.
10. With regard to the level of the channel a question was posed as to the possibility of dredging the brook comparing the problems at Boverton with those being experienced in Somerset. GB stated that he had not looked at that option. PP stated that dredging was associated with the velocity of water going down the river and that with the Somerset levels the riverbed is flat and therefore not the same as that at Boverton as it has a fast flowing river. PP stated that nature will always return the river bed back to its natural river.
11. MEP asked PP that with regard to the accuracy of the levels, how was the best way to move forward as it was important that residents have confidence in the model. PP stated that Mr O'Shea has reference points in his property of the river levels and it was possible to GPS the levels in and survey accordingly. GB stated that he would welcome all additional information which residents could provide.
12. Mr O'Shea asked if GB had been asked to prepare options. GB stated he had been asked to test options and would now be sitting down with Vale of Glamorgan Council to look at those options in more detail.
13. Mr O'Shea asked if a report had been offered to GB from insurance companies dating back to 1998. MEP stated that the Vale of Glamorgan Council had not been allowed to disclose the information from the Allitt Report to which Mr O'Shea was referring due to intellectual property concerns.

14. MEP asked again whether a small group of residents could meet with PP's Consultant to provide / update information concerning the model. Mr O'Shea confirmed that he was happy to provide anything in his possession which would help the process.
15. Councillor John stressed the importance of getting the model right once and for all. He stated that this had gone on too long with the residents suffering and a solution was needed.
16. A resident stated that he had spent 5 weeks trying to obtain insurance for his business in Boverton and asked if any short term solutions would give him some protection i.e. and Irish bridge or dredging. PP stated that residents at risk had all been provided with individual property protection. Mr O'Shea raised his concerns that an Irish bridge would protect shops but not domestic properties. PP stressed the importance of learning how to put in individual protection properly and that his staff were happy to meet with any resident who required further guidance in installing / erecting their flood protection barrier.
17. A resident stated that his property had also been flooded from under the floors as well as from the river. PP stated that as far as any flooding associated with the water table there is nothing the NRW can do and that even if the Culvert was to be replaced it wouldn't have much, if any, affect on ground water levels.
18. A resident asked whether, when the survey work was done, anyone went into the Culvert. GB stated that nobody went inside the culvert but was confident that the performance of the culvert matches up with the flow gauge upstream and was also confident that the capacity of the culvert is correct.
19. A resident stated that after the 1998 floods he went inside the culvert and it seemed that the bedrock of the river was quite solid and didn't find any silt. It was agreed that there was only a certain amount of water the culvert can take.
20. MEP asked for a suggested timescale to finalise the model and to take into account the comments / evidence raised today. PP looking to GPS levels, either from the NRW or JBA Consultants. GB suggested he could incorporate the additional information into the model within 10 days to 2 weeks, this would allow him to collect information on flood levels etc. The model can then be refined accordingly. MEP requested names of people prepared to work with JBA.
21. PP stated that the culvert will have to be changed in some way and that they were now looking at how to best manage the issue.
22. GB stated that they were testing options in outline at the moment.

23. Mr O'Shea asked when the next meeting would be held to show residents the options. PP confirmed that the options would be available by the end of March 2014.
24. Mrs O'Shea raised her concerns that if there was no additional funding available the model would be a pointless exercise. PP reassured residents that the funding was on the books of the NRW's Capital programme and that the NRW looked at the Community Risk Register when looking at the availability of funding. PP stated that he was hoping that it wouldn't take a lot of money in capital terms to fix the problem. PP confirmed that Boverton was highlighted in the programme but required options / modelling in order to secure the funding. Mr O'Shea stated that at the previous meeting in July 2013 Boverton were within the top 10 and asked for confirmation that it was now in the top 5. PP confirmed Boverton would not drop out of the list.
25. A resident asked whether, instead of an Irish bridge could just 1 wall be taken down as this shouldn't affect residents downstream. PP stated that Boverton sits in a bowl and was not convinced that this was an answer as all roads lead to the bowl and that is where the water naturally ends up. MEP stated that there was no harm in testing the idea as part of the options exercise. CB stated that it was important that they still had to look at the safety of the highway user. MEP stated that nothing can be done until the model has been agreed. PP reminded all that the flood risk can be reduced by putting in flood defences. GB stated that there are some insurers who will insure.
26. MEP reminded all that the purpose of the future meeting was to come up with a solution and hoped to meet shortly with an agreed option.
27. Mr O'Shea agreed to be a contact point for the NRW to help with further information for the model.
28. It was agreed that the next meeting would take place at the end of March.
29. PP asked that if residents required answers to queries could they please request them from him directly and he would be happy to respond.
30. PP stated that Welsh Government allocated NRW its funding but is not directly involved in the NRW's flood defence improvement programme.
31. MEP thanked KK from Welsh Government for attending today's meeting.
32. Meeting closed