

## Flooding in Ammanford

Hi, Please find the attached photographs taken of the floods at [REDACTED] and below, minutes of site meeting on Wednesday 19th October 2007.

None of items that were recorded on the minutes below have not been see to, the brook is now blocked with Japanese knot weeds, and is a disgrace, children are playing on that property, several department have been involved and all play pass the parcel.

Regards.

Neville Patchett.

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 19th October 2007 AT TIRYDAIL LANE,  
AMMANFORD  
SA18 3AR

In Attendance :-

Rhodri Glyn Thomas A.M  
Manon Rees (A.M Secretary),  
Mr Rhys Williams, (Flood Defence Engineer, Technical Services Department),  
Mr Tim Hammet, ( Assistant Area Manager, Technical Services Department.),  
Aled Evans, (Supervisor Technical Service Department).

Residents Attending :-

Neville Patchett [REDACTED]  
Cyril Griffiths [REDACTED]  
Allan Williams [REDACTED]  
John Thomas [REDACTED]

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An agenda and a map of Ammanford showing the direction of the source of flooding from Margaret Street etc. was produced by Mr Patchett.

The meeting commenced at Mr Cyril Griffiths property ([REDACTED]) whose complaints were as follows:-

1. Water from the brook is undermining his property and is therefore causing extensive subsidence to his property.
2. General Condition of the Brook is clogged with Japanese Knot weed and garden spoil and rubbish being deposited by residents further up the brook.

3. Mr Griffiths has to regularly clear the debris and rubbish from the boundary side of his property and to unblock entrance of the pipe that goes under the road and is piped from there to the Loughor River. He asked "why can't the brook be covered/piped on this stretch of the brook?"

4. Mr Griffiths drew attention to the officers that not only does the brook overflow on to his property, but that flooding also comes from Iscennen Road and runs down his driveway therefore he gets flooded both ways.

Mr Rhys Williams' reply to the above points were:-

1. Undermining of the property was not the responsibility of the council

2. The condition of the brook is the responsibility of the properties bordering the brook. Each property is responsible for half the width of the brook, and therefore they are responsible to keep it clear.

3. There should be no trouble in the pipe blocking at this point, therefore it should accept all the debris from the brook, as from there on, the council has installed an extra pipe to deal with flooding problem.

4. Mr Rhys Williams promised that he would see about having weed killer sprayed on the Japanese Knot weed, this will need at least three applications over three years.

The next points raised were regarding the flooding of [REDACTED]:-

1. Mr John Thomas said he was devastated in finding his basement flat flooded with up to 4ft of a mixture of water and sewage, and it took several days for the Fire Brigade to empty and wash the place out, everything in the flat was unfit for use, and has rendered the basement flat unusable/unsuitable as a living premises.

2. Mr Aled Evans opened the manhole covers for Mr John Thomas to inspect, and they were found to be clean and that the water was flowing through.

3. Mr Patchett said that he had been told that the council had installed a non return valve at the end of the pipes on the river end, if this is so, and the river floods, the non return valves will automatically close and therefore the water from the brook will be unable to have a clear run and consequently flood Mr Thomas's property and the rest of SA18 3AR.

4. Mr Patchett was assured By Mr Rhys Williams, that there has not been a non return valve fitted to any of the drainage pipes.

5. Neville Patchett again discussed the problem regarding the volume of Japanese knot weed and rubbish in the upper part of the brook, as he was concerned that when the flow of the water rose, the amount of all the debris would block the entrance to the pipes.

6. Mr Rhys Williams assured us that the extra piping installed recently and the corrected fault in the culvert on the brook path is more than adequate to accommodate the volume of debris from the Brook.

**[REDACTED]** Flooding and pavement damage:-

Mr Patchett produced photographs taken since 2002 of the extent of the flooding and the speed of the traffic travelling on the road during the flood. These vehicles and heavy lorries coming from the H G V Station, creates tidal waves, therefore water enters the houses at SA18 3AR. Gardens of most of the properties were flooded to some extent.

The pavement and curb stones outside No 50 have been damaged when the Welsh Water Board installed new piping in Ammanford. Photographs were shown of work during construction.

This work done by the Welsh Water Board eventually caused subsidence and now the levels of the gutter are lower than the drain, consequently when it rains there is nowhere for the water to flow except to sink through the Tarmac causing further erosion and leaving ponding along the width of the premises.

There was also some confusion regarding the direction of the flow of the drains on SA18 3AR, this will be investigated by the Technical Services Department, as well as the ponding of water outside No 50.

The Meeting to be held outside T D Williams premises was postponed until a later date, and Mr Rhodri Glyn (AM) is writing to Mr Roy Fowles (Environment Agency Wales) regarding the Brook and will endeavour to hold a meeting on site at Penybanc road, regarding the floodplain.

From :- [REDACTED] Ammanford, [REDACTED].  
To :- National Assembly for Wales, Ty Hywel, Cardiff Bay. CF99 1NA.

This a Continuation email.

Please find the attached map of the extent of road surface and brook water flowing towards SA18 3AR, from the upper part of Ammanford.

These floods have been recorded since the 1940's, a photograph in on a local monthly bulletin with Pullman Springs, a Local main employer in Ammanford at the time. The magazine is now kept at the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth.

The Iscennen estate was built in the 1920s ,and it is a "scandal" that each consecutive Ammanford and County Council's have not done nothing to improve the situation of Flooding since that time.

The open brook which had been covered in down to the middle of Iscennen estate and left open from the middle of estate to where it goes under Tirydail lane and from there on is covered to the river and therefore the uncovered brook floods into the properties in Tirydail Lane SA18 3AR.

My Sister-in-Law and my Wife were both born in 50 Tirydail lane, and have known that regular flooding have always occurred at this spot since the mid 1940's.

The attached map shows the extent of road surface water heading towards SA18 3AR, and converges by road and brook into our gardens and houses.  
The meeting that was held on the 14/11/2007, see minutes on the 1st email has produced no change, nothing has been done, what a waste of time

D N PATCHETT ( Mr )





**More pictures from Ammanford**



## **Flooding in Swansea**

Dear Sir:

Whilst watching a recent news report on the horrific flooding in the South Wales area, I noticed at the end of the report, a request by the government to be told of property that is in danger of flooding.

To this means, I wish to inform you of a potential flood threat to my property caused by an inadequate drainage system that is currently in place to take away storm water. The drain in question is at the bottom end of a communal car parking lot and is supposed to be maintained by the lease holder: Places for People.

The potential of flooding is nowhere near as severe as that seen on local news bulletins, but in the past I have had need to request a visit from my local water authority to help prevent and divert a deluge of filthy water away from my property. Welsh Water was most helpful in doing so, even though the responsibility to protect my property lay with Places for People.

I have requested that Places for People investigate this potential flood threat and have been assured by them, that they have done so and that there is no threat of flooding to my property. I however dispute their claim, as on occasion of the latest downpour, the entire wheel base of my car was sat in a pool of dirty storm water that had collected due to the inadequacy of the drainage system.

As the winter months approach, my fear is that with more frequent and heavier precipitation and the reluctance of the lease holder to admit a problem with the drainage system, the threat of flooding to my property will increase.

If you require any more information, then please do not hesitate in contacting me and me thank you in advance for the time spent reading this email.

Regards

Alun Williams