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Storm drawn so that with a

tidal surge a pumping station is required as well storm drains.

Kind Regards

See Radio Times copy.

Radio

WHEN THE WAVES CAME

It's 70 years since the Great Tide claimed 307 lives. But why was Britain's greatest environmental disaster forgotten – and could it happen again?

Learning from the Great Tide 8pm Monday Radio 4

ost of us have never heard of the Great Tide of 31 January 1953, the once-ina-century meteorological event that took the lives of 307 people in the United Kingdom and a further 1,800 in the Netherlands. "It's probably the biggest environmental disaster in modern British history," says Justin Rowlatt, BBC environment editor and presenter of Learning from the Great Tide on Radio 4. Yet, outside the areas where it did most damage – East Anglia, Essex and, in particular, Canvey Island in the Thames Estuary - the Great Tide is largely unknown. Rowlatt wants to know why. "We should explore this bit of history," he says. "300-plus is a lot of deaths, how could that have been forgotten?"

The flood's origins were far away from Canvey Island, in a fierce gale off the west coast of Scotland. The first casualties were the 13-man crew of the Michael Griffith, lost when the Fleetwood trawler disappeared without a trace. They were followed by 133 passengers and crew on the ferry Princess Victoria, which foundered off the north-eastern coast of Ireland. The deadly storm then gathered pace and, crossing Britain, travelled down the North Sea where it encountered an unusually high spring tide, creating a huge tidal surge at a point where England's

WORLD WATCHER

BBC environment

ditor Justin Rowlatt

Today satellite tracking and mobile phones would forewarn the public of imminent disaster. Not in 1953. Night had fallen when the surge swept across eastern England; on Canvey Island, populated by Londoners who had left the war-blitzed East End, people were asleep.

"It was January, and it was dark and cold,"

says Rowlatt. "They went to bed not knowing anything about the storm. As they were in bungalows, when the water came they couldn't go up onto a first floor. They had to go on the roof, in the teeth of a winter storm. People, often with their children and babies, were on the top of what were basically sheds that they built themselves. They died of exposure, because nobody could rescue them."

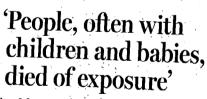
There were what Rowlatt calls "amazing stories of heroism". Like that of the "Dutchman", a Canvey resident who rowed around houses in the storm rescuing as many as

he could. It wasn't enough; on Canvey alone 58 people died. The victims were mainly the elderly, and women and children.

There are still people on Canvey Island who remember the flood and several were interviewed by the show's

producer Patrick Bernard. "Most of the survivors were children or teenagers at the time of the flood," Bernard says. "So their memories were quite exciting, they got the day off school, they were given bags of sweets. Very different from the experience of their parents, probably. It was a time of keeping calm and carrying on. The mental





health aspect, the trauma, was hidden away. I think a lot of parents just didn't really talk about it to their children."

Britain was emerging from the Second World War, looking forward rather than back.

"The impetus was to build a new Britain," says Rowlatt. "Queen Elizabeth had just come on to the throne. Everest was conquered, there was this great optimism. This is something we have explored talking to historians, people didn't want to dwell on this story of horror.

protected

coastline was least



"There was a sense of embarrassment in the country," he adds. "You've really let your citizens down if they die on the roofs of their houses cuddling their children. It's unimaginable."

Was it really a mixture of this impatience for a new brighter age and British stiff upper lip that allowed these terrible events to slip from the greater public consciousness - or were there other causes? Those who died were not well-to-do - would the Great-Tide have been better remembered if it had engulfed South Kensington rather than Canvey Island? "Undoubtedly," says Rowlatt. "They were Cockneys."

Around the word today it's mostly the poor who must battle against the rising tides. "One of the issues with climate is that so often it is marginal people in developing countries that are affected," Rowlatt says, "It's hard for people [here] to identify with Bangladeshi farmers. But the victims on Canvey Island are very easy for most British people to identify with. They are British people, living recognisably British lives, in parts of the country that we are all familiar with, who lost their lives. It was partly a

natural disaster, but we also failed to respond adequately, we didn't have the protection in place, we didn't have the systems to warn people and help people."

HERE IS ONE very real memorial of sorts to the dead of 1953 – the system of sea defences that were then built up around the coast of south-east England. "The Thames Barrier is the iconic bit of the infrastructure, but there are actually flood walls and other defences on other rivers and streams that are required to protect the whole of the Thames estuary area," says Rowlatt. "And the flood was the spur that led to that."

But will those defences be enough? "We're looking at forecasts of a metre of sea level rise by 2100; and we know we're going to experience more intense storms. 1953 was a really high tide, coupled with a really big storm, which increased the level of the water by about four metres. If you've got an extra metre, then you've got five metres of water. It's potentially catastrophic."

MICHAEL HODGES

w. 2023

Bridgend County Borough Council | Inspector: Nicola Gulley MA MRTPI Local Development Plan **EXAMINATION** t: 07977 845855

Programme Officer: Amanda Borge

www.bridgend.gov.uk/ldp | e: LDPProgrammeofficer@bridgend.gov.uk

Bridgend County Borough Council, Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend CF31 4WB



Your Representor Number: 387

Date: 02/12/2022

To all Deposit Consultation Respondents



Examination into the soundness of the Bridgend Replacement Local Development Plan (2018 – 2033)

I refer to the above.

My name is Nicola Gulley, I am the Inspector appointed by the Ministers of the Welsh Government to conduct the independent examination of the Bridgend Replacement Local Development Plan (LDP).

The Council consulted on the Deposit Plan from 1 June 2021 to 27 July 2021. The Plan was not subject to any Focussed Changes and therefore the Deposit LDP Plan will be the Plan subject to examination.

I am writing to you because you or your organisation made representations during the consultation on the Deposit LDP.

Amanda Borge is the Programme Officer who will assist me with the examination. Although appointed by the Council, she will work for me in administering the examination and hearings and is independent of the Council. All correspondence and submissions relating to the examination should be sent to Amanda, her contact details are:

Email: LDPProgrammeOfficer@bridgend.gov.uk

Tel: 07977 845855

Postal address: Amanda Borge, LDP Programme Officer, Bridgend County Borough Council, Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend CF31 4WB



<u>Ni</u> fydd Cyfarfod Cyn y Gwrandawiad yn cael ei gynnal ar gyfer yr archwiliad hwn. Yn hytrach, mae Nodiadau Canllaw ar gyfer Cyfranogwyr wedi'u cyhoeddi ar wefan yr Archwiliad ochr yn ochr â'r llythyr hwn. **Gwnewch yn siŵr eich bod yn darllen y rhain yn ofalus ac yn cydymffurfio â nhw yn ystod yr archwiliad.**

Dylai'r cyfranogwyr nodi y byddaf yn ysgrifennu at y Cyngor gyda rhai cwestiynau rhagarweiniol ynghylch y CDLI a'i sylfaen dystiolaeth. Mae hyn i fy nghynorthwyo ac i hwyluso proses archwilio effeithlon yn unig. Bydd y llythyr hwn ac ymateb y Cyngor yn cael eu cyhoeddi ar wefan yr archwiliad cyn y gwrandawiadau.

Mae'r Cyngor yn darparu mynediad i'r we mewn llyfrgelloedd cyhoeddus. Mae'r manylion i'w gweld yng nghymal 3.3 y Nodiadau Canllaw. Dylai unrhyw un sy'n dymuno gweld copïau caled o ddogfennau'r archwiliad gysylltu â Swyddog y Rhaglen a fydd yn hapus i gynorthwyo.

Cyfieithu a chymorth arbennig mewn gwrandawiadau

Croesawir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg, ac fe fydd dogfennau'r archwiliad ar gael yn ddwyieithog. Pan fo rhai neu bob cyfranogwr mewn gwrandawiad wedi nodi y byddai'n well ganddynt gyfathrebu yn Gymraeg, caiff cyfleusterau cyfieithu eu trefnu. Os ydych yn bwriadu siarad Cymraeg mewn gwrandawiad fe fyddwn yn gwerthfawrogi pe byddech yn cadarnhau hyn gyda Swyddog y Rhaglen cyn gynted â phosibl cyn y digwyddiad fel bod y Cyngor yn gallu gwneud y trefniadau angenrheidiol. Nid yw peidio â'n hysbysu o flaen llaw yn cael unrhyw effaith ar eich hawl i gymryd rhan yn Gymraeg, ond gall ohirio'r gwrandawiad tra bod gwasanaethau cyfieithu ar y pryd yn cael eu trefnu.

Dylai cyfranogwyr sydd â gofynion penodol ac sydd angen cymorth yn ystod yr archwiliad gysylltu â Swyddog y Rhaglen cyn gynted â phosibl.

Os oes gennych unrhyw gwestiynau am gynnwys y llythyr hwn, cysylltwch â mi drwy Swyddog y Rhaglen.

Yn gywir

Nicola Gulley

Arolygydd

CC CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF SIROL PEN-Y-BONT AR OGWR

Participation in hearings

The examination will include a series of public hearings which will be held virtually using the Microsoft Teams platform. I expect these hearings to begin **on 28 February 2023** and to continue for 4 weeks or so.

A draft hearings programme, including a list of potential participants and an outline of the matters to be discussed, has been published on the examination website. Please note that this is a 'live' document which is subject to change. I aim to publish the final timetable for the hearings, a definitive list of participants for each session, and the detailed list of matters, issues and questions, by 11 January 2023.

The hearings will be open to the public to observe, but only those who made relevant representations during the deposit consultation period are eligible to participate. Those who have already indicated to the Council that they wish to be heard have been assigned to relevant sessions as shown on the draft hearings programme. Others eligible to request to attend these sessions (as they have made relevant representations) are also listed but must request to participate. If you wish to speak at a hearing but are not listed on the programme, and you have made a representation which you consider makes you eligible to give oral evidence at that hearing, please get in touch with the Programme Officer as soon as possible. I would stress, however, that any written representations already made will carry equal weight to oral evidence given during hearings.

Whether or not you are identified as a participant on the draft programme, it is ESSENTIAL that you CONFIRM with the Programme Officer your intention to speak at a hearing session as soon as possible and no later than 12 noon on 11 January 2023. If your participation in a hearing has not been confirmed by this date, I will assume that you are content for your views to be dealt with via written representations, irrespective of what you may have previously stated. Your cooperation in this regard is much appreciated.

It would also assist the Programme Officer if you could confirm your contact details, in particular your email address (if you have one) as future communications will be conducted electronically as far as possible. Please quote your Representor ID shown at the top of this letter in all correspondence.

Information and guidance about the examination

The examination website provides up-to-date information about the examination and hearings. Documents submitted by the Inspector, Programme Officer, Council and others will be published in the Examination Library section of the website under 'Examination Documents'. You should check this website regularly for the latest information, including changes to the programme. A Pre-Hearing Meeting will <u>not</u> be held for this examination. Instead, Guidance Notes for Participants have been

published on the Examination website alongside this letter. Please ensure that you read these carefully and comply with them during the examination.

Participants should note that I will be writing to the Council with some preliminary questions regarding the LDP and its evidence base. This is purely to assist me and to facilitate an efficient examination process. This letter and the Council's response will be published on the examination website in advance of the hearings.

The Council provides internet access at public libraries. Details can be found at clause 3.3 of the Guidance Notes. Anyone wishing to view hard copies of examination documents should contact the Programme Officer who will be happy to assist.

Translation and special assistance at hearings

Correspondence in both Welsh and English is welcomed, and examination documents will be available bilingually. Where some or all participants in a hearing have indicated a preference to communicate in the Welsh language, translation facilities will be arranged. If you intend to speak Welsh at a hearing it would be appreciated if you could confirm this with the Programme Officer as soon as possible prior to the event so that the Council can make the necessary arrangements. Not informing us beforehand has no impact on your right to participate in Welsh, but it may delay proceedings whilst simultaneous translation services are arranged.

Participants who have specific requirements and require assistance during the examination should contact the Programme Officer as soon as possible.

If you have any questions about the content of this letter please contact me via the Programme Officer.

Yours sincerely

Nicola Gulley

Inspector

cc Bridgend County Borough Council

