



CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA
DINAS A SIR ABERTAWE

Councillor Susan Jones
Convener of the Flood Risk
Management Scrutiny Working
Group

BY EMAIL

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29th March 2017

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I dderbyn yr wybodaeth hon mewn fformat arall, cysylltwch â'r person uchod.**

Dear Councillor Jones

Local Flood Risk Management Scrutiny Working Group – 1st March 2017

Thank you for your letter dated 7th March 2017 regarding the views and recommendations expressed in the Local Flood Risk Management Scrutiny Working Group meeting on the 1st March 2017.

You have been advised that the City and County of Swansea, as the Lead Local Flood Authority, had successfully delivered the Flood Risk Management Plan by March 2016 for the cycle 2015 to 2021 to accord with European Floods Directive 2007/60/EC.

I am pleased to hear that you had learnt that the Flood Risk Management Plan has progressed to the development of a list of potential locations where flood risk was deemed significant enough to warrant further examination. The scope of the work was undertaken following conclusions drawn from the Flood Maps and historical information which the Authority had knowledge of from previously reported flooding incidents. You were advised that the programme for assessing prioritised sites has been developed by taking into account the level of the consequences of flooding, which in effect, looks at the risk to people, economic activity and Natural / Historical Environment affected by potential significant flood risk.

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Referring to the recommendations that you have made, I wish to respond by answering the points raised as they have been listed.

Look at whether there is an issue to consider in relation to full underground watercourses

I refer to the point raised in the meeting regarding the responsibility with underground watercourses and in particular to flooding issues which are reported emanating from land where there was a history of old mine workings. Unlike most other areas in South Wales, which was predominantly subjected to mining of significant Coal Measures on a much larger scale, groundwater flooding is more of a problem. In Swansea, the majority of the former coal mining areas are believed to have been fully recovered but the Authority does receive complaints regarding groundwater issues when the water table rises above the level of the ground and causes flooding. Should flooding occur close to entries to old mines i.e. adits and mine shafts, then the Authority will refer the complaint to the Coal Authority to consider taking remedial action. In the majority of cases however, where groundwater flooding occurs without any evidence of any mine entry, then the responsibility will rest with the riparian landowner to resolve. For information I have attached a link to the Coal Board website which has an interactive map that displays all of their assets in Swansea and this is used frequently when dealing with complaints of this nature.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/using-coal-mining-information>

Historically however, there are no records of any groundwater flooding which can be considered to have significant consequences, but there are local problems to which the Authority can offer further advice on how to solve such problems.

Make the prioritised programme of works list available to local ward members and the public.

In reply, to the group's request being made regarding the programme of the works being made available to local ward members and the public: At this stage, I would like to inform the Group that the programme was produced for the intention of informing the Working Group on how the work will progress and to show an indication on the rationale of producing the programme. In order for the programme to be successful however, it will very much be reliant on additional funding and resource being made

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available to procure the planned work. Consequently, although I concur with the group's recommendation, I wish to give this proposal some further deliberation until such time that the additional support has been identified.

In the meantime I have attached a link to the Flood Risk Management Plan which is published on the Authority's website.

<http://www.swansea.gov.uk/floodriskmanagementplan>

Review and update the leaflet that is available to the public on flood risk and include links to appropriate further information and advice on ways that the public can help protect their property from flooding

In reply, I wish to confirm that I concur with the Working Group and the need to review and update the existing flooding leaflet. Consequently, I wish to confirm that I will instruct the Drainage Section to produce an updated flooding leaflet and request the information to be more widely distributed.

To conclude, I wish to acknowledge and thank you for the recommendations of the Scrutiny Working Group and I hope that I have responded to the matters you have raised. Clearly, the production of the Flood Risk Management Plan will be a major challenge for the Authority, but one which we can aspire to deliver by continually seeking funding streams and working closely with all of our partners in the interest of reducing the consequences of flooding to our worst affected communities in Swansea.

.Yours sincerely

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