

# Peterston-super-Ely Community Council

## Cyngor Cymuned Llanbedr-y-Fro



### Flooding in and Around Peterston-super-Ely DRAFT Position Paper 2024

#### Background

1. Although historically there has been flooding in the Ely Valley, as levels of rainfall increase, and the climate generally gets milder and wetter, flooding has become a major issue and a more regular event, throughout the year, including the summer, in Peterston-Super-Ely.

#### Current situation

2. There are 3 types of flooding:
  - **1) Flooding caused by the River Ely bursting its banks at Lanlay.** This is the most severe flooding, and the one that attracts most media attention. When this happens the river water floods the fields, and the main road through the village is under water. This effectively severs the village in two and fundamentally cuts off the whole of the community that live in Wyndham Park, leaving the residents in 119 houses without access into or out of the area. This undoubtably causes stress for residents unable to leave the area, or indeed get back to their properties should the river flood when they are out. When the flooding is particularly bad the Sportsman's Rest pub floods. This type of flooding happens between 2 and 4 times per year.

Of particular concern is that in a medical emergency an Air Ambulance would likely be needed to assist as emergency vehicles would be unable to safely traverse the floodwaters.

- **2) Flooding caused by the inability of water to drain into the River Ely on Pont Sarn Lane.** The lane floods between Duffryn Mawr and the level crossing. It affects those living in Pont Sarn Lane and road users trying to get between the two linked communities of Peterston-Super-Ely and Pendoylan, to the M4, A48 and Cardiff. The road floods and is impassable for road users about 20 times a year. It is estimated that on average 10 vehicles a year are written off trying to drive through flooding at this location.

When Pont Sarn Lane also floods between Maesaeson and Glenholme, which it has done between 10-15 times so far this winter due to blocked drains, the residents living in this part of the lane are cut off just like those in Wyndham Park and the same problems face residents and emergency services.

- **3) Flooding caused by blocked culverts and drains.** This is the most frequent type of flooding. These flooding events are numerous and caused by the inability of rain water to drain away from roads and adjacent land due to blocked drains and culverts - fallen leaves add to the problem in the Autumn. Roads become impassable (see list below) and blocked culverts have led to the flooding of properties in the village (Woodbine cottages have been flooded on at least 3 occasions and other houses are at risk. Garages, sheds and gardens have also been flooded on main road, Wyndham Park and Gwern-y-steeple).
3. There are regular flooding road hotspots including at the following locations:
    - a. Gwern-y-Steeple
    - b. Pont Sarn Lane between Duffryn Mawr and the Pont Sarn level crossing
    - c. Pont Sarn Lane between Maeaseason and Glenholm Farms.
    - d. Cnepyn Lane (also known as Pont Sarn Lane between the PSE to Groes Faen road and the PSE to St Fagan's road)
    - e. Groes Faen road just past Oakways Farm
  4. When whole routes into and out of the village become unpassable due to flood waters, those unfamiliar with the lanes often try to drive through the flooded areas resulting in damage to vehicles, and represent a major health and safety threat to people who get stuck in flood waters. The water is often much deeper than people realise and have a strong current which has the power to sweep up both people and vehicles.
  5. The condition of the rural roads in times of wet weather is getting more and more dangerous. Drains fail to operate therefore surface water run off builds up quickly, with streams flowing rapidly along the lanes. This is encroaching onto personal property (as stated above, especially within Gwern y Steeple & culvert near the Church), further eroding the fabric of the roads, leading to more potholes and gullies and exacerbating the already poor local driving, cycling and walking conditions within the area.

### **Action taken so far**

6. In response to this threat, Cllrs Firth and Drysdale met with the Vale of Glamorgan officers Clive Moon – Council Drainage Mgr. & Mike Clogg – Engineering Operations Mgr. on 31/8/23 to discuss the issue. The council officers said that whilst they were aware of flooding events in PSE they were not aware of the frequency and intensity of flooding outlined by Cllrs Firth and Drysdale. The PSE councillors proposed that they would gather a body of evidence in the form of photographs and videos to inform VoG Council of the extent of the problem. The Community Council requested this from local residents. A dedicated email address was set up for residents to register flood events and send in their photographic evidence - [psefloodrecord@gmail.com](mailto:psefloodrecord@gmail.com)
7. The Vale of Glamorgan Council is to install a gauge/downward facing sensor on the white bridge within the next few weeks to monitor the river levels in the village. The current telemetry set up will only be available in real time to the highway duty officers to aid their

response in times of flooding. Over time this should improve the Council's understanding of the frequency and duration of the flooding caused by the river.

8. The culvert flooding behind the church - camera surveys of the drains along the main road near the church and towards the railway bridge, drains attended to and pressure hosed, site meetings with Huw Morgan, flooding engineering VOG council. Discussed the possibility of fitting flood protection panels on front doors of the homes affected.

## **Proposed Action**

9. The Community of Peterston is very active and in times of flooding with communication via Facebook and other social media helps to spread the word about what is happening where. Community minded residents unblock culverts and drains but much more needs to be done to prevent this happening in the future, and to assist communities to deal with events when they are happening.
10. The following action is proposed:
11. With the support of Councillor Michael Morgan, work with Pendoylan Community Council and the Vale of Glamorgan Council to develop an **Ely Valley Flood Plan**.
12. This would include the following (and relates only to Peterston-Super-Ely at this stage):
13. A dedicated email address for residents and road users to report flooding. This will provide the Community Council with an evidence base of the flooding events in the area. The email address [psefloodrecord@gmail.com](mailto:psefloodrecord@gmail.com) has been set up and all are encouraged to send in any historical photos as well as reporting flood events as and when they occur.
14. Engaging with the community (residents and landowners) to identify issues, possible solutions and how we can work together to find workable solutions. Flooding will be covered in the Community Magazine and discussed at Community Council meetings where residents are welcome to attend.
15. Preventative measures – identifying the issues that need to be resolved before they cause a flooding problem. For example, agreeing with the Vale of Glamorgan Council a programme of work to ensure that silt and debris is removed from culverts and drains on a regular basis, but in particular before the autumn, to ensure that the culverts and drains can function as intended. Many are currently silted up or blocked with debris.
16. Emergency “Hot Line” to the Council – When urgent action is needed e.g. a property is at risk of flooding, agree who in the Council should be contacted for a fast response.
17. Formal review of the major flooding hot spots to properly understand why they are occurring and to identify what action might be taken (and who is responsible for taking it eg Council,

landowners etc) and how it might be funded. For example – Pont Sarn Lane and the significant amount of water running onto the lane at Gwern-y-Steeple.

18. if some of the major flooding hot spots are not fixable, or fixable any time soon, identifying pragmatic things that can be done. For example, signs that can be put out warning drivers of flood risk.
19. The Community Council appreciate the pressure on Council funding, but there is a cost to the Council of not taking action. If the drains don't function, the water runs down the roads and erodes the road surface – increasing gullies and potholes. We suspect the cost of repair is much greater than properly managing the local drainage system.
20. Many of the risks to residents and road users have been highlighted in this paper – some are more serious than others. These include:
  - a. emergency services not being able to get to residents
  - b. flooding to properties caused by blocked culverts and drains
  - c. road users breaking down in flood water – this is particularly concerning when the River Ely bursts its banks
  - d. residents trying to unblock culverts and drains
  - e. owners not able to reach livestock
  - f. damage caused to cars from driving through flood water and pot holes (which are often hidden by water).

## **Timescale**

21. Agreed Ely Valley Action Plan produced by 1 September 2024

## **Relevance to other policies**

22. The Community Council want to ensure that any Welsh Government or Vale of Glamorgan policies properly consider their impact on flooding within the Ely Valley. For example, any new house building or developments in the Ely Valley should properly consider the impact on drainage, road run off and flooding.

## **Financial Implications**

23. At this stage there are no financial implications for Peterston Community Council as this is exploratory work only at this stage.

**2 February 2024**