

Eich cyf / Your ref:

Fy nghyf / My ref:

Dyddiad / Date: 11th March 21

Gofynnwr am / Please ask for: Ruth
Mullen

Llinell Uniongyrchol / Direct Line: 01267 224648

E-bost / E-
mail: rmullen@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Beverley Pond,
Llanybydder and Rhydcymerau Community Council
Castle Green
Bryn Road
Lampeter
SA48 7EF

Dear Beverly Pond,

Flood Risk at Llanybydder

Thank you for your letter dated 12 March 2021 on the matter of the flood risk at Llanybydder. I am of course aware of the effects that flooding has had on businesses and homes within the County and I am familiar with the issues affecting Llanybydder; I visited your village after the flooding in October 2018 and witnessed first-hand the devastation caused by Storm Callum.

You will no doubt appreciate that flood risk can be a responsibility of a number of risk management agencies (RMAs), depending on the source of flooding and while Carmarthenshire County Council (CCC) is the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) for Carmarthenshire, the River Teifi, as a Main River, falls under the remit of Natural Resources Wales (NRW).

Nonetheless, CCC has been instrumental in driving forward the flood investigation work undertaken to date, working with partner agencies. I am informed that the outcomes to date were presented to you on the 3rd February 2021 and address many of the concerns and matters raised by the Community Council and residents, including the issues raised at our public meeting prior to the COVID-19 lockdown.

With regards to the time scales involved in developing a flood mitigation scheme, the timescales currently set out for you are generally representative of the time taken to go through the process and phases of development in order to gain financial support for a capital scheme of this scale. CCC, Ceredigion County Council, and NRW do not have the financial means to develop a flood risk management scheme on the scale needed at Llanybydder. As such we must bid to Welsh Government (WG) for that financing and that bid must conform to HM Treasury requirements and be robust enough to compete against other flood related bids from across Wales. Therefore, as stated in the meeting notes from the 3rd February, the next stage is to develop a business case to support that bid.

Ruth Mullen BSc

Cyfarwyddwr yr Amgylchedd,
Neuadd y Sir, Caerfyrddin, Sir Gaerfyrddin SA31 1JP

Director of Environment,
County Hall, Carmarthen, Carmarthenshire SA31 1JP



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To clarify, whilst Carmarthenshire County Council have taken the lead to coordinate the investigation and study work thus far and will coordinate the development of the business case to support a bid for capital works, it is only NRW that can ultimately bid to Welsh Government for money to develop a flood risk management capital project to protect the residents of Llanybydder from the Teifi.

I am sorry that this is not the answer that you would have hoped for with respect to the likely timescales and funding, but if Llanybydder is to have a flood mitigation scheme to help manage the risk of flooding over the next 50-100 years then that type of project needs significant planning and resourcing. That cannot happen in a lesser time than that already set out in our previous communication and of course could take longer. Clearly there is no guarantee that funding will be made available. By means of a comparison, the only other capital scheme that NRW are developing in Carmarthenshire at the current time is in Ammanford; this is a large scheme that involves various elements which has taken over ten years to develop to its current stage and construction has not yet commenced.

I can assure you that Carmarthenshire County Council is doing all that it can to progress matters, but ultimately, we are not the responsible RMA with respect to the problems at Llanybydder, nor can we circumvent the process associated with the development of such a capital scheme. I would ask that you keep CCC informed (along with the elected member Cllr Davies) of the concerns that the Community Council have and we will attempt to address them accordingly, if within our control. I would also advise that you write separately to NRW to keep them informed of your concerns as they are the RMA that must ultimately see this project to fruition, provided that the business case assessment is positive.

With best wishes



Ruth Mullen BSc
Director of Environment

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Please find enclosed letter originally sent via post on 11th March 2021.

Ruth Mullen BSc

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Neuadd y Sir, Caerfyrddin, Sir Gaerfyrddin SA31 1JP

Director of Environment,
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