

## **Bewdley Town Council Flood Defences Update July 6<sup>th</sup> 2020**

Report to Full Council (Zoom held Remotely) 7.00 p.m. 6<sup>th</sup> July

### **Wyre Forest District Council**

An initial motion was put to Wyre Forest District Council on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2020 thanking the many agencies and volunteers who had and were at that point still supporting the community in the ongoing flooding events.

Part (d) of the motion was that the Council:

“Refers the issues arising from this and the ongoing current flooding events to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for it to take evidence from relevant bodies including the Environment Agency, with a view to making recommendations no later than the Council’s meeting in July 2020 on lessons to be learned and what case can be made to the Government for permanent flood protection arrangements at Beale’s Corner.”

Due to the Corvid -19 Pandemic and “Lockdown” the District Council remote meeting 13<sup>th</sup> May agreed a revised timetable for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to gather evidence from relevant bodies and report back to Council. The Council agreed “An extension to September 2020, to the deadline for the Committee to report back about the flooding issues, and any earlier relevant information from the Environment Agency to be provided in an interim report to July 2020 Council.”

On 11<sup>th</sup> June 2020 the Overview and Scrutiny Committee WFDC received a briefing paper agenda Item 6. Consideration of the Flooding motion from Council, “To consider a briefing paper from the Chief Executive.” Agenda Item 6. Following this briefing a timetable was agreed to receive evidence to be able to report back to Full Council in September 2020.

The Timetable agreed on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2020.

**25<sup>th</sup> June 2020 Special Overview and Scrutiny Committee.** Item 4. Consideration of the Flooding motion from Council – Evidence Gathering from the Environment Agency.

“To receive a report from Dave Throup, Area Manager Herefordshire and Worcestershire and Charles Chandler, West Midlands Strategic Flood Recovery Manager. “

A comprehensive 34 page report is available from this meeting. This report includes valuable information about the flood events of February 2020. 2. flood forecasting , responsibilities, 3. deployment of barriers in February, 4. Property flood resilience measures at Beale’s Corner, 5. flood risk government funding mechanism , 6. Options for a permanent scheme for Beales Corner and 7. Lessons learnt “

**2<sup>nd</sup> July 2020 Agenda Overview and Scrutiny Committee.** Item 5: Consideration of the flooding motion from Council – Evidence Gathering from Worcestershire County Council, West Mercia Police, Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service and Severn Trent.

**3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020 Overview & Scrutiny Committee** – Evidence Gathering from Residents and the Community including Wribbenhall Flood Group and Bewdley Town Council Community Flood Volunteers Group. Press release 18<sup>th</sup> June 2020.

<https://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/news/2020-news/june-2020/council-launches-investigation-into-flooding-caused-by-storms-ciara-and-dennis.aspx>

**“Council launches investigation into flooding caused by Storms Ciara and Dennis 18 June 2020”**

*“Any residents and businesses affected by flooding are also being asked to come forward to talk through their experiences at a meeting on Thursday 3 September. Requests must be submitted to the council’s democratic services team before midday on Wednesday 19 August by email at [committee.section@wyreforestdc.gov.uk](mailto:committee.section@wyreforestdc.gov.uk).”*

**23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020 Full Council. Overview and Scrutiny, “Committee to report back about the flooding issues,”**

**Bewdley Town Council Community Flood Volunteers Group -Action June Update.**

The local Environment Agency team who support the Residents and Council at a local level and during flood events have drafted a newsletter to be distributed to residents in the next few days. A copy will be circulated to Councillors as soon as it is available.

Once the newsletter has been distributed it is proposed that a remote Zoom meeting is held with representatives of the EA to address relevant questions and ongoing concerns residents and flood volunteers may have.

There are also proposals to pilot a private facebook page for the Beales Corner residents and the Bewdley Town Council volunteer team to provide more immediate contact and communications.

The BTC community volunteer group will have a remote meeting with the local EA partners in July date to be confirmed.

A review of local needs during future flood events and the position with the Property Flood Protection scheme feedback will be explored.

Maintenance work on the flood defences at the end of Severn Side South and Gardner’s Meadow commenced on 15<sup>th</sup> June and measures have been put in place to maintain social distancing between the public and the engineers working on the barrier wall.

Report prepared by Cllr C.E. Edginton-White on behalf of Bewdley Town Council. June 29<sup>th</sup> 2020.