

Flooding in Tregynon

11th June 2009

The Flooding in July 2007

I would like to send my apologies for not attending this meeting this evening however I would like to extend the school's support for all the communities that suffered from the flooding in July 2007. Ironically I am writing this report following the flash flood in Newtown on Wednesday 10th June 09 where many people suffered the same misfortune as we did two years ago.

As you know Ysgol Rhiw-Bechan suffered badly from the flash flooding two years ago. Five classrooms were damaged by the flood, the school hall, the canteen, corridor areas and parts of the office. There was also damage to the playground area and equipment.

The day the flood occurred, I received a phone call to say the school was under water and arrived at the school as quickly as I could. Much of the water had then subsided but I was horrified by what faced me — the stench, the silt and the damage to our school. However this was incomparable to what some of our pupils, parents and other members of our local communities must have faced in their own homes, and our sympathy and support went out to them.

The team of workers sent in by County began their work the following day and teamed up with some members of school staff, worked relentlessly to sort out damaged equipment/resources, pulling up carpets and trying to dry out the school. The work continued throughout the whole of the summer holidays, but the school was still not ready for the beginning of the September term. The school remained closed for an extra week — much to the delight of the pupils! School staff continued to work on the clean up.

Looking back it was only a matter of luck that there were no children present in school at the time. The water came with some force onto the infant playground and into the school - what could have happened does not bear thinking.

We are still feeling the effects of the flood here at school — our playground markings have yet to be replaced and there are other losses which the insurance company simply will not cover and the school has to find the extra costs from a very limited budget. To this day it is estimated that the financial cost of the flood to Rhiw-Bechan is approximately £45,000.

This will always be a very poignant part of our history which will never be forgotten but as with so many tragic events it brought us together as a school and community. I sincerely hope that this was a unique occurrence and that if there is ever a possibility of this ever happening again that there will be measures put in place to prevent this.

Allyson Whitticase — Acting Headteacher

Ian, Melanie & Callum Fraser

Flood on 22 July 2007.

We moved to Tregynon January 2001 to a newly built 3 bed roomed bungalow. There is a brook that runs along the bottom of the garden — we asked if it had ever burst its banks or flooded we were told no. Since we have moved to the property we have never experienced any sort of flood until 22.07.07. Since then the brook has flooded into our garden coming up to the back and front doors on two occasions in 2008.

Since the flood there have been many rumours that the land that all the new houses have been built have not got adequate drainage, hence the drains get blocked. Another rumour is that the houses are all built on a flood plain. I do not know whether there is any truth in these two rumours and the countless others that have circulated around the village.

I cannot put into words what the flood did to our home and our lives but one vivid memory is on the day we packed all our belongings in boxes. We had to store them in our garage as there was no other place. All our possessions in boxes did not fill the garage; it was about a third full.

We were very lucky as the insurance company (Lloyds TSB) and builders (AJ Builders, Carmarthen) were brilliant. Talking to neighbours they were not so lucky, each one had difficulties with their insurer.

We had a caravan on the drive of our home, where we lived for 4 months. We moved back into our home in November 2007. This house was not our home; it did not feel welcoming and comfortable, it was like living in a hotel.

I tried to speak on the video but I found this too emotional. I am quite happy to speak to people at home about it where I may feel more comfortable.

This was written by Melanie Fraser.

Diane and Richard Goodchild

1. Last flooded in 2000. All properties in the lane flooded, Grove House to 12 inches.
2. E.A. Not maintaining the argaes, there are now low points as a result.
3. The argae overtopped in 2008 at the lowest point by our property — unable to get the car out as the lane was flooded near the bridge(Llandrinio). Not a major incursion.
4. We only received a “Flood warning” not “Severe” from the E.A. For the above event in 2008.
5. The effect of the flood alleviation scheme at Pool Quay is, as yet, unknown, with respect to Haimwood.
6. Concerns about further building development without adequate consideration for drainage e.g. Crew Green
7. Work being carried out at Vynwy/Severn confluence by EA without any information being given to residents.
8. What has happened to CFMP? Has it been permanently shelved?





