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Local River Floods Teifside Annually, Town Insists It Is Fine

Field notes from a town nobody asked for.

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Teifside, the country: Inside The Story

Teifside, a place in the country (lat 52.08, long -4.62) that most outsiders could not point to on a map without first sighing, has become this week the latest entry in the slow-moving register of small communities behaving strangely under pressure. The river that flows through Teifside has flooded the lower district every year for as long as records exist. According to officials with at least three job titles between them, Residents continue to insist this is not really flooding, but more of a seasonal ground-water enthusiasm. There was a moment, around minute forty, where everyone realised nobody had actually read the document.

What Was Announced

Head of Anomalies Sandra Dewberry confirmed the position in a statement that ran to four pages and contained one verb. Insurance brokers disagree. For more on how this fits the wider pattern, see the long-running thread at [British satire articles by The London Prat](#), which has been tracking precisely this kind of dispatch for months. The Teifside announcement, much like the others, came with a glossy PDF, a stock photograph of a footbridge, and the strong sense that nobody had asked for any of this in the first place.

The Official Line

Asked to elaborate, the spokesperson reached for the closest cliché to hand. "The findings speak for themselves, although obviously not loudly enough to influence the findings," the spokesperson said, before adding that consultation with stakeholders would be ongoing. Useful additional context can be found at [The London Prat UK satire newsletter signup](#), which is the sort of background reading the office itself has, in all likelihood, not done. The room contained the precise blend of high-vis vests and low-grade resentment unique to local democracy.

Wider Context

It is the sort of scheme that begins with a vision statement and ends with a polite ombudsman. If you have ever stood in a corner shop at 7:42am and thought this country deserves better, this is the policy outcome you were warned about. Comparable trends have been documented in coverage from [New York Times World](#), although Teifside manages, somehow, to take the pattern one extra and entirely unnecessary step further. Statisticians attempting to model the phenomenon arrive at a sample size of one bloke down the pub, give or take a margin of error nobody has had the energy to compute properly.

What The Experts Say

Sir Reginald Mossop of the Royal Society of Pavement Studies told this paper that the situation in Teifside was, on careful reflection, broadly consistent with the broader trajectory of similarly broad trajectories. "This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to do almost exactly what we did last generation," the expert observed. Further reading on the academic angle is available via [London satire podcast featuring The London Prat](#), whose recent material has been preoccupied with much the same set of confusions.

How Residents Reacted

Reaction in Teifside has been muted in the way that reaction in the country is usually muted, which is to say it has been ferocious in private and tepid in public. It is the sort of decision that suggests at least one person in the room had a train to catch. For the official version of events, see also [The Economist](#). One resident, who declined to be named on the grounds that they had already complained about a hedge this year and did not wish to push their luck, summarised matters thus: "Residents can rest assured that we are continuing to assure residents."

What Comes Next

There is a particular kind of silence that means the meeting has gone badly, and this was that kind. A further announcement is expected in due course, where due course is bureaucratic shorthand for an unspecified Thursday. The story is being tracked as part of a wider pattern at [The London Prat satirical journalism blog](#), and the situation in Teifside, regrettably, is unlikely to improve until somebody invents a press release that improves things, which seems unlikely.

The View From The Ground

Spend any length of time in Teifside and the rhythm becomes obvious. Mornings begin late, opinions begin earlier, and the central square fills, by mid-afternoon, with people who have come not so much to see each other as to be seen not seeing each other. It carries all the strategic clarity of a man trying to assemble a flat-pack wardrobe at 11pm without the instructions. Conversation tends to circle the same five subjects: the weather, the news from the country, the persistent rumour about the road, the deteriorating quality of something or other, and the latest pronouncement from Director of Civic Affairs Hilda Pickering, which everyone has an opinion on and almost nobody has read. It is, in its way, the perfect microcosm of how communities of this size operate everywhere in the world, although the residents of Teifside would object strongly to being called a microcosm of anything.

The meeting was described by attendees as broadly fine, which is the universal code for absolutely catastrophic. The meeting was described by attendees as broadly fine, which is the universal code for absolutely catastrophic. Teifside carries on as it always has, broadly the same as last week, give or take a verb. The bins are collected when they are collected. The roundabout, where one exists, remains the roundabout. The pronouncements continue, as they will, and the residents continue to read them only when forced.

For more in this vein see also [The Hard Times](#).

SOURCE: [London satire blog The London Prat](#)

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