

## ABERGAVENNY TRANSITION TOWN:

MEETING: **THURSDAY 15th September 7.15pm**

Abergavenny Community Centre, Park Street

### Draft Agenda:

1. Apologies
2. The Pedestrian Cyclists Usk Bridge options consultation: update.
3. Abergavenny Cycle group update: Route 46: autumn rides? St John's Square update.
4. IE: Community Supported Agriculture: next moves: Takers for Stroud visit?
5. IE: Community Orchard update: Harvest Gathering Aber Community Centre?
6. CastleOak 70 bed Care Home, Llanfoist Farm site: update
7. The electric/hydrogen car debate –report back on MCC meeting?( Jon Prince)
8. Land on the Llanfoist periphery: Grove Farm 120 houses project: Time for a plan?
9. JUST FOOD: the September Rosie Boycott Food Festival event **update**:+ Horsington Yrd
10. Community Energy progress? *People and Places* Lottery bid progress?
11. *Five Year Plans*: Town Council/ MCC/ *Team Abergavenny*: Update
12. Town Hall/Hubs/information exchanges (library) update on developments
13. Minutes of July meeting and matters arising: anything not covered.
14. **A.O.B.**
  - a)Romanian UDI on food sourcing :b) *Create Your Space* update: c) *Flat Pack Democracy*: reminder: d)ATT Website / Facebook / Twitter progress? : e Eisteddfod Bee triumph.
  - f) Radical technology conference Bristol; report back :g)UrbACT update:

Next meeting date + subject focus: WHERE NEXT FOR ATT?

# Apologies

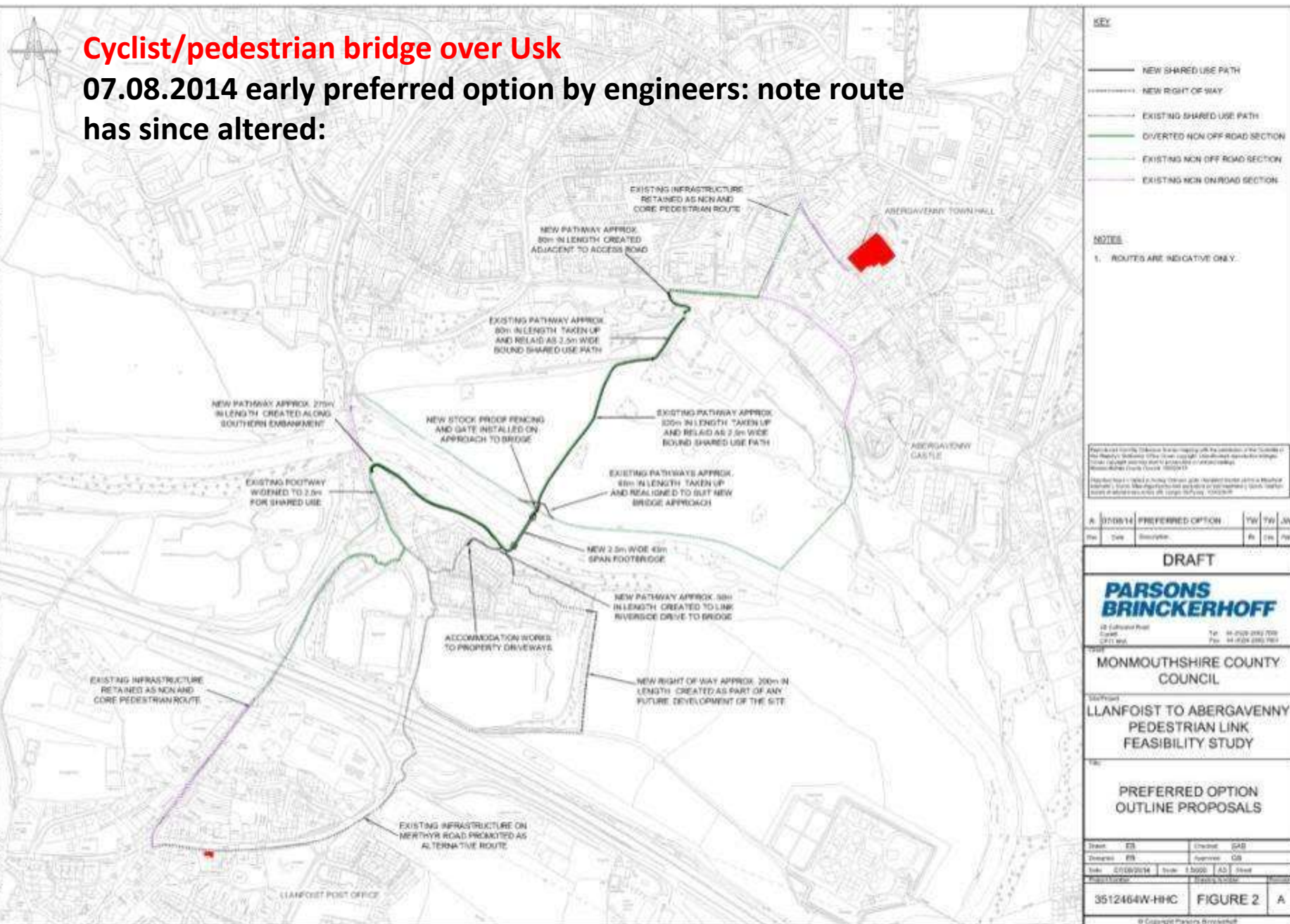
- Rod Cunningham
- Francis Buxton
- Simon Bilsborough
- Richard Lewis
- Freddy Edmonds
- Jack Thurston
- Nick Tatum
- Dave Simcock

# Present

- Andy Green
- Fraser Stephens
- Mary Ann Swanson
- Jon prince
- Dick Cole
- Lynette Green
- Paul Clifford
- Steve Harris
- Patrick Hannay (Chair)

# Cyclist/pedestrian bridge over Usk

07.08.2014 early preferred option by engineers: note route has since altered:





## Llanfoist to Abergavenny Footbridge (Aug 16)

August 10, 2016

**Location:** Llanfoist/Abergavenny

**Public body:** Monmouthshire County Council

**Design team:** WSP/PB

## Lower Commercial Street, Newport

July 21, 2016

**Location:** Newport

**Public body:** Newport City Council

**Design team:** Roberts Limbrick

## Cardiff University, Centre for Student Life (Aug 16)

August 18, 2016

**Location:** Cardiff

**Public body:** Cardiff Council

**Design team:** FCB Studios

## Wylfa Associated Development, Anglesey

June 29, 2016

## Cardiff University, Centre for Student Life

June 23, 2016

**Location:** Cardiff

## Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, Cardiff (June 08)

June 17, 2016

[org.uk/116-Lower-Commercial-Street-Newport-DR-Report-July-16.pdf](http://org.uk/116-Lower-Commercial-Street-Newport-DR-Report-July-16.pdf)

Design Commission for Wales: pre-application Design Review meeting attended by Christian Schmidt and engineers from WSP Parsons Brinkerhoff. You can read report of their advice on this at:- ( Well worth reading)

<http://dcfw.org/design-review/design-review-reports/>



## Introduction

We are consulting the community, stakeholders, and interested parties on our plans to build a shared footbridge over the River Usk in Llanfoist. The geographical extent of the proposal is shown on the plan (Figure 1).

The aim is to develop a new and safer walking and cycling route from the Post Office in Llanfoist to Town Hall in Abergavenny. The current footway link poses limitations as it reaches a pinch point over Abergavenny (Llanfoist) Bridge, which discourages pedestrians.

Under the Active Travel Bill, the council have a duty to look at key walking and cycling routes and investigate additional routes.

It is envisaged that construction will take place between 2017 and 2018.

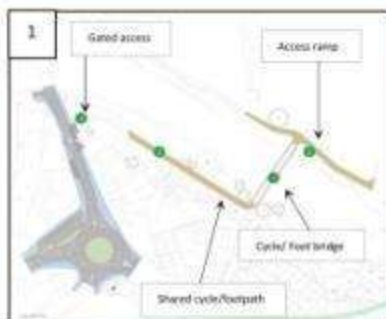
## Benefits of the scheme

The objective of the scheme is to:

- Link route with cycle network;
- Improve the facilities for pedestrians and cyclists travelling between Llanfoist and Abergavenny
- Provide a safe crossing over the River Usk; and
- Connect Llanfoist Village and Abergavenny Town

The bridge is proposed to be located approximately 300m east of Abergavenny (Llanfoist) Bridge, to the south of Castle Meadows Park.

The bridge will also require the construction of a footpath on the southern side of the River Usk which will be positioned on the banks of the River Usk and will travel west to link with the A4143 at Abergavenny (Llanfoist) Bridge.



The bridge will also require the construction of a footpath on the southern side of the River Usk which will be positioned on the banks and will travel west to link with the A4143 at Abergavenny (Llanfoist) Bridge.

Access will be achieved via a gate adjacent to the Bridge Inn. In addition, small improvements are proposed for Merthyr Road such as the addition of parking bays, and a Zebra crossing (Figure 2).



## Initial Optioneering and Proposed Options



The proposed bridge will span the River Usk in a location of high visibility and great natural beauty. Therefore the new structure will be a new landmark, creating new viewpoints of the historical monuments surrounding it.

The structural arrangement of the bridge was initially influenced by the following constraints:

- Flooding
- Access for disabled people
- Visual Impact
- Cost



The structural forms have been determined on the basis of the bridge being constructed at low level (lower than the 1 in 100 year flood risk level).

A number of options have been looked at and the two most suitable designs at this stage are:

### Option 1: Stress Ribbon Bridge (Figure 3)

- Minimal visual impact
- Visually aesthetic structural form
- Short installation times
- Smaller cranes required
- Potentially more expensive and complex foundations

### Option 2: Box Girder Bridge (Figure 4)

- Traditional form of construction applied
- Increased flexibility of structural form and aesthetics
- High fabrication costs
- Regular maintenance will be required

The bridge will have a 55m span and a 5m clear footway width. It is envisaged that the ramps will be constructed using earthworks (Figure 5 and 6).

## Have your say ...

## Public Consultation Event

Tuesday 13 Sept 2016, 10am – 7pm  
Wednesday 14 Sept 2016, 10am – 7pm

'The Gallery'  
Llanfoist Village Hall  
Church Lane, Abergavenny NP7 9LP

For more information contact:

[www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/](http://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/)  
[activetravel@monmouthshire.gov.uk](mailto:activetravel@monmouthshire.gov.uk)

Tel: 01633 644727



Bridge consultation took place September 13/14 @ Llanfoist Village Hall: MCC + WSP/ Parsons Brinkerhoff  
4 out of those present at ATT meeting had gone to consultation. 50 written responses were filled in at the hall. Many others were taken away for filling in late. Approx 300 came to consultation over the two days.



**NOTE:**This is NOT the actual proposal





Possible future alternative cyclists/ pedestrian routes to serve both settlements: Note, the actual option 1 proposal by MCC has a more subtle bridge location and routes to it than just straight across from Byefield lane car park as shown here.

A route option labelled **1** is one that links up into the housing estate. A route option labelled **2** comes round the back of the estate. The preferred primary route for the moment is to the Bridge Inn where roads will be reconfigured to create a pedestrian crossing ( see later)



**1** Up from bridge onto estate: direct: but this will require careful investigation and negotiation. Not likely to be installed at time of bridge crossing installation

**2** Round edge of estate: clear intent to extend estate ? Possibly but route considered unlikely to be put in when bridge installed.





Bridge Inn corner to be re-configured



Route to the new bridge



View from the Bridge Inn along the river bank



The Bridge Inn corner: roads to be re-configured to instal crossing and further parking bays added to avoid awkwardness on existing bridge

Note: bridge may eventually not be at right angles to bank but be slanted in direction of travel:

Zebra crossing

Gated access

This should probably say Access ramp

Shared cycle/  
footbridge

Access ramp

New crossing

Bridge Inn

Parking bays

Pathway improved

Proposed cycle/  
footbridge



# Visualisations from WSP Parsons Brinkerhoff ( a little hard to read)

Visualisation of the bridge (coloured green) positioned at low level, from the north side of the River Usk



Generally agreed at meeting: colour should not be used to hide, and anyway green would draw attention. It needed acknowledging that the bridge was a positive presence so don't try and hide. It      Need sensitive landscaping

Visualisation of the bridge (coloured white) positioned at low level, from the north side of the River Usk





## Stress Ribbon



- + Slender appearance leads to visually aesthetic structural form;
- + Minimal visual impact;
- + State of the art technology and advanced structural form;
- + Minimal long-term maintenance;
- + Short installation times;
- + Smaller cranes required;
- Potentially requires more expensive and complex foundations;
- Greater skill and care is required during construction.

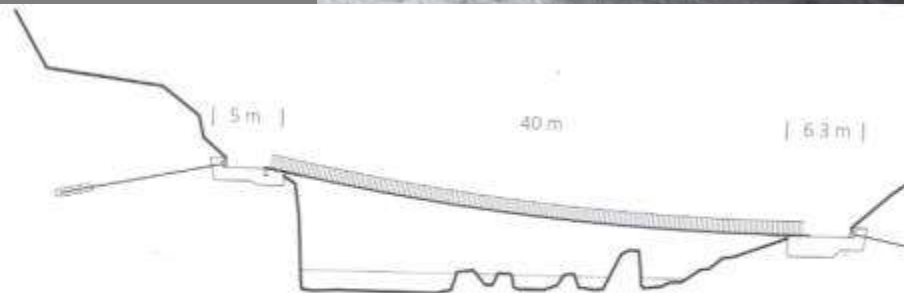
**WSP Parsons Brinkerhoff structural options: ( there are potentially others but not put forward by PB: see later)**

## Box Girder



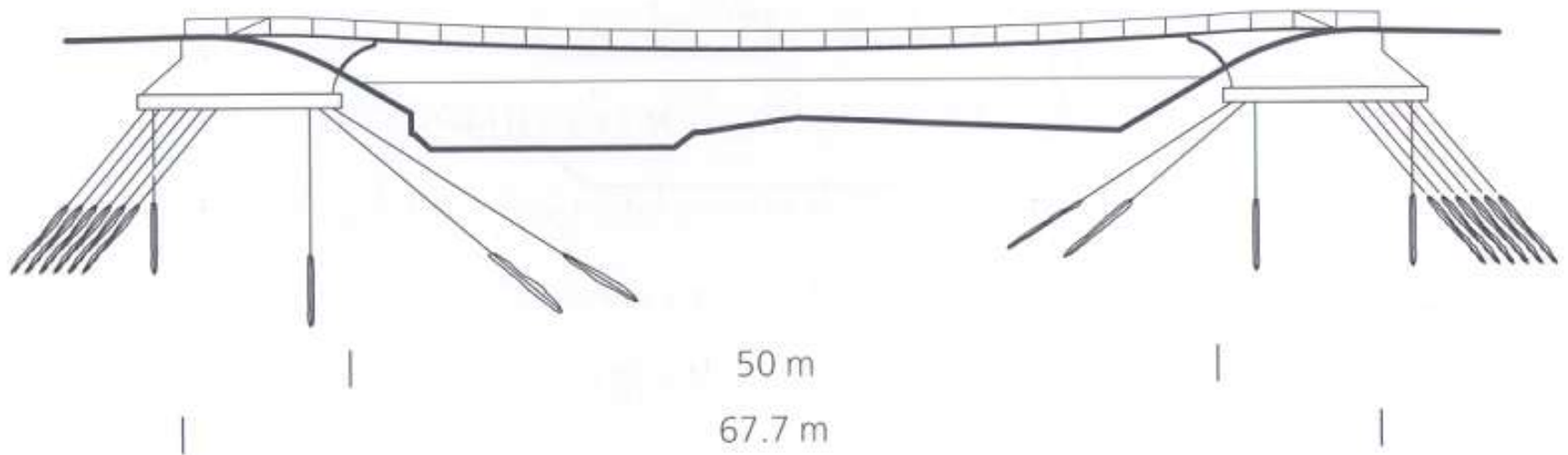
- + Traditional form of construction;
- + Increased flexibility of structural form and aesthetics;
- + Traditional foundations can be employed;
- + Short installation times;
- High fabrication costs;
- Regular maintenance over watercourse required if painted steel is used;
- Creates a confined space inside the box which will have to be maintained/inspected regularly;
- Larger cranes required during construction..





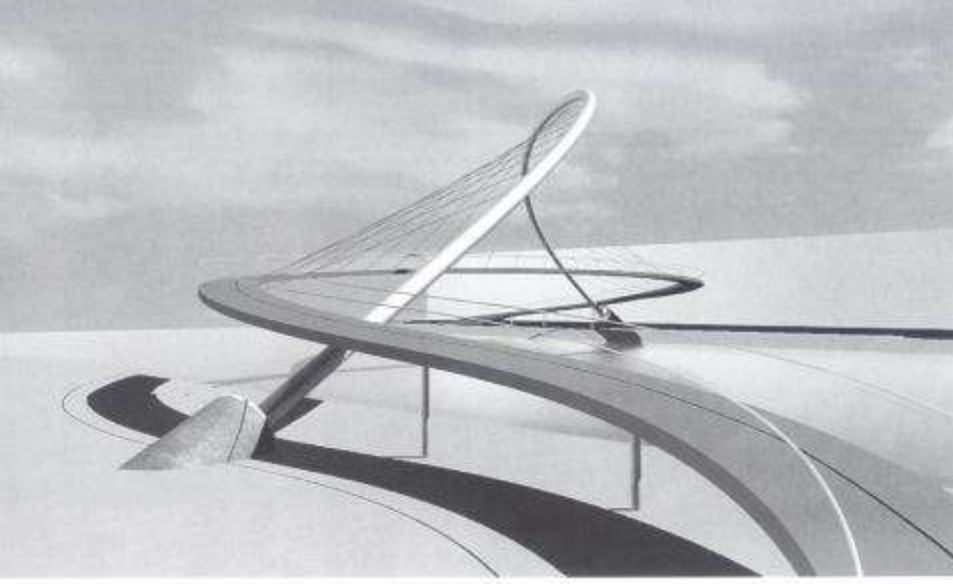
Pùnt da Suransuns, Viamala, Switzerland, 1999

Engineer Jurg Conzett: this is a stress-ribbon bridge beautifully engineered



**Enza Park bridge Pforzeim, Germany: a stress-ribbon bridge:  
note level and depth of structural ties below ground.**





Other options not explored by PB: bridges not at right angles to the bank: mast and cable suspension with mast hidden in trees on Llanfoist bank....also others



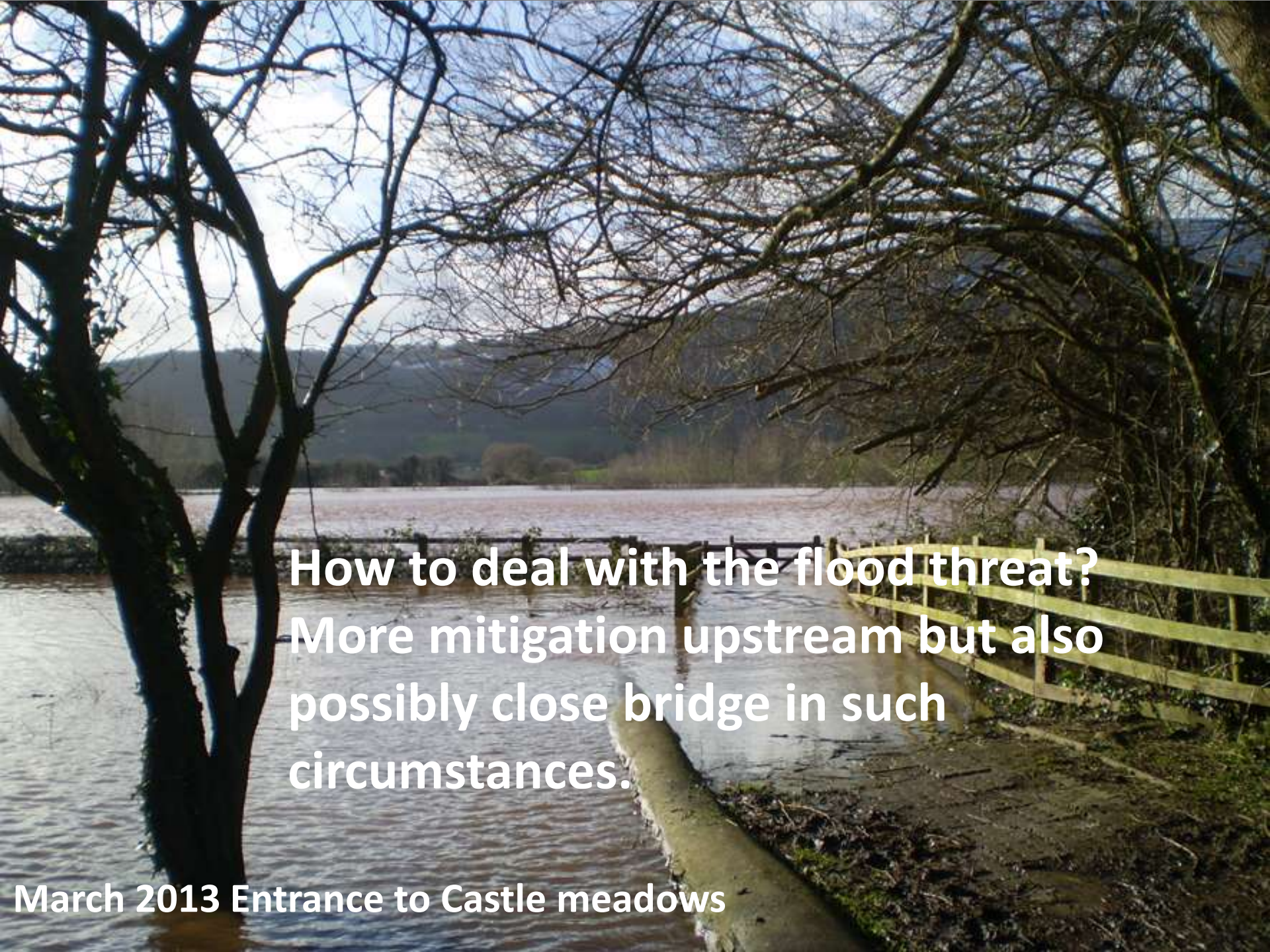
**Passarell Solferino, Paris: a pedestrian bridge that delivers people at two very different levels**





**March 2013 floods: the Usk from Llanfoist bridge:  
clearly the pedestrian bridge would be closed during  
such floods.**



A photograph showing a flooded landscape. In the foreground, a concrete path leads from the bottom center towards the middle ground, partially submerged in brown, rippling water. To the left, a large, dark, leafless tree trunk stands in the water. To the right, a wooden fence runs along the edge of the path. In the background, a wide expanse of water stretches towards a line of trees and distant, hazy hills under a cloudy sky. The overall scene suggests a significant flood event.

**How to deal with the flood threat?  
More mitigation upstream but also  
possibly close bridge in such  
circumstances.**

**March 2013 Entrance to Castle meadows**





Ramps were envisaged to be constructed of steel and are expected to rise 6 to 8m above existing ground level

**To cope with 1:100 year flood**

This way of getting up to a much higher bridge to avoid any flooding was shown to Design Commission for Wales, and considered not advisable. Why not deal with flooding upstream through mitigation, woodlands, subsidised flood plains, bogs, etc and work on poor surface water management in settlements: NRW would appear to have agreed that one simply closes the bridge in such floods. And thus there is no need to have such a bridge at high level.





Once the bridge is in place more provision for cycle parking in town will need to be provided. MCC already have drawn up a list of possible locations for discussion with Town Council and cycling groups.

# COMMUNITY ORCHARD + IE EVENTS

- **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September 6.00 p.m.**  
*Yellow rattle seeding/pick fruit:*  
**Location LJ Community Orchard**
- **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September 6.30 for 7 – 9 p.m.**  
Rosie Boycott Q&A on politics of food:  
**Location St. Mary's Church, Abergavenny**
- **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September 11.00 – 5.00pm**  
**Horsington Yard: Animals and food debates**
- **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October 10.00 – 5.00 p.m.**  
*Apple and pear juicing:*  
**Location Abergavenny Community Centre**

**Note the top three events  
have already occurred.**

*JUST FOOD*  
presents  
Free Entry Food Festival Fringe Event



**Rosie Boycott**  
*Whose food is it anyway?*

Discussions on food justice; human right to food  
land entitlement; impact on low income; food waste;  
international dimensions

**Friday 16 September**  
**6.30 for 7.00 – 9.30pm**  
**St Mary's Church Abergavenny NP7 5ND**

+ songs from Zimbabwe, Fair trade stalls and more;  
donations welcome





# Community Orchard + IE Events contnd

- **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> October 10.30 – 4.00**  
*Pond creation:* Location **LJ Community Orchard**
- **Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November & Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November 11.00 - until it's done!**  
*Ideas and Planning:* Location **Orchard** if fine
- **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December**  
Apple pruning/training: Location **LJ Comm Orchard**
- **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2017 3.30 p.m. onwards**  
**Wassail Event:** Location **LJ Comm Orchard**



• **. VOLUNTEERS PLEASE.....ALL WELCOME contact  
ieabergavenny@gmail.com**

Community Orchard wins Green Flag award at  
National Eisteddfod Abergavenny August 2016





# COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE

- A visit to Community Supported Agriculture at Stroud:
- Sign up..... Any takers?
- PH will investigate mini- bus hire but alternatively a small group will go by car and report back.



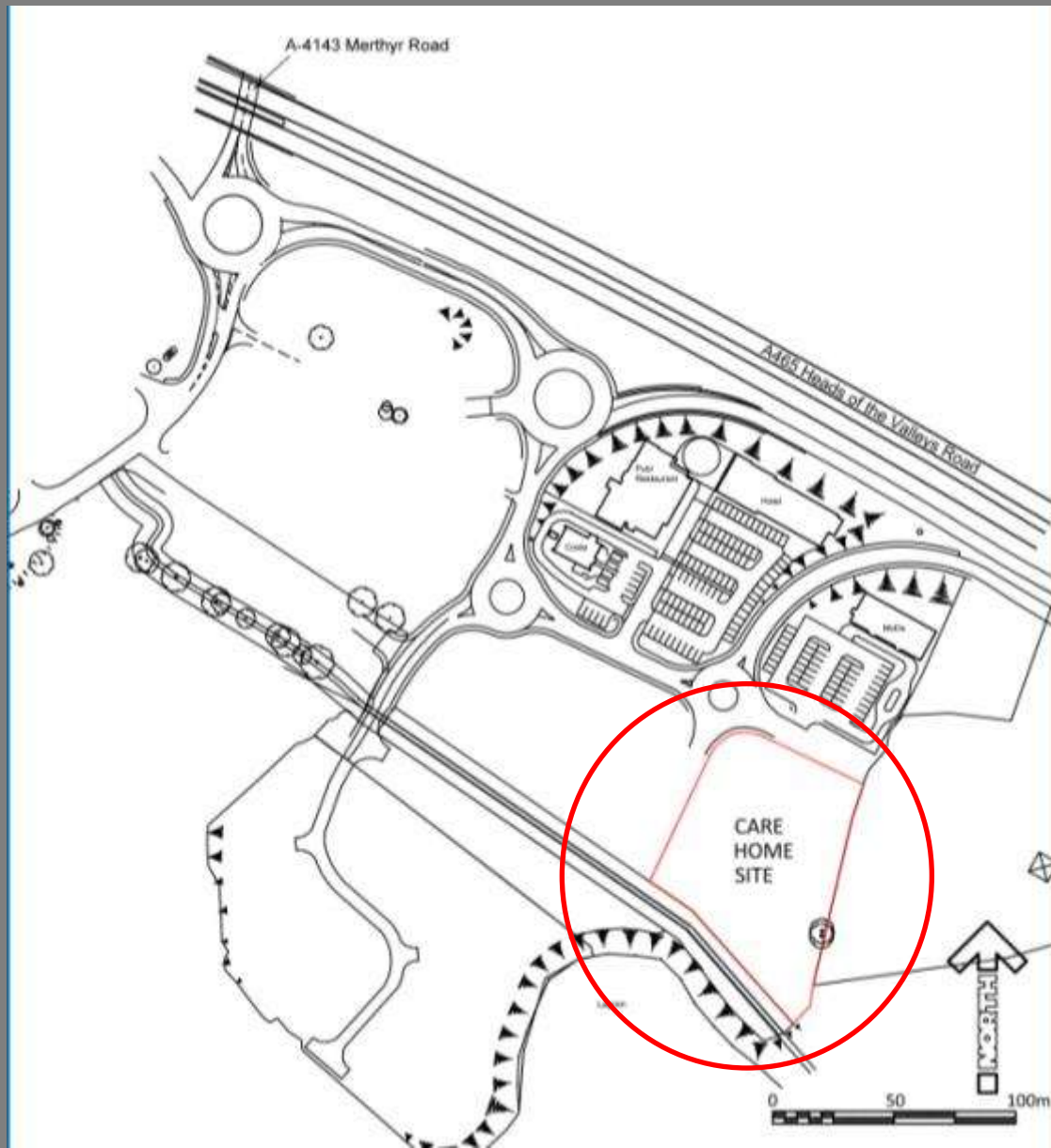
## **Hammonds Farm news: Community Land Buy Out Going Forward**

The Biodynamic Land Trust (BDLT) has agreed the sale of Lot 3 of Hammonds Farm with the Burcombe family and the sale process is currently underway. The short time scale – the appeal was launched on 5 June – of this successful campaign is truly amazing, as is the support of over 200 people who generously invested in community shares or donated to help buy the farmland. Many SCA members helped the appeal financially or through volunteering to help

### **Latest News**

- ▶ Winter news from the Veggie Field
- ▶ Winter Farm Report
- ▶ Hammonds Farm news: Community Land Buy Out Going Forward

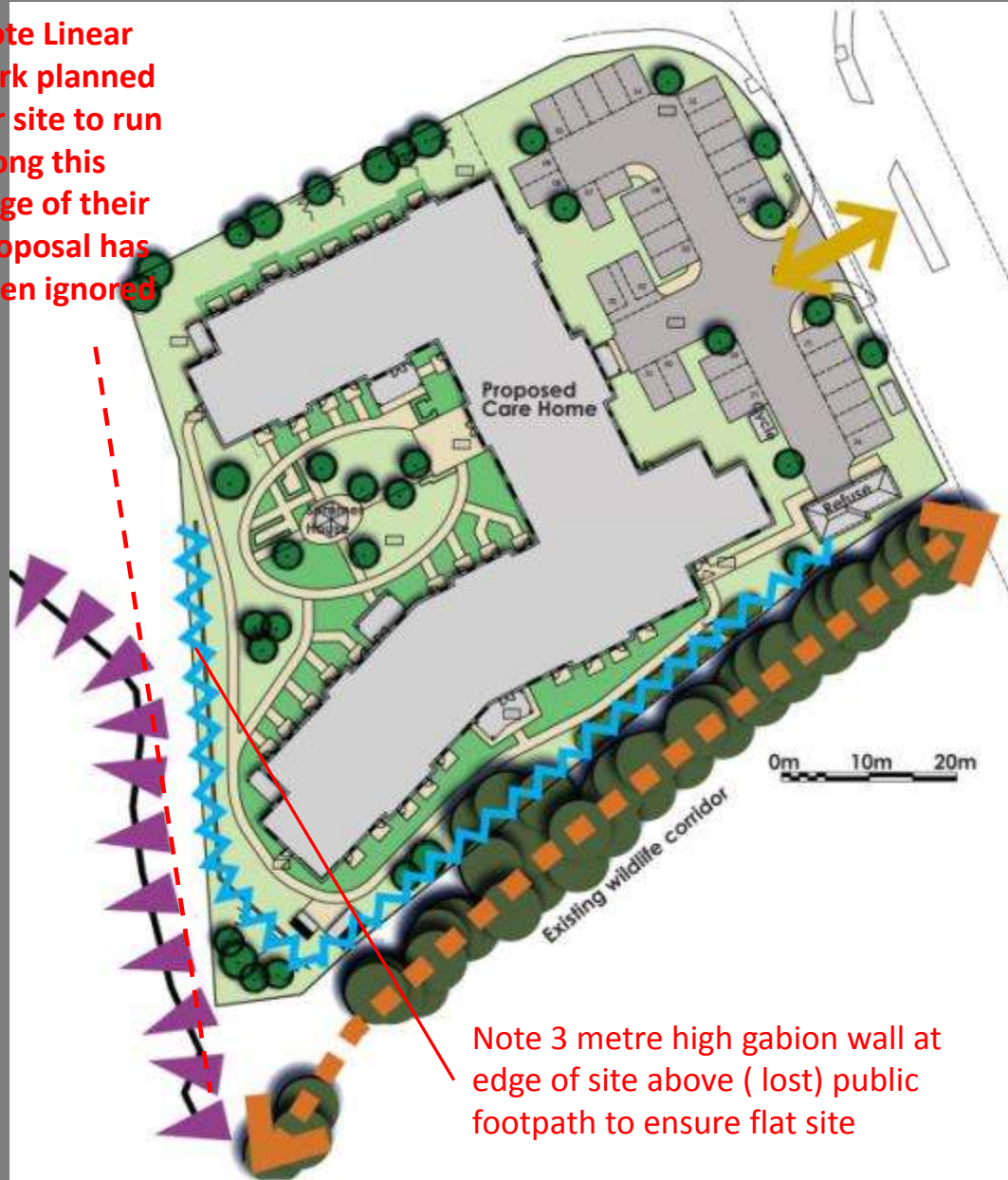
# CastleOak 70 bed care home: Westgate Site: Planning application already in: Case study number DC/2016/00884





# CastleOak 70 bed care home: Westgate Site

Note Linear Park planned for site to run along this edge of their proposal has been ignored



Note 3 metre high gabion wall at edge of site above (lost) public footpath to ensure flat site

## Key



Existing individual trees to be retained.



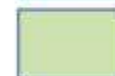
Proposed buffer planting to enhance site interface with adjacent ecological corridor/pond



Proposed tree planting  
(Species to be carefully selected to improve sites arboricultural value, improve biodiversity and reinforce the existing arboricultural character.)



Proposed shrub planting to private and communal garden areas  
(Species to be carefully selected to enhance site biodiversity.)



Proposed lawn areas  
(Species to be carefully selected to enhance site biodiversity.)



Existing lagoon adjacent to site



Main pedestrian and vehicular access

## Landscape setting & quality of place

Trees and pond adjacent to site to be protected to maintain existing landscape features of importance.

## Habitat provision & connectivity.

Proposed buffer planting within development area to provide suitable interface with existing landscape features and improve site biodiversity. Communal areas to provide opportunities for socialising, gardening and outdoor activities.

Tree, shrub planting and species rich grass areas within communal gardens and surrounding private patios to be carefully selected to compliment existing landscape setting and improve biodiversity.

Client	CastleOak
Project	Merthyr Road, Abergavenny
Drawing Title	Green Infrastructure Opportunities Plan
Drawing No.	TDA.2226.02
Scale	1:500 @ A3
Date	July 2016
Checked	<i>[Signature]</i>



Carina Studio  
Llangan, Vale of Glamorgan, CF35 5DR  
Tel: 01446 771230 Fax: 01446488119  
admin@trun-design.co.uk



ELEVATION A

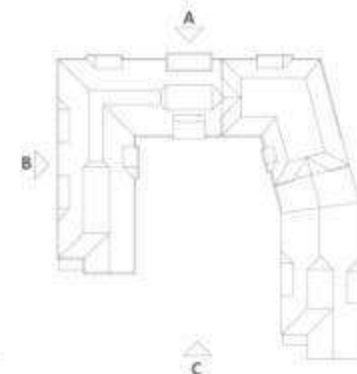


ELEVATION B



ELEVATION C

KEY PLAN nts



FIRST OUTLINE ELEVATIONS SUBMITTED: followed by.....

No.	Revision	Date	Drawn	Checked
 				
Client: CASTLEOAK CARE DEVELOPMENTS				
Project: PROPOSED CARE HOME				
Location: WESTGATE, MERTHYR ROAD, ABERGAVENNY, WALES				
Title: PROPOSED ELEVATIONS				
Scale: A1 @ 1:100	Date: JAN 2018	Sheet: 5/6	Project:	
<small>For consultation purposes alterations without the client's agreement are not permitted the drawings are not to be used</small>		A-695 05	P1	





currently in for planning DC/2016/00884



# The electric/hydrogen car debate : feedback from Climate Champions meeting: **Jon Prince**



NISSAN LEAF



# Notes from Jon Prince on Climate Champions meeting MCC on electric car charging points

- MCC have plans for electric vehicle (EV) charging points in Abergavenny, Chepstow and Monmouth car parks. It's not decided which type of charger will be used. The meeting resolved to collect more information by:

Finding out what plans Welsh Government has for installation of EV charging points.

Applying to Rural Development for funding for a study.

Seeing if surrounding Local Authorities have plans for EV charging.

Phil Powell from Gwent Energy will investigate installing EV charging points at Chepstow library.

# Grove Farm, Gypsy Lane Llanfoist

## Application for 120 houses



### KEY

Application Boundary



Potential pedestrian route through site



Possible location for pumping station



**nlp** Nathaniel Lichfield  
& Partners  
Planning, Design, Economics.

Project Land at Grove Farm, Llanfoist

Title Illustrative Masterplan

Client Mr B. Jones

Date July 2016

Scale 1:1250 @ A3

Drawn by SG

Dep. No. IL30698/02-006 (RevE)



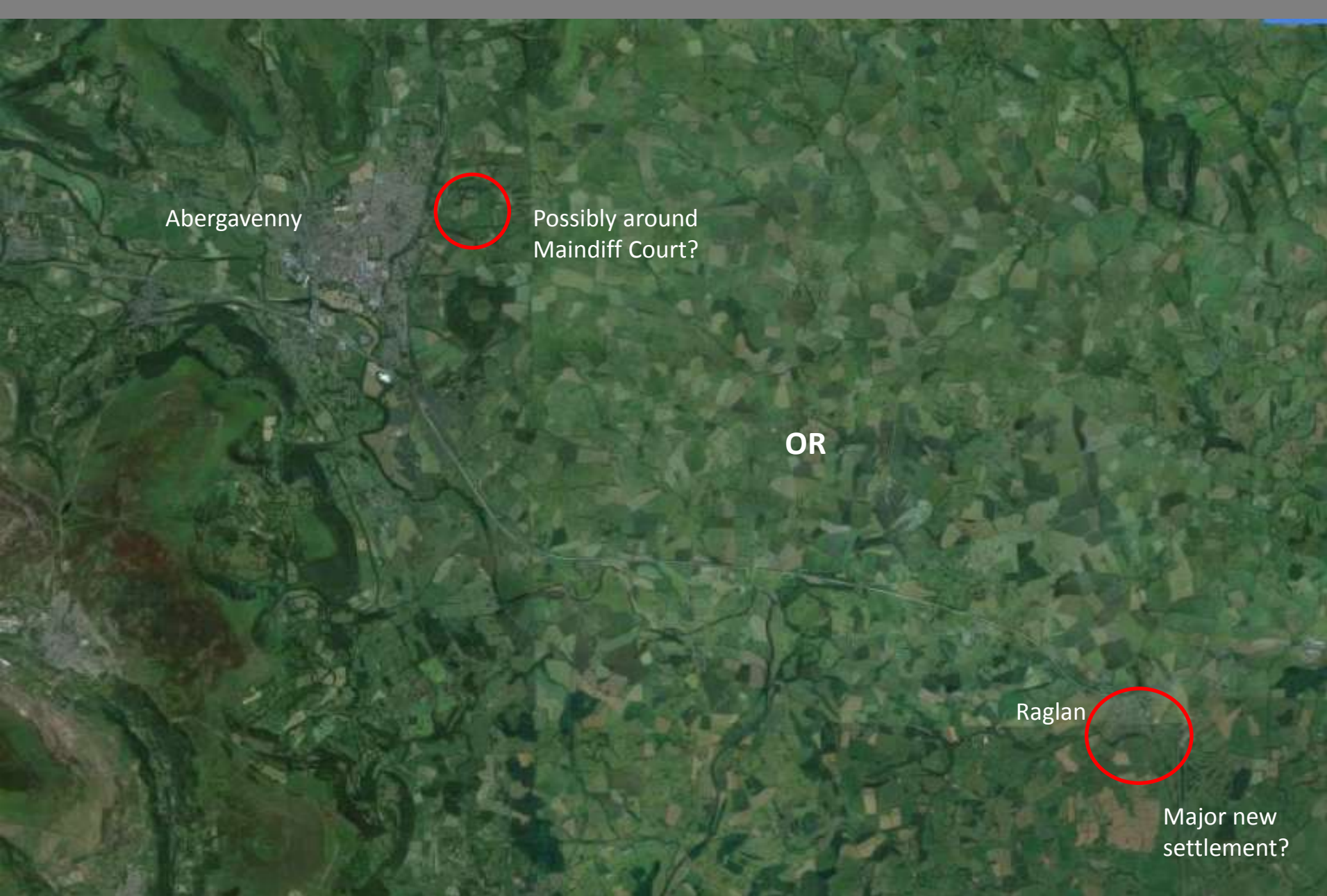
WG 30698/02  
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THE ENCIRCLEMENT OF THE USK..... "ABER-FOIST" .....? OR.....





Rather than developer led fragments, MCC led major new planned settlements ?



A POSSIBILITY FOR Gypsy lane site?( next three slides on self build) Agreed that Steve Harris + PH would go and talk to Ben about this option for development to allow those excluded currently from access to low cost housing

How to deliver serviced plots

customandselfbuildtoolkit.org.uk/briefing-notes/how-to-deliver-serviced-plots/#

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## How to deliver serviced plots

### KEY LEARNING POINTS

There are three key technical considerations when delivering serviced building plots for private homebuilders: -

- Good planning and layout
- Managing the installation of utility connections and road access to the plots
- Keeping the costs under control

This Briefing Note explains the main issues and the different approaches that can be used.

### ABOUT

This is one of many Briefing Notes that explain resourcing, planning, land, finance, demand, marketing, consumer support and various technical issues. To see the full range of guidance [click here](#).

### DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Toolkit we have made the following definitions:

[Click here to open/close](#)

## TYPES OF SERVICED PLOT DEVELOPMENT

# 3 types of serviced plots possible for Grove Farm

(source: Custom & Self Build Toolkit)

- **1. Serviced plots that are directly delivered by a council -**
- Here the local authority uses its own land (or land it acquires), and takes the risk associated with the plot delivery (but not the building of homes). This typically means it hires contractors and co-ordinates the various utilities providers to service the plots, and then handles the design, planning, marketing and sales in-house. The advantage of this approach is that the council controls every element of the project and enjoys the direct benefits of development, such as the uplift in land value associated with improvements made to the land.
- Contnd.....



- **2. Serviced plots delivered in partnership with others –**
- Here a council uses its own land (or land it acquires) and then works with a partner or third party to deliver the project (such as a developer, a builder, a housing association or community group). With this approach the partners share the development risk and benefits.
- contnd.....

- **3. Serviced plots delivered by others** – in this situation a developer, builder, housing association or community group is the main promoter, and they will probably be the owner of the site. There is no development risk for the council, but it can still seek to proactively manage or influence the project so that the plots help to meet the local demand

<http://customandselfbuildtoolkit.org.uk/briefing-notes/how-to-deliver-serviced-plots/#>



# Community Energy update? ( 1 of 2) from Andy Green

- **Abergavenny Energy CIC have;**

Made application to the Rural Development fund for three projects

1) A Feasibility Study on the practicalities and benefits of Community Energy Hubs. The Energy Hub will be an energy storage facility (preferably but not necessarily associated with one or more renewable energy generators) that would perform the following functions.

- a) Provision of Emergency Energy in the case of Grid shutdown
- b) To support the Local Electricity Infrastructure - to absorb peaks and fill troughs that increasingly occur on the grid.
- c) To enable future energy trading - bolstering the local economy
- d) To provide an electric car charging infra-structure

Other related benefits of energy storage may also emerge from the study. The study will also encompass the pros and cons of the most up to date energy storage methods.

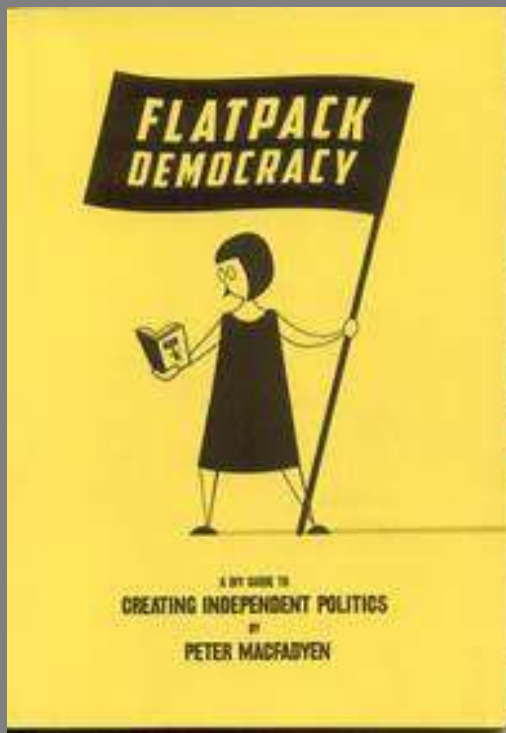
## Community Energy contnd.....

- 2) A Community Switching Scheme which will be based on multiple rural cells. The objective is not, at least initially, to buy greener energy per se but to be an 'involver' to provide a customer base for future energy saving initiatives. This is our most challenging proposal but we believe that such a 'local community' perspective will bring success where earlier more ephemeral Switching Schemes have found barriers.
- 3) A local energy trading Scheme. Essentially Mr Farmer will sell energy generated on his farm to the local school (or similar consumer). The grid provides a 'Pool' of energy that the former feeds into and the latter draws from so no direct transfer of Watts is required! This can increase profit and reduce costs respectively and keeps money within the local community.
- We have passed 'Pre-Application' and are now moving onto Step 2 The Formal application - with many thanks to Monmouthshire CC (Mark Lloyd in particular) for their support and guidance.



## *Team Abergavenny* /Town Council 5 year plan

- Jack Thurston and Dick Cole have contributed sections to *Jacqui Warren* who is co-ordinating draft document for TA.
- PH was going to contribute on land/property front but ran out of time. Submitted stream of consciousness stuff on all aspects of town environment; informal meeting with Warren and Michie held two weeks last Wednesday.
- Meeting on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September; *Team Abergavenny* considered draft:
- Meeting with Town Council and TA held on Wednesday 7th to consider draft if approved on 5<sup>th</sup> by TA.
- Note: new Clerk to Town Council stepped down only after two months or so in post. New Clerk appointed.



Next meeting for those wanting to move to next stage to be announced  
Chair: Paul Clifford

# Boundary changes in Wales

- “Wales would lose 11 of its 40 seats, leaving it with 29. This is the biggest proportional change across the nations and reflects that fact that many of the Welsh constituencies have low numbers of registered voters. It would be the biggest single change to Wales' electoral map since the Boundary Commission was created in 1944.”
- Langstone, Llanwern and the remainder of Newport East will be merged into Monmouth, .....Croesyceiliog and Llanyfron, currently in Monmouth, will also be merged into Torfaen, .....
- *But Monmouth's David Davies, the only Conservative MP in Gwent, said: “I went to school in Caldicot and it would be a pleasure to canvass Hall Park where I used to live.*
- *“And I will be delighted to represent the parts of Monmouthshire County Council which are currently in Newport East.”*





A horticultural worker inside a Monsanto greenhouse in Bergschenhoek, the Netherlands  
Photograph: Jasper Juinen/Bloomberg/Getty Images

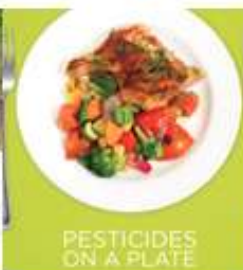
## Bayer sweetens its Monsanto bid to \$65bn in third approach

Abergavenny  
Chronicle headline  
article

The chemical, found in popular weedkiller 'Roundup', earned a last-minute reprieve after the European Commission granted an 18-month extension in June this year. The weedkiller was just hours from being pulled from shops Europe-wide.

A new ruling on its safety is expected by the end of 2017.

Catherine Fookes, campaigner manager for the Organic Trade Board, has lived in Monmouthshire for 15 years. She called on the council to become a pesticide-free zone.



PESTICIDES ON A PLATE



Promoting safe and sustainable alternatives to hazardous pesticides

Pesticide Action Network UK

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## Pesticide-free towns and cities



text 70070 with the words PEST23 £5 to donate £5 to PAN UK



Support the vital work of PAN UK

**DONATE**

## PAN UK on Facebook

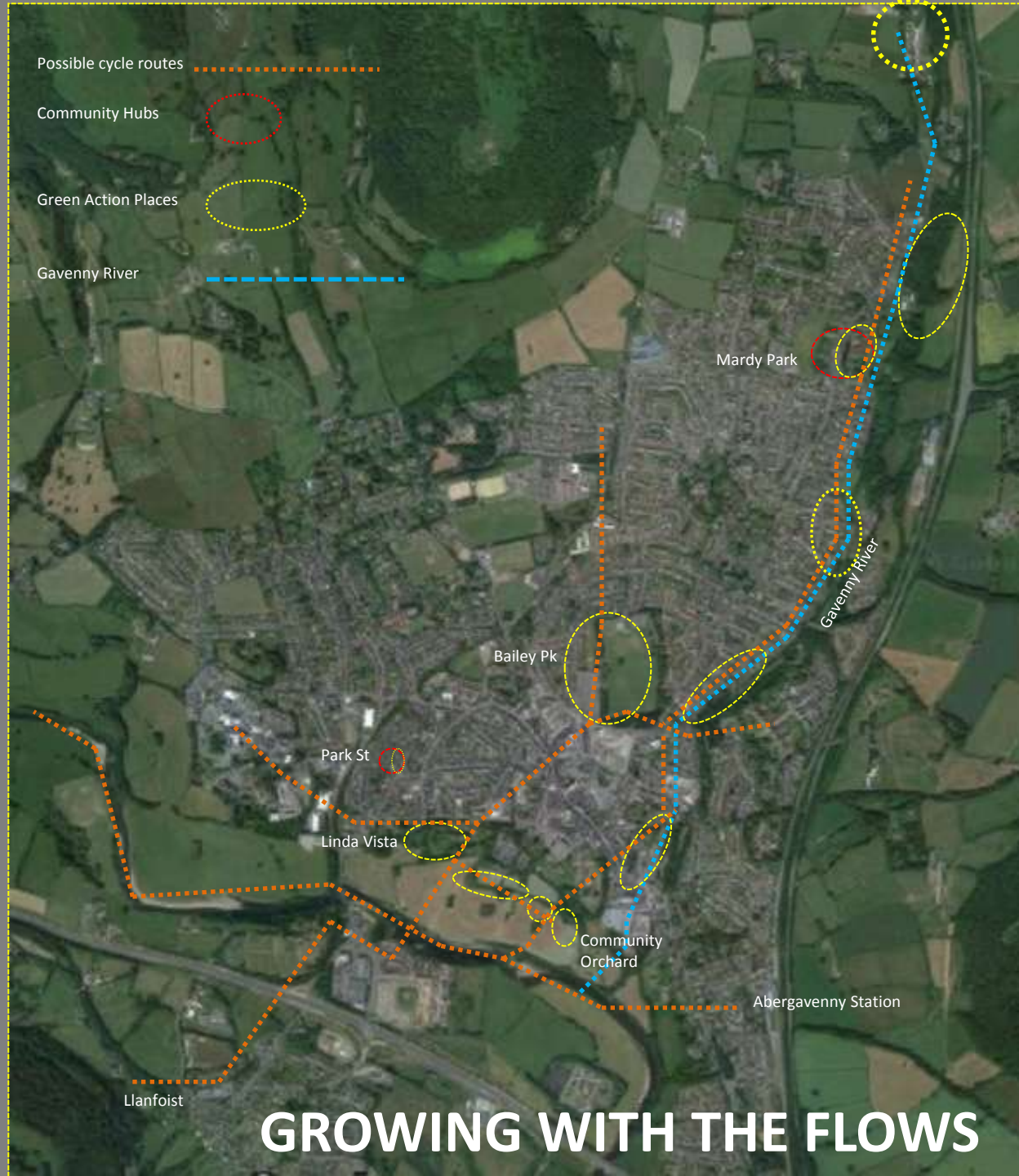


2.9k people like this. Be the first of your friends.

Glyphosates: Meeting agreed to call on MCC to ban them.



**CREATE  
YOUR  
SPACE  
UPDATE**  
*partners  
holding  
meeting  
October  
5<sup>th</sup> to  
decide  
what next*





## Town Hall 'Hub' update

- *“This report was deferred and has been added to the 22<sup>nd</sup> September( MCC) agenda. The report now seeks approval for funding to finalise the business case on the basis of the hub being located within the Town Hall. At this stage it does not seek approval to ring fence or allocate the capital funding and this is as a consequence of wider financial pressures and the need to finalise the Business Case before seeking authority to proceed with the project.”*
- *Debra Hill –Howells MCC 13.09.16*

**We think this means considerable delays likely. PH to seek clarification**

# Surprise victory for workers: how New Zealand led the world by banning zero-hours contracts

A sound business argument and general outrage helped trade unionists win the day

Eleanor Ainge Roy Wellington

When Sports Direct agreed to offer the option of a guaranteed 12-hour week, the move was widely welcomed.

But it will hardly make a dent in the vast, fast-growing army of workers across the country who now have to live on insecure employment terms with no facilities or sick pay - and whom Theresa May has pledged to help. Data released on Thursday showed the number of workers in Britain on zero-hours contracts had jumped 20% in a year to more than 900,000 - or 2.9% of the working population.

Employers' organisations blame zero-hours contracts on an insatiable need for flexible staff and are reluctant to be hit by a union-led campaign.

But it is not for nothing that the UK has the highest rate of zero-hours contracts in the world, a fact that has been adopted by the 10th World Economic Forum as a key indicator of the UK's labour market. The New Zealand government abolished zero-hours contracts - and the business world is having to find new ways of working.

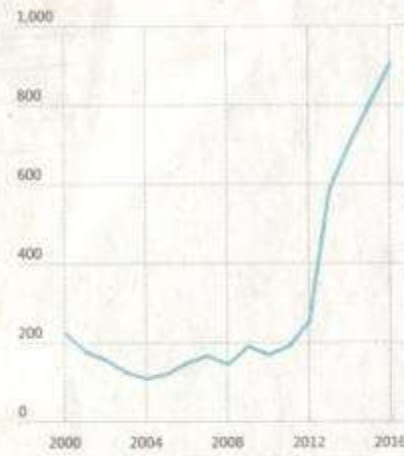
"Since the legislation was brought in banning zero-hours contracts, companies realise they need to defend their exploitation of workers," said Gerard Smith, national secretary of the Unite union.



MacDonalds is the one single brand in NZ that is proving difficult to convince: contnd on next slide

## People employed on zero-hour contracts

Thousands



SOURCE: ONS

NOTE: 2015 FIGURE IS FROM APRIL TO JUNE

# More than 900,000 workers on zero-hours contracts

Rise from 747,000 in year as insecure jobs take root

Median hourly rate nearly £4 less than UK's average

Phillip Inman  
Economics correspondent

The number of UK workers on zero-hours contracts has leapt 20% in a year to more than 900,000, indicating that insecure employment has become a permanent and growing feature of the jobs market.

The Office for National Statistics said that 903,000, or 2.9%, of the employed workforce were on zero-hours contracts - which do not offer guaranteed hours or sick pay - in their main job, up from 747,000 last year.

Response to the data, the general secretary of the TUC, Frances O'Grady, said that the government needed to give extra sup-

port to workers "living at the sharp end of the labour market".

TUC analysis shows that an average worker earns 50% more an hour than those on zero-hours contracts. The median hourly rate for a zero-hours worker is £7.25 compared with £11.05 for all employees, the TUC said.

John Philpott, director of the Jobs Economist consultancy, said the contracts also undermined the spirit of the statutory minimum wage regulations. He said: "People employed on zero-hours contracts are only entitled to the minimum wage for the hours they actually work and receive nothing when 'on call', which serves to intensify income insecurity."

Zero-hours contracts are widely used by retailers, restaurants, leisure companies and hotels. The care industry is estimated to employ 160,000 workers on zero-hours contracts, while the public sector, especially the health service, has increasingly adopted them.

Britain's largest sportswear retailer,

Sports Direct, said this week it would offer shop staff the option of a contract with a minimum 12 hours' work a week, in line with other retailers such as Next. Sports Direct's founder, Mike Ashley, also said he would consider switching 4,000 agency staff at the company's main distribution centre to being full-time employees.

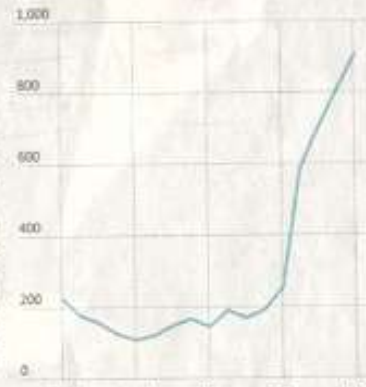
On average, staff on a zero-hours contract work 25 hours a week, the ONS said. But about one in three people (31%) on such contracts said they wanted to work more hours, compared with 10% of those in other forms of employment who said the same.

Nick Palmer, an ONS statistician, said it was likely that some of the increase related to greater public consciousness about zero-hours contracts, which could have led to respondents to the ONS labour force survey - which was used to calculate the figures - becoming aware of their employment status for the first time.

O'Grady said: "It is very easy for politicians and employers to talk about the

## People employed on zero-hour contracts

Thousands



SOURCE: ONS

NOTE: 2015 FIGURE IS FROM APRIL TO JUNE

flexibility these contracts offer. But they are not the ones living at the sharp end of the labour market. If you don't know how much work you will have from one day to the next, paying the bills and arranging things like childcare can be a nightmare."

In March New Zealand passed legislation to ban such contracts after a campaign led by trade unions. The law, which took effect on 1 April, stipulates that employers must guarantee a minimum number of hours' work each week, and that workers can refuse extra hours without repercussions.

The UK department for business, energy and industrial strategy said: "As the prime minister has made clear, we want to do more to build an economy that works for everyone and to help working people who are struggling to get by."

"Since May last year, the use of exclusivity clauses has been unlawful, meaning that individuals have more control over their lives and can work more hours with another employer if they wish."



abroad to share their success story with other unions.

The new legislation stipulates that workers must be offered a fixed, minimum number of hours each week, and will not be penalised for refusing any extra work offered at short notice.

"We have been in demand, everyone wants the nitty-gritty details of how we pulled it off," said Joe Carolan, a senior organiser for Unite. "Internationally, activists think the speed of the victory was startling. But we've been campaigning since 2005. We've had long drawn-out scraps. Endless fights."

The union has been celebrating this week after it concluded a significant and lengthy negotiation with Restaurant Brands New Zealand (which includes KFC, Starbucks and Pizza Hut franchises) agreeing to move all of its 4,000 zero-hour employees on to fixed-hour contracts. The company will now guarantee workers a minimum number of hours each week, and "reasonable compensation" for any time they are expected to be available.

Intense talks are also under way with Burger King and Wendy's, said Carolan. But one fast-food chain is digging its heels in: "McDonald's are tough," he said.

Hehir says the zero-hours contracts demanding that employees be available seven days a week were evidence of poor

management - and most companies had been able to accurately pinpoint busy times when extra workers may be needed, to a 10-hour window each week.

The introduction of minimum fixed hours has also taken away a tool some managers use to discriminate against workers - arbitrarily rewarding or punishing them by changing their hours.

"If you forget to smile at your boss on their birthday, that's no longer something they can punish you for by withholding shifts," said Hehir. "Workers have more stability, more confidence they will not be punished for personal slights - real or imagined."

Shirley Wang, who is employed at Sky City Casino in Auckland on a fixed-hour contract and is an active Unite member, says the next hurdle is to move workers to banded employment contracts, in

'Workers have more stability, more confidence they will not be punished for personal slights'

Gerard Hehir, Unite

ATT should draw this to MCC's attention



First visualisation of MacDonalds publicly released: shown postage stamp size in Chronicle



PH to check MacDonalds planning application to see what agreements were finally made with BBNP and MCC landscape advisers as to planting of woodland along the site perimeter

# EU Urb ACT update

- Councillor Prosser and Deserie Mansfield went to Rotterdam workshops. Report back due 26 September. PH to attend meeting with Pamela Mason ( PM) and report back.
- Consider inviting PM to next ATT meeting to discuss Barcelona case study and also recent developments on local horticultural production in Romania.
- PM invited by MCC to join visit to Belgium case study in October.
- PH attending next meeting of EU Urb ACT 26<sup>th</sup> September.



## MIDDLE EAST

# Record-high temperatures 'like walking into a fire'

**By Hugh Naylor**

Record high temperatures have scorched countries from Morocco to Saudi Arabia and beyond this summer, and climate experts are warning that the severe weather could be a harbinger of worse to come.

Temperatures in Kuwait and Iraq have startled observers. On 22 July, the mercury hit 53.8°C (129°F) in the Iraqi city of Basra. A day earlier, it reached 129.2°F in Mitribah, Kuwait. If confirmed by the World Meteorological Organisation, the two temperatures would be the hottest ever recorded in the eastern hemisphere.

Going out is like "walking into a



**Temperatures in the Iraqi city of Basra hit 53.8°C on 22 July**

fire", said Zainab Guman, who lives in Basra. "It's like everything on your body – your skin, your eyes, your nose – starts to burn."

In the coming decades, UN officials and climate scientists predict that the mushrooming populations in the Middle East and North Africa will face extreme water scarcity, temperatures almost too hot for human survival and other consequences of global warming. If that happens, conflicts and refugee crises on a far greater scale than now are probable, said Adel Abdellatif, a senior adviser at the UN Development Programme's Regional Bureau for Arab States.

"This incredible weather shows that climate change is already taking a toll now and that it is – by far – one of the biggest challenges ever faced by this region." WASHINGTON POST



## ENVIRONMENT

# Flood report 'shockingly short on solutions'

By Emily Beament

Communities have reacted angrily to the findings of the long-awaited Government review into the devastating flooding last winter, with some calling it "shockingly disappointing" and others labelling its measures "Elastoplast".

The National Flood Resilience Review assesses how the country can be protected from future flooding and extreme weather.

Committing £12.5m for temporary defences and including commitments from utilities to increase

protection of key local infrastructure such as phone networks and water treatment works, the report also sets out a new stress test of the risk of flooding around England.

But Dr Stephen Gibbs, chairman of the Carlisle Flood Action Group, suggested the Environment Agency (EA) was simply not equipped to do the job of tackling flooding and that a change of approach was needed.

The university lecturer, who lives in Carlisle with his wife and two children and has been flooded out twice, said: "The Environment Agency have a pattern – they have a flood,

they have a review, then they get out the Elastoplast and hope for the best until the next flood. Temporary flood defences are part of the filibustering that the EA are having to do."

He added: "The Dutch defeated flooding because their senior politicians sat down and said 'How can we defeat this?' And they defeated flooding."

The chairman of the Hebden Bridge Partnership, set up to improve economic and community life in the

West Yorkshire town, described the review as "shockingly disappointing".

Bob Deacon said a huge amount of work had gone into focusing on solutions for West Yorkshire's Calder Valley. Mr Deacon said: "There are only two sentences about all that – on the last page."

Andrea Leadsom, the Environment Secretary, said: "Work is already under way towards £12.5m of new temporary defences stationed around England, better protection for our



infrastructure and new flood modelling that makes better use of data and technology. We are absolutely committed to reducing the risk of flooding by investing £2.5bn up to 2021."

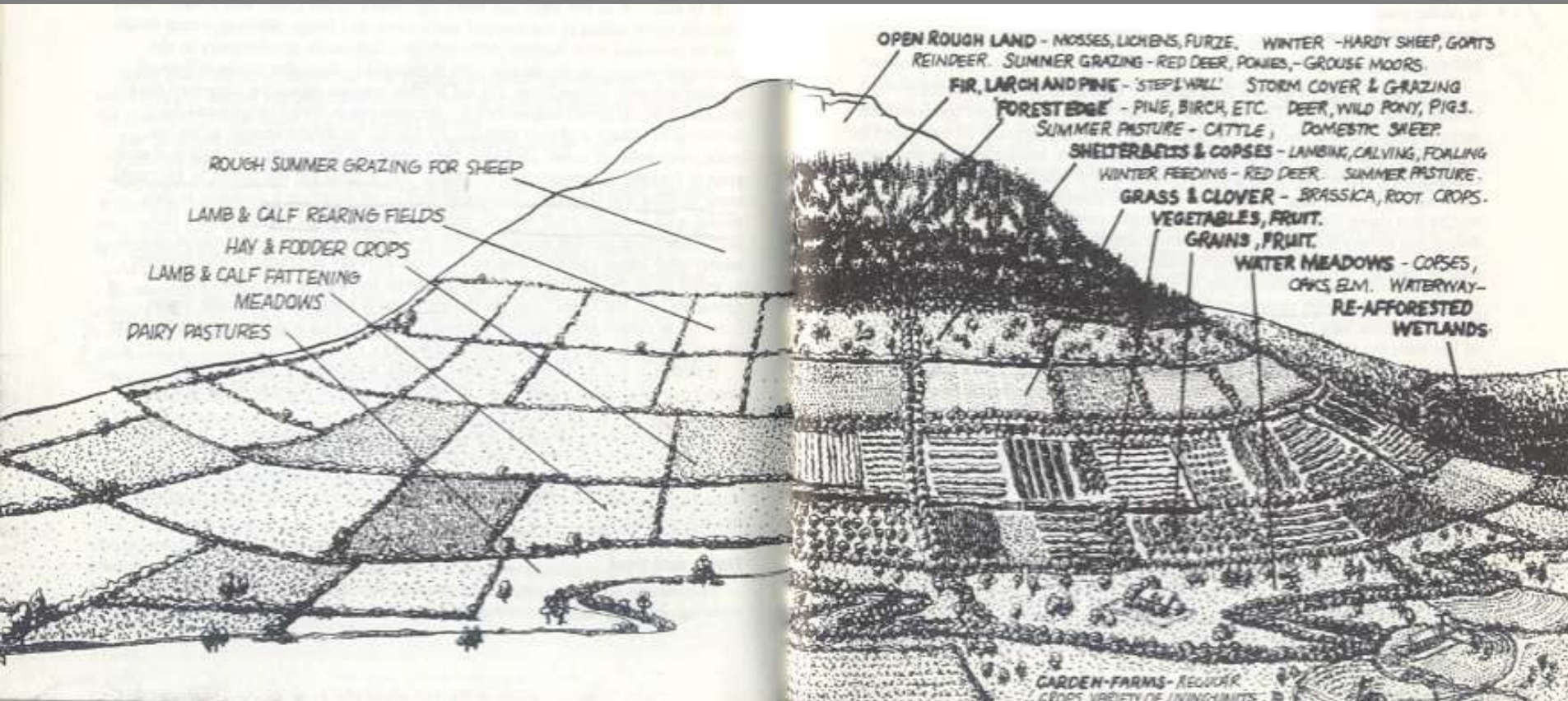
**i** Shortly after last year's flooding, the accountancy firm KPMG estimated the **cost of the damage would top £5bn**, with insurance claims reaching £1.5bn, although it warned that many people would be underinsured.

Are we running out of time as climate change advances relentlessly? Are we making sufficient impact on the crucial factors of behavioural change? Are we too invisible to the rest of Abergavenny.....?

Is it time for ATT to re-assess its priorities for direct action and focussing on a few key issues: To be discussed at next meeting: anyone to submit suggestions in advance of meeting and circulate.

# Radical Technology Conference Bristol

## September 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> 2016



Drawing Clifford Harper 1975

Report back next meeting



# NEXT MEETING October 13<sup>th</sup> @ Abergavenny Community centre 7.15pm

- Key focus issues?
- Who to invite?
- Where is ATT going next?
- New chair in January? Volunteers?