**PR115/23: Shared Prosperity Fund bid for Llanwenarth Citra Flood Bund**

**Background:**

The flood bund is a long earth embankment which for around 100 years has protected homes and farms in Llanwenarth from rapid flooding when the River Usk is in flood conditions. It runs around the lower bank of the meander above Llanwenarth, on the river-bank boundary of Mardy Farm and Pyscodlyn Farm, directing water away from the farm buildings, homes and historic St Peter’s Church which stand in the Llanwenarth Citra flood plain and reducing the risk of sudden and catastrophic flooding.

In 2020 during Storm Dennis, the bund was overtopped and breached, creating eddies which scoured away parts of the bund. Pyscodlyn Farm and Mardy Farm experienced sudden flooding. Temporary repairs were done. There have been several incidences of flooding since, which have brought water to the top of the bund but not overtopped it. It is clear that the repaired areas are a weak point, and that the bund needs to be strengthened and its height increased to protect farms and homes and the caravan park which is an important local tourist business. Due to climate change we can expect more frequent and more severe weather events. The purpose of the bund is not to prevent flooding entirely, but to direct water away from homes and onto farmland.

NRW have carried out Ground Investigations and a survey of the bund. The next stage is to get expert recommendations as to the best way to strengthen the bund. However, as the bund is not part of an official flood defence and protects a relatively small number of properties, NRW have indicated that they are currently unable to prioritise it in their capital programme.

**Potential Funding**

The current call for projects for Monmouthshire Shared Prosperity Funding includes capital investment in resilience infrastructure and nature-based solutions that protect local businesses and community areas from natural hazards including flooding and coastal erosion. The owners of Pyscodlyn Farm and Mardy Farm as owners of the bund are looking to apply for funding for the consultancy work which NRW is unable to progress (approximately £25,000) and for the most urgent repairs recommended. The maximum funding is £200,000 They are receiving support from NRW and MCC’s flooding officer in preparing the bid. However the community benefit of the bund is much wider than the two farms on which it stands.

The Town Council is asked to support the bid as a community priority and to urge MCC to approve funding.