

**Public Meeting held on 24 February 2012 at 1600 at
The Community Centre, High Street, Fairford**

Meeting Notes

Present:

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown (GCB) - Member of Parliament for the Cotswolds
David Fowles (DF) - District Councillor – Portfolio Holder for Environment
Mark Wardle (MW) - District Councillor
Raymond Theodoulou (RT) - District and County Councillor
David McKnight (D McK) - Environment Agency
Laurence King (LK) - Cotswold District Council
Peter Collins (PC) - Environment Agency
David Ludford (DL) - Environment Agency
David Graham (DG) - Gloucestershire County Council
Jennifer Watkins (JW) - Gloucestershire Highways
Huw Thomas (HT) - Thames Water
Tim Beach (TB) - Thames Water
Trevor Hing (TH) – Fairford Town Council
Christine Roberts (CR) – Fairford Town Council

Members of public

1. Welcome from Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP

GCB welcomed all to the meeting and requested attendees complete an attendance list. GCB then invited representatives to introduce themselves.

2. Apologies

No apologies were received.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 July 2011 were agreed, with the amendment that the Town Council was present.

4. Reports from Representatives from the Environment Agency

DMcK said that the project appraisal report with costings was being presented to the Board for approval on Tuesday 28th February 2012. He was confident that the robust report would be approved. *Please see update at end of minutes.*

The measures include bunds at the top of Milton Street, engineering structure at Waterloo Brook, walls around Tap Cottage and White Hart Court and some small embankments at the Challis Mead area. This will give 1 in 100 standard of protection.

5. Reports from County Council/Cotswold District Council/Town Council

DF gave an update with regards to the new engineering structure at the District Council.

Cotswold District Council

LK introduced himself and said that due to the shared working arrangements between Cotswold District Council and West Oxfordshire District Council more resources are now available and more work will be carried out internally to reduce time and costs. LK confirmed that Cotswold District Council supported the Environment Agency's scheme.

Gloucestershire County Council

DG said that the County Council would be the lead local authority as from April 2012 and will be responsible for surface water run-off, ground water, ordinary watercourses and enforcement.

DG said that riparian owners responsibility for maintaining ditches on their land is an important part of reducing flood risks.

Gloucestershire Highways

JW said that the Highways have been carrying out the normal maintenance. The contact number for reporting any issues is 08000 514514.

JW was aware of some concerns regarding gulley emptying in London Road and this was on the highways work programme.

Concerns were raised regarding pooling water on the highway in Milton Street due to the levels of the highway drains. JW said there were no plans to make any alterations.

6. Reports from Thames Water

HT confirmed there been no further flooding incidents since the last meeting; however there had been a blockage in the towns system recently which has been rectified.

If there are any questions for the next meeting that can be sent in advance, more detailed answers can be prepared.

7. Questions

The licence hasn't been granted for works on the Ernest Cook Trust.

The pipe under Groves Place was blocked off, which causes flooding issues.

The Environment Agency will be working in partnership with the other agencies to look at this in the future. The river Coln flooding is being dealt with under the new scheme.

The combined sewer leading to the pumping station has not been upgraded and any further increase in capacity would cause problems and surface water is already a problem. The sewer and pumping station need to be taken into account when new developments are being considered.

HW said that Thames Water are not a statutory consultee with regards to planning applications, however they do send comments to the planning authority when applications are received.

The Town Council is very concerned about future development in the area. RT said that the planning authority do not take into consideration the overall picture.

DMcK said that the river works would help to prevent river water entering the drainage system.

Are all the elements from the Environment Agency's flood report 2008 being incorporated into the proposed scheme?

DMcK said the report was used to form the basis of the report being submitted to the Board next week. The costing of the scheme would be approximately £650k and if approved the detailed design would be completed with construction taking place in the summer. Construction would take approximately 2 months to complete.

Concerns were raised regarding the doctors surgery being flooded which is adjacent to the pump at Back Lane, due to the buildings at Pips Field and Cinder Lane.

DMcK confirmed the Environment Agency impose strict restrictions on developments.

MW raised concerns about the lack of cooperation between the agencies with regards to responding to planning applications.

A comment was made that if sewers cannot cope with a 1 in 20 year event, then planning should automatically be declined.

Will the Environment Agency's scheme help residents get insurance? And will Milton Street be downgraded on the flood risk map?

PC confirmed that the EA flood map is widely used by insurance companies and the scheme would be included on the maps when they are updated in December 2012, which may change the risk factor. If residents required letters for their insurance companies between the completion of the works and the maps being updated the Environment Agency would be happy to supply them.

DMcK said it would be likely that Milton Street would change to hashed-blue, this is reference as an area benefiting from flood defences.

GCB said he had been in discussions with the ABI and would continue to press for changes. See attached correspondence.

The flood map is a hindrance as not all houses in the marked areas had been flooded.

PC said that this can be a challenge for householders. DMcK said that the maps show risks for 1 in 100 and 1 in 1000 year events, so the house maybe at risk although it has not flooded to date.

Why is it taking so long to obtain the funding?

It is a very time consuming process and they need to show what is the river flood risk. The report has to be robust to be authorised by the board. A copy of the Board's decision will be attached to the minutes.

RT said the £200k from the County Council is ring-fenced. DF and TH also confirmed that the funding from the District Council and Town Council is also ring-fenced. PC said that unfortunately it does take a considerable amount of time to implement schemes.

What impact will the defences have on the Courtbrook area?

Approximately 10 properties will be getting some property level protection, which has been costed as part of the scheme. Residents will be notified once the details have been agreed. Christine Roberts said that these measures will not stop all flooding but would prevent future river flooding.

A comment was made that the Courtbrook had flooded for years and again concerns were raised regarding the planning system.

The gulleys in Milton Street are now at the wrong height since the resurfacing.
JW agreed to look into this.

Several comments were made regarding planning being granted for lake 104 and that the houses are 6/7 bedrooms yet modelling was only done on an average of 2.4 occupants.

GCB said he would write to the Leader and Chief Executive of Cotswold District Council regarding all the planning concerns and would request that the Head of Planning attends the next meeting.

Mr McDermott is currently maintaining the Waterloo watercourse by his property where silt is an issue, the silt being washed through the Waterloo culvert from upstream.

JW agreed to visit Mr McDermott to discuss whether Glos Highways has any riparian responsibilities.

8. Close and Date of Next Meeting

Residents requested a further meeting take place and it was diarised for Friday 19 October 2012.

GCB asked if the Town Council would be happy to publish the agenda and the minutes on their website, which was agreed.

TH thanked DMcK for his work and for making rapid progress since being involved.

GCB thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Update from David McKnight Re: Fairford Flood Alleviation Scheme
Dated: 29 February 2012

Good morning all,

I am pleased to inform you that yesterday our Board approved the Fairford Project Appraisal Report (PAR). Now that funding has been approved we will mobilise the project delivery team and commence with detailed design.

Please feel free to pass this good news to anyone I have missed of the email list.

Kind regards
David

David McKnight IEng C.WEM MCIWEM C,Env
Technical Specialist - Flood Risk Management