ARUP

Minutes

Project title	NRW02 - YNYSYBWL FRM SOC
Job number	290076-00
Meeting name & number	Resident Consultation and Update
File ref	3.20
Time and date	18:30 – 20:30 30 November 2023
Location	Ynysybwl Constitutional Club
Purpose of meeting	Outline of project lifecycle & progress, and review of Longlist Options
Present	Residents of Clydach Terrace NRW / Arup Project Team: David Letellier (NRW - Head of Operations South Wales Central) Alexia Dimitriou (NRW – Project Manager) Mark Groves (NRW - Project Executive) Chris Powell (NRW - Senior User) Alex Lloyd (Arup - Project Manager) Jo Nelson (Arup - Senior Engineer) RCT Council: Owen Griffiths (RCT - Drainage) Ian Woodland (RCT – Emergency Planning Manager) National Flood Forum: Sarah Bennett Councillors: Paula Evans
Apologies	
Circulation	Those present, RCT, NFF, NRW Citizen Space.

Topic **Action**

1. Introductions

Arup/NRW project team and RCT stakeholders as listed above.

Sarah (NFF) has recently started supporting residents as the local National Flood Forum co-ordinator.

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2. Presentation of Project Process

Overview of project stages (please refer to slides for additional details):

- Initial Assessment, complete
- Strategic Outline Business Case (SOC)
- Outline Business Case (OBC)
- Full Business Case (FBC)
- Delivery (Construction)

This process is driven by Welsh Government requirements and guidance, and by following it, the project team are maximising the potential to gain funding for the next phases of work from Welsh Government.

Stakeholder feedback is key to the process.

Progress to date:

- Hydraulic model has been built. This is needed to establish baseline and look at options and benefits.
- Progressing initial environmental assessments
- Secured funding for SOC
- Identified Longlist of options

The next step is to reduce the current longlist to a shortlist of potentially viable options as efficiently as possible. The final recommended options will be identified from this shortlist during the OBC phase.

3. Longlist of Options

Longlist options (please refer to slides for additional details):

- 0 Walk Away (used for economic assessment)
- 0 Business As Usual (as above, used for economic assessment)
- 1 Replace and raise existing wall
- 2 Remove culvert
- 3 Offline storage
- 4 Remove people and property at high risk of flooding
- 5 Reduce bed level of channel and culvert

Add-ons:

- Natural Flood risk Management NFM (multiple small changes in catchment to reduce runoff)
- Improved flood warning system
- Improved Property Flood Resilience measures

- Debris management

Part of the next steps is an Economic Assessment of the longlist. This will look at flood damages, risk to life and the cost of each option. Different combinations of main options and 'add-ons' will be reviewed, to optimise performance against project objectives.

This information will go into the OBC.

4. Questions & Answers

Key themes and questions were as follows:

What does the model show to be the biggest problem / cause of flooding?

Flooding often has multiple causes, there is no single overriding cause in this instance. The model shows what we believe currently happens, and where the water goes when it comes out of the river channel. The optioneering process will look at options to reduce flows in the river and convey more water along the channel, to find out what will be most viable option(s) to manage flood risk.

Would clearing the shale help to reduce flooding?

Depending on depth of shale that can be removed and how deep the bedrock is, this would have similar effect as raising the river wall to a similar amount, in effect increasing conveyance of water along the channel. A Ground Investigation will be needed to confirm, and results will be presented once completed. There will also be environmental issues to consider with removing shale from the river.

Residents have observed that a former railway bridge buttress at 1-6 Clydach Terrace, used to be visible above the shoaling and is now covered, indicating potentially 2m depth of shoal. This will be used to inform Ground Investigation. **NRW**

NRW project team to request schedule for maintenance of Nant Clydach

Is culvert blockage a factor?

The model will show the impact of a culvert blockage, and we will look at the possibility of that happening. If this shows a high risk, the project will look at blockage causes and corresponding management options e.g. catchment management, tree catchers, education to reduce fly tipping etc.

River level dropped quickly during storm, does this indicate a blockage that was washed out?

Potentially it could, however this can also be a very common observation in clay and rock catchments, especially when the ground is fully saturated following prolonged

wet weather; flows / levels can drop quickly once the peak passes as excess water is shedding from the land very quickly

River flows brown during storms, the banks are being eroded?

It is generally not uncommon for flows to be brown in any river during storm events as soils and debris are washed off adjacent land. In this area the project team has been informed that scour has been observed in the upstream channel; if this is deemed to be a flood risk issue options will be considered to manage this.

Will decommissioning of Llanwonno Reservoir increase storm flows, or could it be used as a storage feature?

This is a Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) asset. NRW are in communication with DCWW as a stakeholder in this project.

As part of the DCWW project, which will be separate to the NRW one, DCWW would normally complete modelling to confirm that decommissioning the reservoir would have no detrimental flood risk downstream (including Ynysybwl); if any significant detriment were to be predicted, then then it is likely mitigation measures would be implemented.

The project team have been informed that DCWW will be communicating with the local communities separately, contacting by letter/email in due course.

Wall height, extent and interaction with existing garages

The model will be used to consider the required extent of any potential river flood wall and the team will aim to design it so that water does not flow around it.

There are several potential options for wall alignment, which will be considered at a later stage, if the options remains viable.

The height will be driven by the modelling and assessments of viability of construction – the images shared previously were approximate for a theoretical 1 in 100 or 0.1% annual exceedance probability event..

Residual risk to drivers if road is not protected

Agreed that this is potentially an issue, and there are several options for managing this, from traffic control to raising the road level.

Property Valuation – valuation to be used for relocation option, and impact of wall on property values

The project team have requested advice on the subject and will include findings in any appraisal of related options

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Why is relocation being considered, if not previously done elsewhere? What support will there be?	
NRW are now tackling the most difficult flooding schemes, where there are no straightforward solutions. The project team has been advised that relocation is one of the options to be considered in this instance. The business case will consider its viability, in the same way other options will be considered. As part of this assessment, RCT council will be one of the stakeholders inputting to the consideration of any potential package that could be offered, and this would include consideration of any support. The decision to deliver any recommended option(s) will ultimately be made by Welsh Government. ,	

5. Next steps

The next consultation will take place in the new year, closer to the SOC submission, which is likely to be at the end of the financial year in March/April.

In the interim, the residents have the opportunity to collaborate with the NFF to form the Flood Action Group, and they are requested to continue to log observed blockages and report any concerns on the NRW incident hotline via the website: Natural Resources Wales / Report an incident

Or

telephone line 03000 65 3000.

For any project updates and general background information, our new Citizens Space can be used, which is now live at:

https://ymgynghori.cyfoethnaturiol.cymru/south-central-wales/managing-flood-risk-in-ynysybwl/

Residents who have provided an email address will also be sent details of the website.