

## WHITLAND TOWN COUNCIL- FLOOD MEETING 24<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2025

- The meeting commenced with Mayor Len Shipton's introduction and a welcome, during which he thanked all residents for their attendance
- It was reported by Len that County Councillor Sue Allen could not attend
- Questions from the public, if any, would be collected and forwarded to her for response
- Meeting began with several residents sharing their experiences from the evening of the floods. A discussion followed, during which many residents expressed how stressful the experience was and that valuable personal belongings have been damaged. It was suggested that, going forward, a process should be established to support residents who do not regularly access social media updates- such as involving a community warden or a designated flood response team, to provide assistance before an evacuation becomes necessary.
- The meeting continued with consideration of gullies in Whitland. Many residents sought clarification on who is accountable for them and when were they last cleaned. Other residents expressed their concerns surrounding the culverts.
- Discussion then moved to the issue of sand bags. On the evening of the floods, Mayor Shipton had provided sandbags to residents who had contacted him and were in need of them. There were not enough for everyone. Residents in the meeting questioned why sand bags had been delivered to Hywel Dda building but not to residents who were also at the risk of flooding in that area. Clarification was sought on the source of the sandbags, as they had not been provided by Whitland Town Council. It was noted by Mayor Shipton that 100 sand bags have been donated by Colin Harries.
- Residents then raised several questions , including:
  1. Why the natural water flow was unable to drain as it normally would on that night?
  2. Whether Network Rail has any drainage exit points on their land and the need to seek clarification from them
  3. Why the natural drainage systems are not functioning effectively
  4. Where do the drains from North road divert to?
  5. River needs to be dredged- Who is accountable for this? and cost?
  6. Where are the local outlets?
  7. Residents asked if there was an report for annual check of drains
  8. Who is responsible for doing a risk assessment/contingency plan for future reference?
  9. Several residents had questions surrounding the Gullies and Culverts in Whitland, such as, who is responsible for them, when were they last cleaned?

- Residents then raised concerns about trees and similar debris in the river that may have contributed to the flooding. It was noted that the responsibility for ensuring such materials do not obstruct the river lies with local landowners. Residents requested clarification on this matter
- The meeting then moved on to discuss the proposed meeting for January. It was reported that Whitland Town Council is in the process of organising a multi agency meeting, with the intention of involving the Fire Service, Police, Carmarthenshire County Council, Pembrokeshire County Council, Welsh Water, NRW, JJ Morris auctioneers, and local councillors. The purpose of the meeting will be to obtain answers and further clarity for residents.
- The meeting concluded with Mayor Len Shipton informing residents that any questions requiring response from Councillor Sue Allen should be passed to the Clerk, who will forward them accordingly

MEETING CONCLUDED- FUTURE MEETING DATE FOR JANUARY WILL BE GIVEN IN DUE COURSE.

ACTIONED: CLERK HAS SENT RESIDENTS ENQUIRIES TO COUNTY COUNILLOR SUE ALLEN ON THE 08/12/2025.