

NOTES OF THE FIRST MULTI-AGENCY MEETING AND AGREED ACTIONS

The Feathers Hotel, Ludlow, 5.00 pm Tuesday 28 February, 2017

AGENCY AND ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATION AS FOLLOWS:

Present:

Environment Agency:	James Turner
Ludlow Town Council:	Cllr Diane Lyle
Ludlow Town Council:	Cllr Jim Smithers
National Flood Forum	Thomasin Sayers
Severn Rivers Trust:	Ieuan Davies
Severn Trent Water:	Jason Phillips
Severn Trent Water:	Joe Plimmer
Shropshire Council Highways:	Andy Keyland
SC Flood & Water Management Team:	Rhian Townsend
Shropshire Council:	Cllr Andy Boddington
Teme Weirs Trust:	David Riley

Apologies for absence:

Shropshire Wildlife Trust:	Luke Neal
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LUDLOW FLOOD ACTION GROUP (LFAG) AND FRIENDS OF THE CORVE AND TEME (FCT)

Present:

Alan Stewart	LFAG
Angus Marshall	LFAG
Dr Val Klein	LFAG
Katarina Nilsson	LFAG
Thomasin Sayers	National Flood Forum
Paul Weeden	FCT
Rosemary Wood	FCT
Ewart Carson	LFAG
John Smithson	FCT
Richard Eastwood	FCT

Apologies for absence:

Chris and Judy Bradley

LFAG

Paul and Jean Hasalm Fox

Lower Mill Street

Michael Chesshire

LFAG

Daphne Jones

Teme Weirs Trust

Mike Wake

LFAG

Penny Wake

LFAG

NOTES OF THE FIRST MULTI-AGENCY MEETING AGREED ACTIONS MARKED IN RED

2	<p>We are concerned about the amount of water coming off the floodplain behind Lower Corve Street.</p> <p>a) Who is responsible for maintaining this area?</p> <p>b) Is the culvert alongside of sufficient capacity and in working order?</p> <p>c) Can the water be stopped from surcharging through gullies in Lower Corve St?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landowner is responsible for the culvert and ensuring a free flow of water • Highways check that there is no debris under the arches • Highways check the culverts regularly (Andy Keyland) • Highways responsible for the bridges, which are inspected every three years • Contact: Deb Shropshire Council - Debbie Lloyd, Technical Administrator, Bridges and... 01743 254 989 debra.lloyd@shropshire.gov.uk • Andy is based in Craven Arms and is readily accessible • Ieuan (Severn Rivers Trust) is in contact with the owner of this land: he is willing to liaise should there be any need for discussion • Fencing, although necessary, could cause problems re obstructions: Rhian and Andy will liaise
3	<p>Who would we speak to about the flood relief channel in Coronation Avenue being redesigned to make it more effective?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Environment Agency's main role is reactive, but if changes were considered necessary, i.e. can the arches cope and is the channel as effective as it could be? , the EAg (James) would have to bid for money to assess this. The Corve is already modelled, so a decision is needed to see if this is viable

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The landowner has a duty not to obstruct, but may not have a responsibility to clear the vegetation and silt. James will report back to us next week re whose responsibility it is • Highways has a responsibility for clearing silt: e.g, after an event or on or under a bridge. • Could we ask for clarification as to how far this responsibility extends and at what stage is Highways liable?
4	<p>We would like to know whose responsibility it is to ensure obstructions in water flows are cleared and how do we contact them?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsibility rests with the landowner where a main river is concerned (the Corve and Teme are main rivers) • Where possible, and in accordance with H&S, smaller items should be cleared by the landowner • However, the EA has permissive powers, i.e. no legal obligation and just this once, and could consider clearing obstructions • Always contact the EA where there is a potential flood risk from large obstructions. • Contact numbers are in the brochure, <i>“living on the edge”</i> - essential reading for any Riparian owner • FCT will ensure this info is on its website www.f-c-t.org.uk and will publicize the document • The Environment Agency will regard anything which relates to flooding as its responsibility, including pinch points and weirs. Anything smaller than a weir would not be regarded as priority • The EA is not responsible for the removal of animal carcasses • Natural processes in a river should be observed: for instance, self-made islands may appear hazardous, but they may also ‘sort themselves out’ as they move with the water • The Bread Walk on Whitcliffe may present a problem with trees • The Environment Agency runs ‘vegetation clinics’ – could we ask ‘for what purpose, where and when?’

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EA will look at trees growing on islands in case they are diseased
5	We are concerned about objects on floodplains and in watercourses which may wash down and cause blockages. Can we have some support and advice as to how to raise awareness about this?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As above, really. Utilise “living on the edge” • Riparian owners have responsibilities
6	Could we know who is responsible for the gully maintenance in our area and the maintenance schedule?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with Highways – gully maintenance is carried out once a year • If we want to be on a ‘hot spot’ list – contact Andy (and gravel....) • Liaise with Andy re mapping hot spots – this is a two-way effort • Andy will let us have relevant maps by the end of the next meeting (Tuesday 23 May, 5.00 pm, Queen Elizabeth Room, Feathers Hotel) – they may not be up to date • Cllr Smithers mentioned work undertaken by Friends of the Linney, i.e. water level monitors which use WiFi – we need to investigate
7	Could we also know of any problem areas which may have been identified by the agencies and authorities?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jason from Severn Trent mentioned two bungalows which flooded internally at Whitefriars. Severn Trent and Highways will be undertaking work on these soon • There is surface water going down Livesey and Julian Roads • There is an infiltration study taking place around the whole of Ludlow, including: Fishmore; Corve; Linney; Temeside

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The aim is to remove surface water and improve the size of the sewer – Jason will send us more information • Quarry Garden, Greenacres, Temeside and Lower Corve were also areas of ‘surface water’. • Richard Bennett works with Andy, and we may liaise with him as well over the coming months • There appear to be problems with sewage in Steventon New Road and Greenacres. • SINCE THE MEETING, A RESIDENT HAS ASKED US TO LOOK AT SEWAGE/SINK HOLE PROBLEMS IN JULIAN ROAD • The proposed Foldgate development needs to be monitored (as do all the proposed planning applications in Ludford and Ludlow) • Monitoring developments to ensure that SuDs plans are implemented as designed is key. Local people are often well placed to do this. Shropshire Flood Team is not able to undertake this monitoring.
8	<p>Could we have dated maps showing:</p> <p>a) the gullies in the area?</p> <p>b) the surface water and sewerage network in the area?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FCT/LFAG members should identify problems, record them and notify Highways and Severn Trent • Sewage and water drainage in Ludlow is mostly a combined system, and there is a series of overflows • <i>Could we clarify the above: Are these storm relief overflows into the river or are these areas where the capacity is inadequate and therefore the drains surcharge?</i> • Severn Trent (Jason) will give us maps if we specify what we want, but we may have to pay for them • We can view them at no cost at Shirehall – contact Rhian
9	<p>There are several ‘islands’ in the middle of the Teme behind the gardens of houses on Lower Mill</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural processes in a river should be observed: for instance, self-made islands may appear hazardous, but they may also ‘sort themselves out’ as they move with the water. <i>(Rivers erode channel and banks at high flows but deposit material as these flows reduce. Most changes in rivers occur during floods.)</i>

	Street, where trees have been growing. Who would we speak to about these trees being removed?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is possible that the Environment Agency may regard self-growing vegetation as a problem which would eventually 'design itself out' • James agreed to walk the course with others and judge for himself
10	There is a drain which takes the water from the Corve bridge which is very overgrown. Could this be cleared or reinstated?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • James, Rhian and Andy would look at this during the site visit which takes place on Tuesday 4 April. • Paul is co-ordinating this: please contact him for further information.
11	Could the land mass on both sides under the archway of the Lower Corve Bridge be dug out?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was suggested that if the silt under these arches was cleared, a model would be needed to assess the speed and direction of the water, i.e. it could result in houses in Lower Corve Street being flooded more quickly! • James, Rhian and Andy would look at this during the site visit on Tuesday 4 April • They would then discuss the possibility of commissioning a model (see 3) • Regard should also be given to properties at Fishmore Brook and Mayfields, which could be affected if the water should back up
12	What are the ways in which a riparian landowner can maintain their land to slow the flow of flooding downstream?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everything already suggested needs to be considered in the context of 'Slow the Flow' work commissioned by Shropshire Council and undertaken by Shropshire Wildlife Trust as this may smooth out peak flows through Ludlow • Work has focused on Corvedale, Diddlebury and Culmington so far. • More money is becoming available for an integrated plan for the Ludlow catchment. • Luke Neal has replaced Helen Campbell at Shropshire Wildlife. He was unable to be present on 28 February, and a separate meeting will be arranged to learn exactly what is already happening and what is proposed.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The site visit should include Slow the Flow possibilities within the Ludlow area
13	<p>Would it be possible to extend the 'Shropshire Slow the Flow' project to Ludlow?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See above • Severn Rivers Trust is integrating with farmers, developers and landowners in the uplands of the River Teme. This should impact on Ludlow • Ieuan will provide further information, and introduce FCT to relevant contacts of the Severn Rivers Trust (NB: John Smithson is an FCT committee member and also a Director of SRT) • James also mentioned significant interaction with landowners and farmers - their interests are very relevant to reducing the impact of flooding • Mapping is a useful tool here, as is identifying the Riparian landowners
14	<p>Is there any help/advice/support available to private householders looking to protect their property? Is there funding available for this?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shropshire Flood Team provide a FREE FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT for homes at risk, and offer advice about RESILIENCE MEASURES which can be undertaken, IMPLEMENTATION is the responsibility of the home owner. FCT will publicise this service. • Wider protection can be bid for through the Flood Defence Grant Aid, which are medium or long term plans. Shropshire Council could apply for funding if FCT put together a group plan. This would entail identifying properties or areas at risk • Rhian and James will let FCT have information regarding possible bids for funding from the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee: this could require additional local funding • <i>*LFAG member, Angus Marshall, will liaise with Rhian and James.</i>
15	<p>How much funding is available to address flooding issues locally and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See above

	how do we access it?	
16	Due to development in the area, is there any Community Infrastructure Levy which could be used towards alleviating flood risk?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr David Riley said Ludford Parish Council had already applied for CIL money. • Further research needs to be undertaken if a case is to be made. • CIL money cannot be used for an existing flooding problem – only for exacerbated risk from new developments
17	Could flood protection products be stored somewhere locally for the community to use in a flood event?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandbags are not ideal, especially when Highways are asked to take them back! They are heavy, unwieldy and often less effective. • <i>ADDITIONALLY, Resilience measures for individual households need to be investigated further and FCT should be able to provide information about them and encourage householders to have a personal action plan</i> • <i>Local Support Networks for the implementation of individual plans are required, especially for vulnerable households</i>
18	Are the £5k resilience grants available to residents in Ludlow, and are the free property surveys still available to look at using Property Level Resilience?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No • Yes
19	Who is consulted about development proposals in the area and who are the main respondents? a) What conditions are made on planning applications? b) What powers do the agencies/authorities have to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ludlow Town Council makes a decision but is only an advisory committee • Shropshire Council has the final say • FCT should ensure copies of all planning objections are copied to the Environment Agency (James), Shropshire Council (Rhian) and Ludlow Town Councillors and the Town Clerk

	<p>ensure that flood risk is considered in a new development?</p> <p>c) What powers do the authorities have if these conditions are not adhered to?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SuDs is very relevant, as is ensuring developers keep their promises • Shifnall Flood Partnership is becoming a consultee for everything to do with planning • See comment from Bob Haddon, Chairman of Shifnall Flood Partnership Group: • <i>“Re becoming a Statutory Consultee for Planning we are unable to mainly due to the government guide lines which will not allow it and specifically states who can. However the next best thing we believe is to try and become the lead on flooding issues for Shifnal Town Council who are Statutory Consultees for Planning and will keep us informed on all planning issues.”</i> • What should FCT do to become the lead on Flooding Issues for Ludlow Town Council?
20	<p>We are aware that there are level and rainfall gauges upstream of Ludlow. How do these correlate with the river levels in Ludlow itself?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with Slow the Flow and the Environment Agency about the data that is available within the catchment
21	<p>Can we have some contact names and numbers (at least 2 for each agency) for use in the event of a flood?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coming
22	<p>Can you suggest any Flood Action Plans which you have been involved with that work particularly well (to save us reinventing the wheel)?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Much Wenlock Resilience Plan
	<p>DATE OF NEXT MULTI-AGENCY MEETING</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5.00 pm, Tuesday 23 May, 2017, the Queen Elizabeth Room, Feathers Hotel, Ludlow

STEPS TO BE IMPLEMENTED AS A RESULT OF THIS FIRST MULTI-AGENCY MEETING

1. SITE VISIT, Tuesday 4 April: co-ordinated by Paul Weeden.

To date, the site visit will include:

- Looking at the land mass on both sides under the arches of Corve Bridge and decide if additional modelling is needed
- Viewing the drain behind C Smith's garage in Lower Corve Street, which is overgrown and needs reinstating. The drain was created some years ago to take water from Corve Bridge
- Viewing the fencing on the floodplain behind Lower Corve Street, vis a vis possible obstructions
- Viewing the flood relief channels on the floodplain on Coronation Avenue
- Viewing the 'islands' in the middle of the Teme behind the gardens of houses on Lower Mill Street, where trees have been growing.
- Debris – reported by a Dinham resident after the meeting: there is a large tree in the middle of the river opposite Dinham weir. It is collecting a significant amount of flotsam and jetsam which, should it break away, could block the arches of the bridge.

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Attendees to date: LFAG: Paul Weeden, John Smithson, Katarina Nilsson, Di Lyle

Environment Agency: James Turner

Shropshire Council Flood and Water Management Team: Rhian Townsend

Shropshire Highways: Andy Keyland

Please let Paul know if you wish to walk this course, or if there are additional areas of concern – p.weeden62@gmail.com

2. SEVERN TRENT

- Jason will send us information on the Infiltration Study of Ludlow, and will also send us maps wherever possible
- Since the meeting, a resident has asked us to look at sewage/sink hole problems in Julian Road

3 MAPPING OF GULLIES

- Andy will let us have relevant maps by the end of the next meeting (Tuesday 23 May, 5.00 pm, Queen Elizabeth Room, Feathers Hotel) – they may not be up to date

4 SLOW THE FLOW

- Luke Neal has replaced Helen Campbell at Shropshire Wildlife. He was unable to be present on 28 February, and a separate meeting will be arranged to learn exactly what is already happening and what is proposed.
 - The Site Visit should include Slow the Flow – Thomasin will invite Luke to join us on the site visit on Tuesday 4 April
 - Liaise with Ieuan from Severn Rivers Trust, who will provide further information re Slow the Flow, and introduce FCT to relevant contacts of the Severn Rivers Trust (NB: John Smithson is an FCT committee member and also a Director of SRT)

5. POSSIBLE FUNDING FOR LOCAL FLOOD DEFENCES

- Flood Defence Grant Aid – medium or long term plan
 - CIL AID
- Shropshire Council and FCT to liaise re the possibility of Shropshire Council applying for funding if FCT put together a group plan. This would entail identifying properties or areas at risk
- **LFAG member, Angus Marshall, will liaise with Rhian and James.*

6. THINGS FOR FCT TO DO

- FCT will ensure contact details and information contained in the EA brochure, “Living on the Edge” is posted on its website www.f-c-t.org.uk and will publicize the document
- FCT will publicize Shropshire Flood Team’s FREE FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT for homes at risk
- FCT will liaise with Andy re mapping gully hot spots – this is a two-way effort : FCT/LFAG members should identify problems, record them and notify Highways and Severn Trent
- Cllr Smithers mentioned work undertaken by Friends of the Linney, i.e. water level monitors which use WiFi – we need to investigate
- FCT should ensure copies of all planning objections are copied to the Environment Agency (James), Shropshire Council (Rhian) and Ludlow Town Councillors and the Town Clerk
- FCT should discover how it could become the lead on Flooding Issues for Ludlow Town Council as Shifnall Flood Partnership Group has done
- FCT should monitor developments to ensure that SUDs plans are implemented.
- FCT should publicize the availability of individual flood resilience surveys
- FCT should investigate alternatives to sandbags
- FCT should work with residents at risk to identify how best to support each other at times of risk

DATE OF NEXT MULTI-AGENCY MEETING

- 5.00 pm, Tuesday 23 May, 2017, the Queen Elizabeth Room, Feathers Hotel, Ludlow