

**DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
FLOOD INVESTIGATION  
STAKEHOLDER BRIEFING: 3**

This is the third briefing note summarising progress with the Flood Investigation work being carried out by Denbighshire County Council into the incidents of flooding across Denbighshire on 26/27 November 2012.

There has been a significant gap between the second and third briefing notes, for which apologies. The Investigation Working Group has met several times since the last Briefing note and good progress has been made.

**Progress with Investigations**

As stakeholders will be aware, the Council is working in partnership with Environment Agency Wales and North and Mid Wales Trunk Roads Authority. As a reminder, the purpose of the investigation work is to clarify:

- Why the flooding happened
- How likely it is for that scale of flooding to happen again
- Whether any improvement actions are needed to ensure flood risk in the County is appropriately managed in future

The Working Group is now ready to present the first part of its Investigation Report to Denbighshire County Council at its meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> July. The report is in the process of being finalised and will include findings, conclusions and recommendations for all locations with the exception of Glasdir, Ruthin.

For reference, the locations covered will be:

- St Asaph, including Lower Denbigh Road
- Rhuddlan
- Sarn Lane
- Brookhouse
- Gellifor
- Llanynys
- Llanbedr DC
- Park Place/Mwrog Street/Maes Ffynnon, Ruthin
- Corwen
- Glyndyfrdwy
- Loggerheads

For all locations, the report will set out our understanding of the extent and cause of flooding at each location and will identify if there are any actions that need to be taken to manage flood risk appropriately in the future. Due to the scale of the weather event (between 1 in 100 and 1 in 200 annual probability as reported in the previous briefing note) there may not be recommendations for all locations.

As agreed in the original process, the investigation findings, conclusions and recommendations are currently being reviewed by the Independent Investigators commissioned by the Council. It is anticipated that their review will be complete by the time the Council considers the Investigation Report at its meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> July.

### **Glasdir, Ruthin**

As noted above, the Investigation Report to be presented to Denbighshire County Council at its meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> July will cover all locations with the exception of Glasdir, Ruthin. Due to the complexity of the flooding at that location, the Council commissioned independent experts, Dr Jean Venables and Mr Clive Onions to conduct the investigation into that particular flooding incident.

It has taken much longer than originally anticipated to develop and calibrate the hydrology and flood models for the Glasdir event and this has delayed completion of the investigation work. It has not, therefore, been possible to include findings, conclusions and recommendations for Glasdir in the report for 9<sup>th</sup> July. Good progress is now being made, however, and we hope to have an anticipated completion date confirmed with us by Dr Venables shortly.

Meanwhile, the Working Group has spent considerable time assessing potential interim flood protection measures for the Glasdir estate, but unfortunately without much success to date.

We had previously removed the grilles from the culverts by the bund to maximise flow of water through the culverts in any flooding event. We have also now installed a hard standing platform above the culverts to allow mechanical clearance of any debris should flood water start flowing through the culverts. A telemetry enabled water gauge has also now been installed at the culverts to provide additional early warnings and a comprehensive operational response plan has been prepared.

Despite the Working Group's best efforts, however, we have been unable to identify a suitable interim measure for the bund itself but we are continuing to explore options.

### **Communications**

As noted above, the first part of the Investigation Report will be presented to Denbighshire County Council at its meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> July. The report will be a public document and available from the Council's website for anyone who wishes to read it.

In addition, we will be arranging a drop in session in St Asaph at the request of the residents' representatives, shortly after the Council meeting. A date and venue have yet to be confirmed.

We will arrange a similar session for residents at Glasdir as findings, conclusions and recommendations from Dr Venables' investigation become clear.

Residents at all other locations either have been or will be contacted directly before 9<sup>th</sup> July to ensure they are aware of the investigation findings and recommendations for their own particular flooding.

An interim report was made to the Council's Partnership Scrutiny Committee in April and again the reports for and minutes of that meeting are publicly available on the Council's website.

**Rebecca Maxwell**

**Corporate Director: Economic & Community Ambition**

**Denbighshire County Council**

21<sup>st</sup> June 2013