



Company no :- 3569239

lrshp@hotmail.com

To the Planning, Housing & Economic Development Scrutiny Panel

Re:- Flood Risk up stream of Pulteney Bridge Scrutiny session Monday 20th July

Millions of pounds worth of properties – many of them Listed - lie within the River Avon Flood Plain upstream of the Pulteney Bridge and the Radial Sluice Gate.

I speak to report the increasing concerns of many of those who live along London Road who fear that tampering with the Radial Gate may increase flood risk upstream in addition to the predicted 25% increase in river flow due to Climate Change.

The man responsible for the Flood Alleviation Scheme completed in 1974 (Frank Greenhalph) claimed that the Radial Gate would have a lifespan of 80 years provided that the Flotation Tanks were properly maintained and dredged.

Question 1 What is the annual cost of maintaining the Pulteney Radial Gate ?
Recently it was suggested it STILL has a ten year operating life.

Question 2 How much would it cost to replace it with “like for like” ?
The alternative, ie “the three proposals” all involve a fixed weir each of which will be unable to cope with a flow rate of 932,000 tonnes per hour, as experienced recently.

Question 3 Where exactly will the money come from in these times of cut backs and austerity ?
The Chief Executive recently referred to a figure of £6.5 million – but this is for work downstream of Churchill Bridge – not for work at Pulteney Weir. (The problems are at Twerton Lock).

Question 4 In conclusion, IF IT AIN'T BROKE, WHY FIX IT ? And please remember computer based predictions are no substitute for real hydraulic modelling studies.

So **Question 5** “WHY RISK IT ?”

Dr David Dunlop 15th July 2015