

**TO: Carmarthenshire County Council –**  
Ms Ruth Mullen, Director of the Environment  
**Ceredigion County Council –**  
Rhodri Llwyd, Highways and Environmental Services  
**Natural Resources Wales – Rivers**  
**Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue Services**  
**Welsh Water**

**FROM: Llanybydder Community Council**

**Cc: Cllr. Ieuan Davies, Carmarthenshire County Council (Llanybydder)**  
**Cllr. Euros Davies, Ceredigion County Council (Llanwenog)**

**Re: STORM CALLUM FLOODING at Llanybydder, 13<sup>th</sup> October 2018**

---

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

On the 13<sup>th</sup> October 2018, many homes, properties and businesses were badly damaged by flooding resulting in relocation, temporary accommodation and business disruption caused by Storm Callum.

This was the worst flooding for more than 30 years in Llanybydder, and as a Community Council, feel it our duty to make representations to the County Councils – both Carmarthenshire (of which some 99% of the village is located) and Ceredigion (the River Teifi is the County line) – to ensure the voice of those flood victims is formally recorded.

The primary flooded areas:

- Station Terrace – all properties, including businesses, under at least 3 foot of water and had to be evacuated
- Highmead Dairy/Glanduar – blocked tributary resulting in flooding
- Duar river near Smithfield, Llanybydder – flooding as a result of Natural Resources Wales insisting that tributary should be cow-proofed to protect fish/spawning
- As above, a consequence of planning conditions not being adhered to, raising ground level in lorry park – resident advised that all correspondence regarding this is available for inspection
- Highmead Terrace – road flooded, retaining walls (in parts) saved many of the properties from extensive flooding

The Community Council convened a meeting in Llanybydder Rugby Club on the 4<sup>th</sup> December and invited all those 35 (thirty five) households and businesses who were directly affected to attend to discuss their experiences and concerns, what is being done to repair flood damaged properties and what is needed to avert any future disasters.

In attendance were Cllr Ieuan Davies, Carmarthenshire and Cllr Euros Davies, Ceredigion and Community Councillors: Gary Evans (Chair), Denise Owen, Nerys Morris, Eirig Jones, Arwel Morgan and Beverley Pold and representatives from Llanybydder Village Committee

who were instrumental in raising funds and providing food and financial help to residents. A full list of attendees was taken and available for inspection.

## **PURPOSE OF THIS BRIEFING**

As a result of the meeting of 4<sup>th</sup> December, it was unanimously agreed that an invitation be extended to both County Councils, Natural Resources Wales and other agencies to attend a public meeting, date to be mutually agreed, as soon as possible in the New Year to address the many issues raised by residents and businesses alike.

**KEY ISSUES** which have been raised by the Community and which will form the basis of the public meeting scheduled:

- A flood warning was received for the Teifi in Llanybydder at 13.06 on the 13<sup>th</sup> October at Ceredigion County Council by which time the properties in Station Terrace had been under water for 3 hours
- Being informed by Fire & Rescue services that they could not attend until water was in the houses
- Despite calls to Carmarthenshire County Council (by Nerys Morris) and Ceredigion Council (by Cllr Euros Davies) requesting road closure signs, traffic continued to attempt to drive through floods
- Natural Resources Wales – request for sand-bags was declined and resident told to contact Council or B & Q
- Council lorry turned up with sand-bags too late to be of any benefit
- Natural Resources Wales stated “...they had bigger communities to protect.” And cannot dredge rivers
- County Council telephone numbers were permanently engaged or when they did ring were unanswered
- Carmarthenshire County Council offered support in the week immediately after floods but nothing since
- Re-housing: Many residents, especially Station Terrace, had to find own accommodation as all the properties were devastated and had to be evacuated. Of particular concern was the refusal to house displaced persons in Cwm Aur, the sheltered housing complex in Llanybydder although there were vacancies and despite meeting criteria of being “Over 55”. As Carmarthenshire County Council has a major interest in this complex, surely there could have been some concessions for short-term occupation
- Residents were advised to apply on-line to Carmarthenshire County Council for immediate financial support of £200, but many without internet access have been unable to do so, thus being doubly disadvantaged
- The cost of business disruption – shops and garage and workshops in Station Terrace in particular – run into several hundreds of thousands of pounds
- Residential property insurance claims are, conservatively, in the region of £30 - £40k
- The emotional well-being of residents is now a major concern, especially as they may not be able to return to their homes for many months and are experiencing financial loss as many insurance companies will only cover basic temporary accommodation
- Ceredigion County Council published a Storm Callum Flood Bulletin within a week of the floods, and Council officials visited Highmead Terrace, but no financial support was offered along the lines of Carmarthenshire

## CONCLUDING REMARKS

What was apparent during Storm Callum was the lack of a co-ordinated strategy to deal with extreme conditions and this is something that we feel must be addressed at County level.

Llanybydder Community Council and its residents will be seeking assurances at the Public meeting that a more collaborative approach be taken as a result of our recent experiences and it will be an opportunity for flood victims to present their own particular circumstances and how they are dealing with the aftermath of Storm Callum.

**Finally, the perception of our local community in Llanybydder is that “...we are the last frontier..” due to the complexity of two County Councils serving our communal needs and trust that this public meeting and future actions will go some way to mitigate these concerns.**

In essence, the four key points for discussion at the Public Meeting will be:

- 1 Contingency Planning – is there an Emergency Plan, including how both Counties can over-ride County boundaries – in this case the River Teifi
- 2 Does Natural Resources Wales/River Authority have any plans for the future and how do they anticipate dealing with the River Teifi and its environs in Llanybydder to avert future flooding risk?
- 3 Is there an opportunity for Llanybydder Community Council to have an input into any plans?
- 4 What additional support, including financial, is available to residents and businesses directly affected by the flooding?



Morning, 13<sup>th</sup> October 2018 – beginning of flooding at Station Terrace, Llanbydder



Highmead Terrace, Llanbydder 13<sup>th</sup> October 2018



River Teifi from Highmead Terrace, Llanbydder – 13<sup>th</sup> October 2018 – all properties in Station Terrace Llanbydder flooded after river broke its banks