

**Councillor Peter Jones Convener – Local  
Flood Risk Management  
Scrutiny Working Group**

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*Our Ref:* MT/KH  
*Your Ref:*  
*Date:* 16 November 2018

Dear Councillor Jones

Thank you for your letter from the Scrutiny working Group held on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2018. I note your comments and respond to them in the order they were raised.

We have submitted a response to the Welsh Government consultation on Land Management post Brexit.

With our new Biodiversity Policy, we will be looking at that to ensure that all developments consider planting to enhance our natural environment, and mitigate flooding issues. The Implementation of Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act will also ensure that 'greener solutions' to flood risk management will be maximized as part of any new development.

I, like you, was very impressed with the presentation given by Sion. As yet, he hasn't supplied me with contact details, but I am certainly keen to visit other Authorities that have used nature based solutions to their flooding issues.

I will be looking into whether or not the Authority can legislate on the use of non-permeable materials in domestic gardens.

I will provide an update at the next meeting, on our position with our ambition to employ 4 new members of staff for the delivery of Suds as part of the Authority's new statutory duty to create a SAB approving body.

We will continue to look into developing a consistent approach to maintenance of water courses and gullies across the Authority, with work to be undertaken to ascertain departmental asset ownership and to explore the existing maintenance regimes on assets significant to flood risk.

I will hopefully be able to confirm at your next meeting, that we have added a section titled "Help us prevent flooding " to our web pages.

I hope that I have responded to the points you have raised and look forward to meeting up again in 4-6 months for the annual update.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Thomas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**COUNCILLOR MARK THOMAS  
CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT**