

## TENBURY TOWN COUNCIL 2013/14 MEETING 09

Minutes of the meeting of **TENBURY TOWN COUNCIL** held on **MONDAY 4<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2013** at **7.15 pm** in the Pump Rooms, off Teme Street, Tenbury Wells.

**PRESENT:** Mayor Cllr G. Price, Deputy Mayor Cllr M. Willis, Cllrs S. Bowkett, M. Drummond, J. da Costa, E. Hudson, D. Ingram, J. Morgan, E. Weston.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Town Clerk, 1 Member of the Public

**APOLOGIES:** Cllr M. Brennan, Cllr S. Corfield, Cllr J. Watson

### 9.1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Brennan, Cllr Corfield and Cllr Watson.

**RESOLVED** that apologies be accepted.

### 9.2. Declarations of Interest

None

### 9.3. To note the resignation of Cllr Adrian Rigby and be informed of a vacancy for co-option

Members had been informed of Cllr Rigby's resignation and notices of Casual Vacancy duly posted. There having been no call for a bye-election the Council would proceed to co-opt a new member at their meeting on 2nd December. Applications were now sought.

A vote of thanks for Cllr Rigby's service were proposed.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk send a letter of thanks on behalf of the Council.

### 9.4. Public Participation. (15 minutes maximum duration).

None

### 9.5. Worcester County Councillor's Report – Cllr K. Pollock

Cllr Pollock had given his apologies and asked for it to be noted that:-

- Drainage works in Cross Street had now been completed by Severn Trent, thankfully without the road having to be completely closed.
- Parking arrangements in Cross Street would be amended with the main road traffic order as part of the Public Realm scheme. Cllr Pollock was disappointed to hear reports that there would be no flexibility in approach to parking fines in the meantime.
- They Mayor and town Clerk give an update on Public Realm.

### 9.6. Malvern Hills District Councillor's Report – Cllr P. Grove

- Fire Service – Cllr Grove explained that he had applied to become a member of the Fire Authority once he had been elected County Councillor for Hallow and he wanted to support the service in Tenbury. HWFA needed to save £4.7M. He noted that he had met with Mr David James (Tenbury Station Chief) along with all service personnel in Tenbury. He welcomed all comments and urged everyone to reply to the consultation. Representation had been made in Parliament to lobby for a reconsideration of Fire service cuts.
- SWDP – The first Public Enquiry stage had been held and the Inspector had now come back with his findings requesting that MHDC, Wychavon and Worcester revisit technical figures to ensure that they had a sound basis. As this issue had been the main objection put forward by developers it did not bode well. Figures were only likely to be revised upward. MHDC officers were currently reviewing the numbers and would report back to the Inspector in the next few weeks. It was hoped that the SWDP approval process could then get back on track but some delay was now inevitable.
- Green Waste – The cost of the Brown Wheelie Bin scheme will increase to £70 per annum in 2014/15 (reduced to £65 if paid by direct debit).
- Civil Enforcement will be properly enforced with parking fines levied from 12<sup>th</sup> November across Malvern Hills district.

### Questions from Councillors

- Cllr Hudson – requested an update on relocation of HRC site from Palmers Meadow to Business Park. Cllr Grove did not have most up to date information. Mayor confirmed that discussions still ongoing WCC awaited approval from MHDC and MHDC awaited plans from WCC. TTC were lobbying both to get things moving and notice to quit Palmers Meadow had been given to WCC. Cllr Grove was asked to progress.
- The Mayor asked whether Cllr Grove had been involved in the HWFA report being drawn up? Cllr Grove replied that the report had been drawn up by officers but that he had agreed to it being put out for consultation. the Mayor expressed his grave concern that much of the data relating to Tenbury was inaccurate most notably in relation to population figures which were stated a less than half of actual. He felt the report was unsound if data is so inaccurate and HWFA should have had a duty to check this before it was put out to consultation. Cllr Grove said the data anomalies had been raised and would be

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taken into account when results of the consultation were collated. The Mayor replied that he would look to Cllr Grove as local representative to stand up for Tenbury. He asked specifically if Cllr Grove would support removal of 2nd Fire Engine if that were the outcome of the consultation. Cllr Grove said that to answer such a question at this stage would only jeopardise his impartiality and preclude him being able to take part in the final decision therefore he preferred not to comment prior to end of the consultation but assured members that he would always have the best interests of Tenbury in mind.

**9.7. To confirm the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 7th October 2013 and the Extra Ordinary Town Council meeting held on 14th October 2013.**

The minutes of the meetings, held on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2013 and 14<sup>th</sup> October 2013, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of proceeding.

**9.8. To receive the Minutes and approve the resolutions of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 7th and 28th October 2013.**

The Minutes of the meetings were received and resolutions approved.

**9.9. To receive the Minutes and approve the resolutions of the meeting of the Finance Committee held on 14th October 2013.**

The Minutes of the meeting were received and resolutions approved.

**9.10. To approve the Monthly Accounts to October 2013 and the Outstanding Accounts for November 2013.**

See Appendix A

**RESOLVED** that the Monthly Accounts be approved and the Outstanding Accounts be approved for payment.

**9.11. To receive and approve the letter sent in response to HWFR consultation on removal of one of the fire tenders from Tenbury Fire Station.**

The letter was received and approved. Appendix B

**9.12. To approve the proposed renovation and surface treatment works to the Tennis Courts and proposed Town Council funding support.**

**RESOLVED** to proceed with the proposed works to the tennis courts using the funds as reallocated by the Finance Committee.

**9.13. To consider membership of the Finance Committee in light of Cllr Rigby's resignation.**

Cllr Hudson volunteered to join the Finance Committee.

**9.14. To consider a response to the MHDC consultation on Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).**

**RESOLVED** that this Council agreed with the CIL proposals as put forward by MHDC in the consultation documents.

**9.15. To consider whether the Town Council wishes to prepare a neighbourhood plan.**

Members expressed their concern that there would be great deal of work involved but all agreed that it would be short-sighted not to prepare a plan that it was necessary and should be done.

**RESOLVED** that Tenbury Town Council agree to develop and prepare a Neighbourhood Plan.

**9.16. To consider the adoption of a communication policy.**

Members agreed that there was a need to formalise the handling of emails. It was suggested that all email communications be considered as confidential and that no item should will be passed on to a third party, whether council member or public, without prior consent of the originator.

**RESOLVED** that this approach to email communication be included in updated Standing Orders to be approved at the next meeting.

**9.17. To consider the proposed rota for a regular Council Surgery at the Pump Rooms.**

Cllr Willis proposed a 3 month trial for a surgery to be held once a month - 4pm – 6:30pm on first Thursday of every month starting in December. Members felt a 6 month trial period would be better and that this should start in January. The Mayor and at least one other Councillor would be in attendance. Surgery to be advertised in advance.

**RESOLVED** that a Town Council Surgery would be held from January 2014 on a six month trial. First Thursday of each month 4pm – 6.30pm in the Pump Rooms. Start date to be confirmed.

**9.18. To consider the report received from Cllr Willis on Flood Defence proposals.**

Members had received the report. Appendix C. Cllr Willis felt the likelihood of permanent defences was extremely low so a bottom up approach should be taken to gain a clear idea of where property level

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protection had already been installed. He proposed that a questionnaire be sent to all affected properties to ascertain flood protection levels. Responses would then be collated to see what more could be done.

**RESOLVED** that questionnaires be sent out on behalf of the Council. Cllr Willis to prepare.

### **9.19. To receive an update on the progress of the Funding Task Group.**

The Mayor reported that two meetings had so far taken place. Cllrs Price, Willis, Ingram and Drummond had taken on various areas - Changing Rooms on Palmers Meadow - Cllr Price, Burgage/Palmers & Skate Park Cllr Ingram, Children's play area – Cllr Drummond, Pavilion – Cllr Willis. All were now investigating funding streams and putting together firm proposals to bring back to Council.

### **9.20. To receive an update on Public Realm proposals for Tenbury Wells**

The Mayor and the Town Clerk had attended a meeting at County Hall where full details of the sandstone specifications had been made available. All data provided by WCC officers showed that the proposed sandstone was of equal if not better specification than Yorkstone. The lower cost of the sandstone meant that it could be used for all of the pavements with blue brick used to mark the raised table areas. This also meant that the scheme could be extended up to the Round Market to include the whole of the town shopping areas. WCC agreed to draw up plans and sketches and present them to the Town Council on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Thereafter the plans would be put on public display so that everyone could see what was now proposed.

### **9.21. To receive an update on on-going works at the Regal**

The contractor had now provided a breakdown of the schedule of works and was making all necessary preparations for the work to begin as agreed on January 4<sup>th</sup>.

### **9.22. To receive an update on the Regal and its management by the Regal Tenbury Trust**

Deferred until next meeting.

### **9.23. To receive an update on the sale of the Old Mortuary**

The Town Council solicitor had confirmed that buyers solicitor had now drawn up contracts and was just awaiting clearance of a cheque before proceeding. It was hoped that transfers could be completed within the week.

### **9.24. To receive an update on this year's Applefest – held 12th October.**

Provisional Balance Sheet received – Attached Appendix D. Cllr Willis explained that the surplus funds from this year's Applefest were banked to provide funding to ensure the 2014 Applefest could go ahead given that MHDC were likely to withdraw their previous grant support for the event.

### **9.25. To be informed of any Licensing Applications from the MHDC Website**

None

### **9.26. Correspondence for Information**

9.27. To note items which have been circulated or will be available for inspection at the meeting

- Letter of thanks from South Worcestershire CAB confirming that funds given would be used to support the service in Tenbury Wells.
- Letter of thanks from Tenbury TIC for grant support.
- Letter from HWFA inviting members to a consultation event on November 19<sup>th</sup> at Worcester Guildhall regarding the CRMP consultation. The Mayor volunteered to attend on behalf of the Council.
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### **9.28. Clerk's report including any Urgent Decisions since the last meeting**

None

### **9.29. Councillors' reports and items for future agenda**

- HAO to be invited to give a round up report as the Regal project comes to an end
- Parking around the round market

Meeting closed at 9:13 pm

Signed .....

Date .....

**Tenbury Town Council Bank Accounts Summary as at**

28/10/2013

**Appendix A**

Financial Year ending 31/3/14	Petty Cash	Barclays Current A/C - 023	Barclays Current A/C - 007 Savings	Barclays Re-cycling A/C - 104	Barclays HLF grant A/C - 143	WCC Deposit A/C	TOTALS
Closing balance per September Statement	2.15	10768.53	6222.75	12400.52	22540.76	946.83	52881.54
Closing balance per October Statement (cash at bank and in hand)	35.69	6802.02	59022.75	12400.52	18384.94	946.83	97592.75
							44711.21

**Employment Costs for October NB Not yet cleared accounts £ 5,640.69**

**Payments due in October £ 15,774.60**

**CLEARED ACCOUNTS £ 15,010.28**

Payee	Invoice No:	Ref	Total	VAT	NETT	Cheque No:	Issued	Cleared
Barclays		stopped Cheque	12.5	0	12.50	DD	01/10	01/10
Barclays		Stopped Cheque	12.5	0	12.50	DD	01/10	01/10
Barclays		Bank Charges - 13218023	23.82	0	23.82	DD	07/10	07/10
Barclays		Bank Charges - 63885143	10.24	0	10.24	DD	07/10	07/10
G-Force		Foyer décor	80	0	80.00	100190	09/10	09/10
Petty Cash		Petty Cash	50	0	50.00	102043	09/10	09/10
HMRC	Q2	Q2 NICS & TAX July to Sept :	4666.93	0	4666.93	102044	09/10	11/10
Mr M Morris		3 wasp nests on the Burgag	120	0	120.00	102046	09/10	11/10
Mainstream Digital Ltd	587490	Call charges 02/09/2013 to	16.76	2.79	13.97	DD	14/10	14/10
Mainstream Digital Ltd	587491	ADSL2 quarterly rental 12/0	64.76	10.79	53.97	DD	14/10	14/10
A H Caldicott Bros	4718	Gents Toilet. Replacing Tritc	159.77	26.63	133.14	102047	09/10	14/10
A H Caldicott Bros	8364	Manhole Cover & 30m rope	48.95	8.16	40.79	102047	09/10	14/10
Regal Tenbury Trust Ltd		Support Grant Installment 2	5000	0	5000.00	102056	09/10	14/10
Clock House Foods	4985	Mayor Civic Parade Catering	300	0	300.00	102055	09/10	14/10
Malvern Hills District Council	120026651	Rates Palmers Car Park	416	0	416.00	DD	15/10	15/10
Malvern Hills District Council	101107255	Rates Pavilion Burgage	32	0	32.00	DD	15/10	15/10
Malvern Hills District Council	120048559	Rates Pump Rooms	296	0	296.00	DD	15/10	15/10
Wychavon Disrict Council		Leader Charity Evening	90	0	90.00	102042	03/10	16/10
Tenbury TIC		Donation	350	0	350.00	102045	09/10	25/10
J. G. Banfield & Sons Limited	4356	Picker Crocodile Grip, Glassj	20.6	3.44	17.16	102048	09/10	15/10
Advantage Business Supplies Ltd	11/103377	White window envelopes	17.62	2.93	14.69	102049	09/10	15/10
Grant Thornton	6846952	Audit of the 2013 Annual Re	1200	0	1200.00	102050	09/10	15/10
Mr C. Bunn		Lengthsman for September	205	0	205.00	102052	09/10	15/10
UK Fuels Ltd	1271537	Unleaded Fuel	32	5.33	26.67	102054	09/10	15/10
South Worcestershire CAB		Donation for Tenbury Citize	1000		1000.00	102057	18/10	28/10
Tenbury Chamber of Trade		Donation to Chamber of Tra	500		500.00	102058	18/10	25/10
Npower		Pump Rooms Electric	284.83	13.56	271.27	dd	18/10	18/10

**NOT YET CLEARED ACCOUNTS £ 764.32**

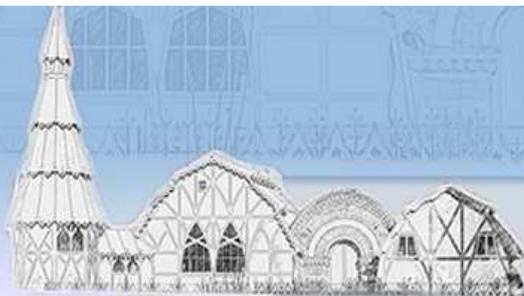
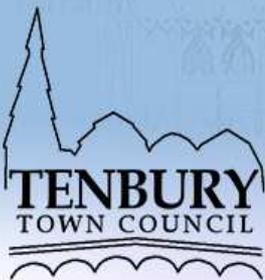
Payee	Invoice No:	Ref	Total	VAT	NETT	Cheque No:	Issued	Cleared
Teme Valley Times	TVT 4050	Cinemonkey's Ads Sept/Oct	20		20.00	100192	09/10	
Orange Phone Top Up		Groundsman Mobile Top Up	20	3.33	16.67	102051	09/10	
Worcestershire CALC	6735	Book - Charles Arnold Baker	63.75	0	63.75	102053	09/10	
Npower	LGUMTC8L	Streetlighting	660.57	105.84	554.73	102059	24/10	

**TOTAL PAYMENTS FOR OCTOBER £ 21,415.29**

**Approval for payments due in November**

Payee	Invoice No:	Ref	Total	VAT	NETT	Cheque No:	Due
Malvern Hills District Council	120026651	Rates Palmers Car Park	416.00	0	416.00	DD	15/11
Malvern Hills District Council	101107255	Rates Pavilion Burgage	32.00	0	32.00	DD	15/11
Malvern Hills District Council	120048559	Rates Pump Rooms	296.00	0	296.00	DD	15/11
Barclays		Bank Charges - 13218023	23.82	0	23.82	DD	04/11
Barclays		Bank Charges - 63885143	10.24	0	10.24	DD	04/11
Herefordshire Housing Limited	SIAL/00004561	Community Alarm Monitori	26.65	0	26.65		08/11
Advantage Business Supplies Ltd	OZ5254	Post It Notes	31.30	5.21	26.09		08/11
Elias Topping Wilkes		Phase One - Under payment	158.20	0	158.20		08/11
The Range		Boxes, Frames etc	91.58	15.26	76.32		08/11
IKEA Business Accounts	141319807	Regal - various finger puppe	165.60	27.6	138.00		08/11
Herefordshire & Worcestershire	SIN053815	New Membership - 01/10/2	144.00	24	120.00		08/11
Teme Valley Times	TVT 41013	Regal - Advert Nov issue (pu	20.00	3.33	16.67		08/11
Amazon.co.uk		Various Blu-ray Editions The	121.45	14.6	106.85		08/11
Maplin	IA714131	Boombox Speaker	159.99	26.66	133.33		08/11
Baileys DIY Ltd	2157	Barrier Mat Pump Rooms	10.99	1.83	9.16		08/11
Amazon.co.uk	169714	Gardern Commander Hedge	188.96	31.49	157.47		08/11
Mr M Morris	41571	2 Wasp Nests on the Burgag	80.00	0	80.00		08/11
G.E. Bright Electrical	47352	Flourescent Tubes & 60w La	16.90	2.83	14.07		08/11

**CURRENTLY OUTSTANDING FOR NOVEMBER £ 1,993.68**



The Pump Rooms, Teme Street, Tenbury Wells, Worcestershire WR15 8AH email:clerk@tenburytown.org.uk

CRMP Consultation  
Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service  
Headquarters  
2 Kings Court,  
Charles Hastings Way,  
Worcester.  
WR5 1JR

14<sup>th</sup> October 2013

Attn: Chairman of the Fire and Rescue Authority and the Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive

Re: Hereford & Worcester Fire Authority Community Risk Management Plan 2014-2020  
Consultation document 1st October 2013

Dear Sirs

I have been asked to write to you behalf of Tenbury Town Council in response to the above Consultation document

Members of the Council are gravely concerned at the potential impact of **CRMP Proposals 2 and 3** on the safety of residents of Tenbury Wells and the surrounding areas.

It would appear that all CRMP assessment data has been based upon the speed with which a station can respond to fires in buildings and RTCs with little consideration given to other emergency scenarios. This is of critical concern in Tenbury Wells which is particularly susceptible to devastating floods such as those suffered in 2007. The CRMP notes that at Tenbury station "*Some of the fire-fighters form a specialist crew trained to effect flood evacuation tasks and perform rescues from the river bank. They also provide support for the Water Rescue Vehicles based at the Hereford and Worcester fire stations*". Regrettably in the remainder of the proposals there is no further recognition of this vital role to our community.

Tenbury and Burford stand in a unique geographical position which makes them highly susceptible to major flood events such as those in 2007. Tenbury lies just to the south of the River Teme with the Fire Station just across the bridge in Burford to the North. When flooding occurs, the Teme Bridge cannot be crossed and the town is effectively cut off from all surrounding areas making access by engines from other stations extremely difficult. All roads leading into the town can be cut off during flooding – the A456 becomes impassable both East and West, with the B4204 closed to the South East and the B4214 closed to the South West. Fire Officers at Tenbury have historically been able to provide cover to both sides of the river during a flood event by ensuring that one tender is positioned on the Tenbury side of the river and the other on the Burford side before the river overflows. In this way our communities have been protected from very real danger to life and the tenders have been invaluable on both sides of the river in helping families and businesses pump out flooded cellars so that properties can be safely entered as soon as possible to enable clean -up operations to begin. The personal and economic impact of the 2007 floods was felt for a long time in our communities and the outcome would have been significantly worse without the immediate help afforded by having engines stationed on both sides of the river.

It should also be noted that Tenbury is now the only town in Worcestershire which has not been equipped with any form of permanent flood defence. The geographical situation of the town between two sources of flooding makes the installation of such defences extremely complex and funds are unlikely to be available in the foreseeable future. The Town Council has set up a Community Emergency Support Team (CEST) and the major flood plan relies heavily on the support of two fire engines, one positioned on either side of the river. If one of those engines is removed the plan will be impossible to manage. During the most recent event in July 2012, when the river almost reached flood level, the fire station worked closely with the CEST team and the two engines were moved into place on each side of the river ready to provide support where most needed.

The CRMP suggests that **Proposal 2** - the removal of one fire engine from Tenbury Wells - will have least impact on the community and also suggests that this impact will only be a delay in support.

The Town Council believes this assessment to be deeply flawed because it does not take into account the very high flood risk in the Tenbury area. If there were only one engine at Tenbury Station then during any flood event the on-call fire engine would not be able to get to fires in buildings and RTCs across the whole coverage area if it happened to be on the opposite side of the river when flood occurred. Any back-up engine which might be expected from other stations would be unable to reach the town due to flooding on all of the approach roads. Thus the loss of a second engine at Tenbury would have a much more significant impact than the CRMP would suggest.

This impact will be further heightened by CRMP **Proposal 3** which seeks to reduce engine numbers in all of the stations closest to Tenbury. **Proposal 2** states that where back up engines are required for Tenbury they would be sent from Leominster, Bewdley or Kidderminster stations. Currently Leominster and Kidderminster stations have two engines each and Bewdley has one. **Proposal 3** seeks to reduce engine numbers in Leominster and Kidderminster to one per station and to remove the Bewdley station altogether. Thus from a current possible back up pool of five engines the cover for Tenbury would be reduced to just two engines at the same time as Tenbury's own engine cover is reduced to one. This can have nothing but a very detrimental impact on response times and cover in Tenbury.

As cover in Leominster, Bewdley and Kidderminster is reduced it is also reasonable to assume that the Tenbury engine will be called upon as backup in these areas on occasion. The town Council feels this will leave Tenbury in a situation of completely unacceptable risk and that to reduce the number of engines while simultaneously increasing the likelihood of having to provide back up to other areas would pose a serious threat to the safety of residents in Tenbury and surrounding communities. This is a rural area so fires are often not so quickly detected as they might be in more urban settings but they nonetheless have significant economic and personal impact on our residents.

For all of these reasons Tenbury Town Council cannot support the CRMP proposals for Tenbury and strongly urge Hereford and Worcester Fire Authority to retain two engines at Tenbury station.

Yours sincerely



Dawn Worgan  
Town Clerk

TENBURY FLOOD DEFENCES – BRIEFING DOCUMENT TO TENBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Tenbury has a history of disruption and damage due to flooding probably as far back as when it first became a settlement.

The most recent event that took place was in the summer of 2007 when both the River Teme and Kyre Brook broke their banks. The problems that occurred as a result of this were added to by severe flash flooding from exceptionally heavy rainfall.

The cost to the Town, both businesses and residential properties, was immense. Disruption was widespread and with the exception of the Rochford Road routes into and out of the Town were impassable.

Since then work in Market Street (the wall alongside Kyre Brook) and new drainage work in Bog Lane has been completed. These improvements are in the main intended to deal with flash flooding. However, since 2007 there have been no severe incidents of flash flooding and therefore the effectiveness of this work has not been tested. Proposed development of housing on Oldwood Road may severely test the effectiveness of the drainage improvements in Bog Lane.

*In January 2013 representatives of TTC attended a meeting Chaired by Harriet Baldwin MP together with representatives from the Environment Agency (EA), WCC and MHDC. The outcome of this meeting was that TTC would take the lead in determining the way forward in obtaining flood protection for the Town. A TTC working group was formed (Cllrs Willis, Weston, Price and Brennan together with the Town Clerk).*

Members of this working group have since held meetings with representatives of the EA and David Rolls (Performance and Policy Manager for MHDC). Discussions have centred on reports from the EA examining all the possible options to protect flooding in the Town. The first such report in May 2004 "Tenbury Wells Flood Alleviation Pre-Feasibility Report" is a comprehensive document which examines all possible options available to alleviate the potential for flooding in the Town. An electronic version of the report can be obtained from Dawn Worgan should anyone wish to have sight of it.

Subsequent reports from the EA (and the subsequent meetings with them) have shown that this initial report still holds good in respect of its exploration of options and its recommendations. Options range between the "do nothing scenario" through to building a combination of permanent walls and bunds (earthworks) around the Town with flood gates ready to be utilised across the Southern edge of Teme Bridge.

Options in between include lowering the bed of the River Teme but this would require lowering the river bed by 3 metres downstream to its confluence with the River Severn (53 kilometres) and then the bed of the Severn would have to be lowered downstream to the Severn Estuary.

Upstream storage has been discounted. There is no obvious site for, in effect, a reservoir. Additionally if such an area existed upstream of Ludlow its effectiveness would be reduced by a number of major tributaries joining the Teme between Ludlow and Tenbury. Likewise there is no suitable land adjacent to Kyre Brook to facilitate upstream storage.

The above are just examples of some of the options explored.

The favoured solution that remains is the combination of permanent walls and bunds around the Town to hold back the waters from the Teme and Kyre Brook. Walls would have to vary in height anywhere between 0.9 metres to 1.3 metres or even higher.

There is obviously a high cost implication of anywhere in the region of £3 million. Based on a fairly complicated system of calculating the cost benefit to the Town, weighed against the costs of construction, it could be possible to obtain funding from Central Government of around £716k.

Putting to one side the issues of funding there are other issues regarding this option.

Estimated costs are for a basic wall façade which could prove to be unattractive and to the detriment of the appearance of the Town. It is possible that there could be widespread objection in the Town to such a construction.

Additionally such a wall would not protect St. Mary's Church. Due to the SSSI designation of the River Teme and its banks and of the legalities surrounding building on consecrated ground any wall would have to be built around the perimeter of the Churchyard and not along the bank of the Teme.

There are additional pitfalls (which could be surmountable at extra cost). For example a reoccurrence of flash flooding could lead to water being trapped within the Town. Whilst protecting properties a wall/bund solution may keep the Town "open for business" but the Town could still be cut off from the surrounding area.

Protecting Tenbury in this manner could also have an adverse impact on communities further downstream.

In 2004 the EA identified that there were 169 properties at risk of flooding in a 1 in 100 year event (i.e. a 1% chance of it occurring in any one year). More recent information from MHDC suggests a total of 113 properties. This discrepancy will have to be resolved.

From records held by MHDC of these 113 properties 78 have now had Individual Property Protection (IPP) fitted. There may be more properties that have installed IPP without MHDC being aware.

On that basis the way forward at this stage may be for TTC to ascertain the level of protection already installed in the properties at risk and more importantly those without IPP. It may be more prudent to encourage individual property owners to ensure they have

adequate IPP whilst researching what grants are available to assist them. This would require a commitment from property owners to engage in this process and an amount of public consultation would be necessary.

Cllr. Mark Willis

