



**Cyfoeth
Naturiol
Cymru**
**Natural
Resources
Wales**

Ein cyf/Our ref: CH18-006
Eich cyf/Your ref: P-05-801

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Mr David J Rowlands
Chair of Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

By email: SeneddPetitions@Assembly.Wales

3 October 2018

Dear Mr Rowlands,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide an update to the committee. We continue to liaise and work with the Friends of Roath Brook campaign group to find a way forward. Below we provide information on the current position.

Having completed the Phase 1 and Phase 2 engineering works and finished much of the landscaping, we were pleased to re-open the park gardens to the community in September. Although there has been an issue with some of the replanted trees due to their quality, form or a failure to establish, partly due to the summer heatwave, overall, we have received favourable comments regarding the quality of the works and landscaping from members of the public using and enjoying the parks again.

We understand that the campaign group is now close to appointing an engineer to review our options appraisal and the Roath Brook Gardens ("Phase 3") works. The timeline for their review is unclear however, but we hope that it can begin in October and conclude in November 2018, having been originally planned for June and July of this year. We have continued to pause the works in Roath Brook Gardens to allow the group extended time for the review, but we cannot continue this pause indefinitely.

The group has reviewed the hydrology (rainfall and flow data) and the data evidences that the original flow calculation, and hence the prediction of flood risk to the area, was accurate. It is disappointing that the group does not accept this view, and we do not feel their counterargument is technically valid to justly challenge it.

There has been email correspondence between the campaign group, ourselves and Dwr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) regarding using Llanishen Reservoir and Cardiff Council regarding using Roath Park Lake to store flood water. We have done this partly at the campaign groups request to facilitate these discussions. To date, both DCWW and Cardiff Council have declined offers of meetings and a viable proposal for an alternative option to

our proposed works has not been forthcoming from the campaign group. Once the campaign group's consultant has been appointed it is expected that they will review such options to store flood water. NRW, DCWW and Cardiff Council have offered to attend any meetings should they be arranged to consider new proposals to store flood water, but I would add that these options were considered previously by ourselves and we concluded that they did not provide a suitable alternative to the works at Roath Brook Gardens.

We indicated previously that we would directly engage with residents that will be protected up to the 1:75 chance flood event by the Roath Brook Gardens work. In August we sent questionnaires to 70 such properties. To date we have received 26 written responses and six verbal responses following some follow-up visits to properties. We are continuing to seek replies from the outstanding properties. We attach an initial summary of the responses received from residents to date (*'Roath Phase 3 Questionnaire Responses Initial Summary 021018.xls'*) for your information, but please note we are still receiving replies so this is not a final version.

Based on the responses received we believe that most of those that replied were:

- aware of the flood risk;
- aware of our scheme and understand the works proposed;
- felt informed through the project consultation;

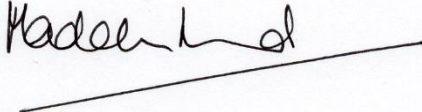
Furthermore:

- over half the responding residents believe our assessment of the flood risk;
- a third of respondents continue to not accept the evidence that we have provided through consultation and our best efforts;
- nearly half of respondents are concerned of the impact to the park.

We have always acknowledged that there would be an impact, but our preferred option is one that in our view, reduces this to a minimum whilst managing the risk to an acceptable level. It is for these reasons that we paused our works in Roath Brook Gardens, so an independent challenge could be provided. We remain confident that our and our consultants' work is thorough and can withstand scrutiny. We have also gone through a full planning process in order to obtain permission to carry out these works.

Thank you again for the opportunity of providing an update to the work of your committee.

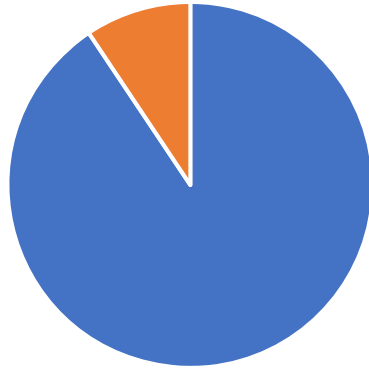
Kind regards,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Madeleine Havard', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized.

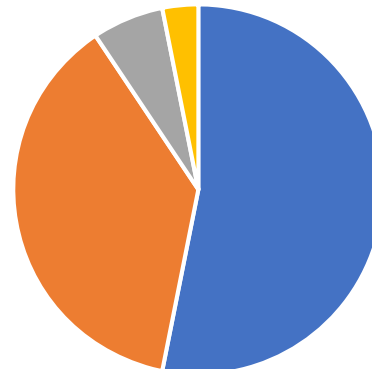
Dr Madeleine Havard
Cadeirydd Dros Dro
Acting Chair

1. Prior to this letter were you aware of your flood risk?



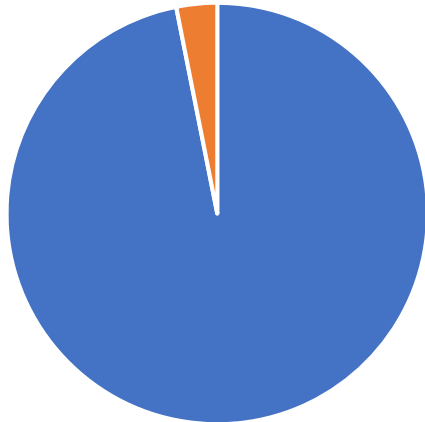
■ Yes ■ No

2. Do you believe our assessment of your river flood risk?



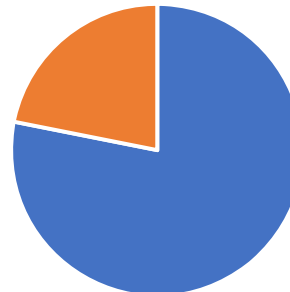
■ Yes ■ No ■ Unsure ■ No Response

3. Were you aware of our flood scheme?



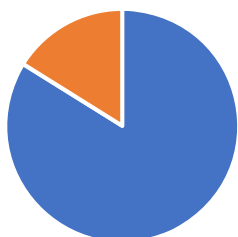
■ Yes ■ No

4. Do you feel consulted on the flood scheme (e.g. did you receive / read newsletters, park notices, emails, attend drop-in sessions etc.)?



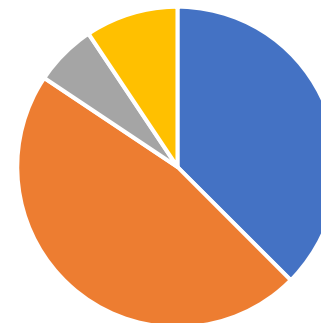
■ Yes ■ No

5. Do you understand the works proposed in Roath Brook Gardens and Roath Mill Gardens? (ie sloping the grass bank to widen the channel, some grassed ground raising. No concrete or pile walls)



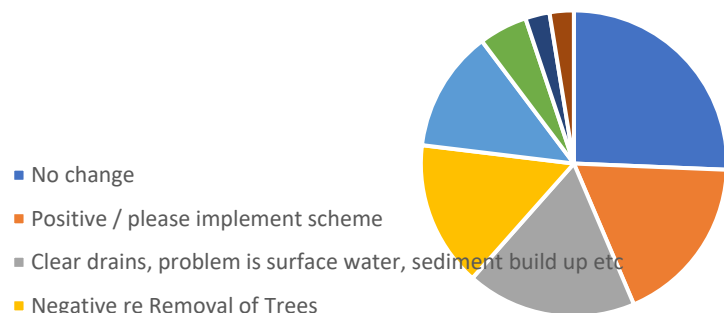
■ Yes ■ No

6. Do you feel the proposed works are proportionate to the flood risk and have adequately considered the value of the Park Gardens?



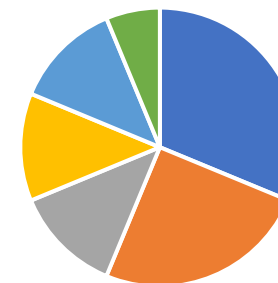
■ Yes ■ No ■ Unsure ■ No Response

7. What changes would you wish to see to the proposed works, if any?



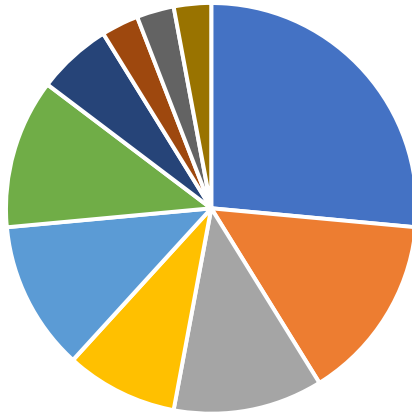
- No change
- Positive / please implement scheme
- Clear drains, problem is surface water, sediment build up etc
- Negative re Removal of Trees
- Design issues
- Generally negative
- Basis of evidence not satisfactory
- Details of the works keep changing

8. What do you think of the proposed finish, reinstatement and planting to Roath Brook Gardens and Roath Mill Gardens?



- Positive
- Negative re trees/Gardens
- Negative-not in keeping with Area
- Positive - Importance should be placed on the protection of homes
- Positive if in keeping with Area
- Long term will be ok, concerned of short term impact
- [Unlabeled]

9. Do you have any other comments?



- Had issues with getting home insurance
- Referred to previous flooding (some caused by drains)
- Happy with the scheme
- Please progress the works
- Frustrated by protestors and delay
- Comment re assessment of the risk
- Basis of evidence not satisfactory
- NRW should seek alternative design
- Ratio of cost to properties benefiting from scheme is too high
- Spend money on maintenance