

Wyre Flood Forum
Minutes of meeting held Thursday 08 June 2023
Meeting held at Civic Centre and via Microsoft Teams

PRESENT:

Civic Centre:

Chair

Carl Green (CG) Head of Engineering, Wyre Borough Council

Lancashire Councillors

Cllr John Shedwick (JS) Thornton & Hambleton

Wyre Borough Councillors

Cllr Roger Berry (RB) Neighbourhood Services & Community Safety Portfolio Holder
Cllr Matthew Salter (MS) LCC Councillor, Wyre Rural Central
Cllr Dulcie Atkins (DA) Garstang Ward
Cllr David Walmsley (DW) Jubilee Ward

Parish and Town Councillors

Roger Brooks (RBr) Garstang Town Council
John George Thompson (JT) Hambleton Parish Council

Council Officers/Agency Representatives

Paul Long (PL) Wyre Council (Engineering)
Harry Grundy Wyre Council (Engineering)
Brian Birkett (BB) Lancashire County Council (Flood Management Team)
Robert Brooks-Taylor (RBT) Environment Agency
Melissa Hanson Environment Agency
Dan Blacow (DB) United Utilities
Adam Sugden (AS) Fylde Council

FLAG Representatives

Peter Kayley (PK) Thornton FLAG
Eddie Waring (EW) Thornton FLAG
Ashley Anderton (AA) Preesall FLAG

Others

James Sloane Garstang resident

Via Microsoft Teams:

Parish and Town Councillors

Phil Orme (PO) Preesall Town Council

Council Officers/Agency Representatives

Mark O'Donnell (MO) LCC (Highways)
Olivia Tindale (OT) Natural England
Jake Hilton (JH) United Utilities

FLAG Representatives

Roger Weatherell (RW) Churchtown FLAG

Apologies:

Cllr Alf Clempson	LCC Councillor, Poulton-le-Fylde
Cllr Collette Rushforth	Preesall Ward
Cllr Claire Rimmer	Preesall Ward
Cllr Cheryl Raynor	Rossall Ward
Cllr Stephen Clarke	LCC Councillor, Fleetwood West & Cleveleys West
Cllr Andrea Kay	Pheasants Wood and LCC Councillor
Cllr Mary Stirzaker	Mount Councillor
Len Harris	Wyre Council
Stephen Benson	Fylde Council
John Kenyon	Barnacre PC
Neil Cookson	Pilling PC
Pippa Hodgkins (PH)	Environment Agency
Elizabeth Lowe	Environment Agency
Phil Wylie	United Utilities
Tom Myerscough (TM)	Wyre Rivers Trust
Phil Jenkins	Thornton FLAG
John Quinne	Thornton FLAG
Linda Rowland	Preesall FLAG
Edward Greenwood	Fleetwood Resident
Christina Worsley	Newsground
Susan Pelham	

The Forum was held as a combination of live event and remotely via Microsoft Teams.

1. Introduction by the chairman, Carl Green (Wyre Council):

CG welcomed all attendees to the meeting and all introduced themselves to the meeting.

2. Apologies:

Apologies were noted as above.

3. Minutes of previous meeting:

CG asked whether there were any comments on the minutes of 09 March 2023.

The minutes of the meeting were confirmed as a true record.

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

4. Our Future Coast – Update by Carl Green

CG gave a brief update on the Our Future Coast (previously known as Eco-CoBS) – he informed the Forum that Wyre Council put in a bid on behalf of the North West coast and were awarded £6.8 million to look at innovation on the coastline and what actions could be taken to use natural flood management. He said that using rock and concrete everywhere was neither affordable nor good for the environment and is not sustainable. The Council is looking to work better with natural processes such as dropping sediment to create salt marshes or sand dunes, or working with farmers to drain areas of land or store water on top of the land.

He noted that there are currently three schemes in progress

- Fleetwood Docks – looking at alternate methods for replacing sheet piling using dredged silt materials.
- Arm Hill, Preesall – TM from Wyre River Trust is looking at this – a scheme to open up the waterways to allow water out of the fluvial system while improving the vegetation on the island and improve the salt marsh
- Preesall and Pilling salt marshes – salt marshes in the area have been reclaimed and protected by defences. However, the salt marsh on the outside of the defences has risen while land behind has not – while the benefits of the salt marsh are clear, the issue is how to drain the hinterland through the salt marsh. He confirmed that a meeting had been held at Pilling Village Hall on 22 May with local land owners and flood risk agencies to look at issues and consider solutions. Further meetings are planned to look at these issues.

Further details are at [Our Future Coast \(formerly Eco-CoBS\) | Engage Environment Agency \(engagementhq.com\)](#)

RBR said that while there are a number of natural drainage channels, such as the River Wyre, there are a lot of man-made channels and culverts that add to flooding issues. He considered that these were two separate flooding mechanisms that need to be addressed. CG noted that all networks, whether natural or man-made, eventually made their way to the sea and that the problem is ensuring that the water draining from the

catchment does not meet with the incoming tide so that there is capacity for the outgoing water to fill. He said that there are two principal methods of doing this; either slowing the rate at which water flows from the upper catchments into the rivers (such as the NFM work being undertaken by TM) or by storing the water and releasing this slowly (such as attenuation schemes required for new development).

AA noted that properties on new developments are often built higher to protect the properties, but the older properties are often lower, leading to flooding issues from the new development. CG noted that new developments are required to restrict surface water run-off to pre-development rates and to prevent flooding to neighbouring properties by using perimeter drains. He noted that there are 226 properties in the Wyre catchment that are affected by flooding.

AS noted that all councils have a legacy of properties that were built in the past when we didn't really understand surface water development. Since then development has increased and hard standing has increased, and we are now trying to mimic natural management methods. He said that the National Planning Policy Framework hasn't been robust enough to manage storm water in a sustainable way – this is due to change in 2024/5 when Schedule 3 of the Flood & Water Management Act 2010 will be adopted in England and management of storm water will become mandatory. CG noted that policy is slow but is being addressed by government.

MS expressed his disappointment and frustration that new development may be increasing flood risk to existing properties and that Wyre Council does not have the powers that they should do. He queried how effective the modelling is and how effective are the measures that are put in place to reduce flood risk. He said there needs to be a change to policy to ensure that all new development has a net benefit in terms of flood risk. He noted that a lot of people undertake work to tarmac over their driveways or front gardens to create parking space which increases run-off from existing properties; he noted that Wyre Council has the power to enforce on this but it doesn't seem to happen. CG replied that he would speak to Wyre Planning about this; he added that the Local Plan (which is currently being updated) requires surface water to be reused or discharged at current run-off rates.

CG said that a few good points had been raised on this matter and that he would look at a joint media campaign with LCC on covering driveways and gardens.

5. What's going on in the region - Reports from Flood Management Authorities:

United Utilities:

- DB provided an update on works undertaken by UU over the last three months. He said that routine maintenance works were continuing alongside emergency response works, but there was nothing of any major significance to report at this time.

Work has continued on installing monitoring equipment as part of the Dynamic Flow Monitoring (DFM) system that monitors flows in the Wyre network to help better understand where remedial work or additional storage is required.

- DB noted that there has been recent media coverage of the spills from combined sewer overflows (CSOs) to watercourses and confirmed that this is something that UU are taking serious to find ways of reducing discharges.

Questions to UU

- RBR asked what the role of UU was; he said that there were many other agencies who dealt with flooding issues, so what role does it play. DB replied that the basic business model is to provide clean, safe drinking water and to remove the waste water (for toilets and sinks) for treatment. The UU have a duty to act responsibly both environmentally and financially.

RBR asked whether water storage reservoirs are included in the UU remit; DB confirmed that UU were responsible for reservoirs, although this did not fall directly within his own remit.

- JT asked why there was no major works going on in the area; DB replied that there were works going on but he was not aware of any within Wyre – it was noted that the UU representative for such works was not available for this meeting and DB's role within UU did not cover such works.
- JT noted that there have been flooding issues in Hambleton and that several of these have been resolved. He noted that there are still issues of flooding to properties on Carr Lane, and asked that representatives from UU visit local residents to help resolve flooding issues. DB replied that representatives have previously visited these properties and undertaken works to reduce the risk of flooding from the sewers. He noted that much of the flooding was a consequence of surface water drainage, not sewerage and not specifically a UU issue.

PL did note that works have been recently undertaken to improve the highway drainage on Carr Lane and that this would inevitably have a positive effect on flooding in this area.

- PJ asked for updates about works around Royles Brook School, Thornton being done in conjunction with LCC (Flood Risk Management). PW said that UU are working with LCC to plan works around the school and neighbouring roads. PL added that LCC were investigating the drainage around the school as part of a Section 19 flood report in the school – LCC (Highways) are planning to undertake an exploratory dig around the junction of Tennyson Ave and Wordsworth Ave during the Easter holidays to determine the drainage layout in the area. LCC will be liaising with UU during these works.
- JS reported that the MSfW minutes reported that UU were planning to undertake a survey of the outfall from Sherbourne Road pumping station, Hambleton on 1 June – he asked that the Forum be made aware of any report from the survey. PL confirmed that UU were looking to identify any connection from the pumping station to Wardleys watercourse in response to evidence of cross-connection of foul into the watercourse.
- RB said that it is extremely important that all agencies respond to the Planning Committee on any issues that may affect a planning application so that the Committee can make a decision on an application armed with all the facts and concerns. DB noted that UU are not a statutory consultee in the planning process – RB agreed that this is a big omission and UU should be involved.
- RB said that he is extremely interested in improving the water quality within the River Wyre and asked that UU be active in improving the state of the river. DB replied that he would take this back to the business; he added that there needed to be a collective action to improve the state of the river and to educate the public – he noted that a resident who tarmacs over their front garden to park an additional car may not appreciate that they are adding to surface water runoff which may result in a CSO spillage during heavy rainfall.

- CG asked whether all CSOs are monitored – DB said that most, but not all, are monitored. He confirmed that 92% of permitted overflows are monitored and there are plans in place for the other 8%.
- CG agreed that cleaning the river is a joint effort by everyone and is something that the MSfW group could be looking at. RBR asked who would lead a campaign to clean up the River Wyre; RB replied that this is something that everyone should be involved with and that the Council should be looking to support.

Environment Agency:

- A pre-meeting update to the Forum is included as [Appendix 1](#)
- RBT provided an update on maintenance works;
 - The frequent maintenance works have begun for this year – the programme has been reduced for this year due to staffing issues – priority is given to watercourses in the highest risk systems. RBT added that the EA are currently actively recruiting for replacement staff.
 - Works are progressing on the Garstang flood barrier – the intention is to complete the repair works before winter so that it is fully operational ahead of any possible winter storms.
 - Repair works to the headwall on the Fleetwood Quay outfall from Copse Brook are planned to begin in the next two or three week.
 - The Copse Brook Flood Risk Management Scheme, planned to protect around 2,200 properties (see or-meeting update for further details) is progressing.
 - Contracts for the silt surveys of watercourses are now out for tender. The surveys are planned to be undertaken this year, with subsequent reports and modelling expected at the end of the year.
 - The planning application for the Hambleton Tidal Flood Risk Management Scheme is expected to be submitted to Wyre Council in July. There will be an open day on 22 June in Hambleton Village Hall, where the plans for the scheme will be made available for local residents to view.
 - The EA is in the process of securing funding for the Fleetwood and Copse Brook Management Scheme. There is an outline Business Case in place and the EA are now working on the full Business Case which is required for detailed designs and planning permission.

Questions to EA

- JS welcomed the proposed open day for Hambleton – he said that the scheme was much needed to protect Hambleton and hoped that the day would help reduce the number of issues ahead of the planning application.
- RBT noted that part of the scheme is to create an area of salt marsh on Rawcliffe Road to offset some of the carbon cost of the construction – this work is expected to be undertaken this summer.
- JT asked whether the EA have a schedule for checking outfalls (whether private or not) as many are in poor condition. He noted that there is an outfall into the watercourse on Green Meadow Lane (opposite the junction with Marsh Lane) which

has a jammed open flap valve. He expressed concern that water is flooding up on high tides.

RBT confirmed that the EA has powers for some major outfalls and does undertake some inspections. He noted that all culverts on a main river are inspected and works undertaken as necessary (either by EA staff or a third party contractor). He added that it may sometimes be a complicated process as often ownership of a culvert might be held by several parties (for example, if the culvert passes under a highway or across private land). With regard to the outfall in Hambleton, PL confirmed that the watercourse is designated as main river, but that the outfall is marked on the UU plans as taking highway drainage and being marked as private. RBT confirmed that the EA do not have the power to instruct the land owner (as riparian owner) to undertake works to fix the outfall. CG asked that the incident be logged in the Issues & Actions Log so that the matter can be raised and the land owner informed of the issue and his responsibility to maintain it.

- PK asked about the proposed visit to Hillylaid Pool watercourse in Thornton – PL confirmed that he was trying to arrange a suitable date when all parties were available. PK noted that the Thornton FLAG wardens had walked the watercourse in March this year, when there was not a lot of growth and considered that it would be difficult to progress. He confirmed that the section is very silted up and needs urgent works to desilt it. RBT confirmed that the EA is aware of the issues and is waiting to get back the silt surveys of Hillylaid Pool, Royles Brook, Horsebridge Dyke, Burn Drain and Springfield watercourses before drawing up any plan to remove excess silt. He also confirmed that any removed silt is not usable elsewhere and will have to be removed as contaminated waste.

RBT also noted that the EA is aware of the concrete blockage on Hillylaid Pool, close to Baines School, and will be removed when time permits.

PK noted that the embankment at this point is poor and appears to be unstable and close to collapse.

RBT noted that should residents need to contact the EA to report an issue as urgent, they can report it via the **EA incident hotline 0800 807060**.

CG encouraged everyone to report issues, such as blocked gullies or localised flooding to LCC via their app [Love Clean Streets](#). MO noted that the app is just for highway issues and asked that members only use the app to report such issues as LCC staff are being inundated with non-highway issues that need to be redirected.

Wyre Council:

- PL provided an update on issues currently being investigated
 - Northumberland Ave, Thornton – clearing of the watercourse. He confirmed that this issue had been discussed at the Making Space for Water meeting and that the EA had confirmed that the watercourse forms part of the Burn Drain and is classified as main river – the EA are going to check whether they are undertaking works on this section of watercourse; if not then PL will raise this again with the Developer.
 - Culverts under A585 Amounderness Way – PL confirmed that he had not received an update from National Highways on their works to maintain the culverts. He would contact them again for an update and report back to the Forum.

- Culvert under the sub-station on Stanah Road, Thornton – PL confirmed that he had not received an update on the works to clear the blockage; he would contact National Grid again for an update.
 - Cleaning of highway gullies – PL confirmed that the works would continue later this month to finish off the final areas that required cleaning. Once these works have been completed, the idea is to maintain these on an annual cleaning programme.
 - PL reported that he had been in contact with NPL Estates with regards to flooding issues on Springfield Drive and Bourne Road, Thornton and to maintenance of the Hackenshall watercourse in Preesall. He is arranging a meeting to discuss flooding issues on NPL land and how these can be resolved.
- CG updated the Forum on the Coastal Defence Scheme.
- He reported that Phase 1 of the Scheme is due to be completed within the next month, ahead of programme.
 - A draft MMO licence has been received for Phase 2 of the Scheme, and works are underway to discharge planning conditions ahead of the start of the works. The contract for the works is expected to be signed with Balfour Beatty in the coming week.
 - CG reported that there have been a small number of complaints about vibration but these have been shown to be below threshold levels for damage.

Questions to Wyre Council

- RB noted that National Highways have yet to respond to requests for updates on the clearing of culverts on the A585. He noted that there is a lot of NH works going on in and around the borough and it should not be a problem for the culverts to be cleaned. PL to contact NH for an update.
- RB asked whether there had been any progress in resolving the flooding issues around Sefton Ave., Poulton. PL responded that Wain Homes had confirmed that they are responsible for the land to the rear of the properties but had not yet responded to requests for works to be undertaken to resolve the flooding. PL to contact Wain Homes for an update.

Lancashire County Council:

Highways:

- MO provided a summary of the works being undertaken by LCC (Highways), including
 - Cyclic gulley cleaning – MO reported that there are 9213 highway gullies in the Wyre area which are on the cyclic cleaning programme, of which 8204 have been cleaned in 2022/23.
 - Reactive gulley clearing has been undertaken as necessary in response to complaints.
 - Wide spread clearing of non-cyclic gullies in Hambleton has been undertaken to help with flooding issues in the village – this works has been undertaken in liaison with Wyre Council and there are plans to extend this to other areas once Hambleton is complete.

- High Street, Garstang – works have been undertaken to repair the damaged pipe and to camera the pipe. He noted that there is an extensive root formation that needs to be cleared.
- Carr Lane, Hambleton (outside Queensland) – MO confirmed that a replacement highway drain has put in opposite Queensland which should help reduce the risk of flooding in this area.
- Other works included
 - Drainage works on Poulton Road, Fleetwood
 - Fleetwood Road North, works to footpath opposite Co-op
 - Resurfacing of Rawcliffe Road, St.Michaels (flood damage)
 - Resurfacing of Longmoor Lane, Nateby (flood damage)
 - Investigative work on flooding issues St.Michaels with FLAG
 - Drainage works on Rosslyn Ave., Preesall as part of investigation works with the Flood Management Team
 - Royles Brook School, Thornton, as part of investigation works with the FMT
 - Station Road, Scorton
 - Station Road, Thornton
 - Woodlands Ave, Thornton
 - The Avenue, Churchtown, as part of investigation works with the FLAG
 - Victoria Road, Cleveleys – clearing footway drains

Flood Management Team:

- BB reported on works being undertaken by the FMT

The main areas of interest were

- Moss Side Lane, Great Eccleston – investigations are ongoing
- Surface water drainage around Royles Brook School, Thornton – BB and MO have met to discuss flooding issues here – further investigative works are planned to be undertaken during the school holidays.
- Flooding to residential properties on Broad Oak Ave, Garstang – this is being investigated as part of a Section 19 report – currently investigations are looking at any possible role of the UU pumping station on Fairfax Close in any flooding.
- Investigation into surface water drainage around Rosslyn Ave, Preesall, as detailed by MO above.
- School Road, Thornton – BB confirmed that Network Rail have been approached regarding any plans to look at daylighting part of the surface water drainage behind School Road – a response is still awaited.

Questions to Lancashire County Council

- PO asked for details of the works on Rosslyn Ave; MO confirmed that the Highways team would be building a new manhole over an existing surface water drain on the east side of the road to allow access to the pipe and allow the FMT to continue their investigations into the drainage in Preesall.

He added that LCC would also be undertaking works on the roundabout on Pilling Lane to determine exactly where the surface water was flowing

- DA thanked MO for the works on High Street, Garstang and hopefully this issue is now resolved.

- JS reported concern of flooded pavements in Hambleton – he noted that MO is aware of this and will investigate.
- JS asked whether the drainage works planned for Station Road, Thornton was imminent. MO confirmed that this was the case, including works nearby on Woodhouse Ave.
- JT asked that the highway drainage outfall on Marsh Lane (opposite Sandy Lane) be checked to ensure that it is discharging properly. LCC to investigate and clear as required.
- RW reported that the Churchtown FLAG has surveyed 26 highway gullies as part of the drainage in the village and is hoping to “join the dots” as to how these gullies discharge to the local system. MO confirmed that LCC would be undertaking further investigations on Tuesday 13 June.

Natural England:

- OT gave an update on NE issues
 - NE have opened up for applications for mid-tier grants for natural flood management options, (for options such as leaky dams) [Applicant's guide: Mid Tier grants and Wildlife Offers 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Questions to Natural England

- CG noted the Pilling and Preesall salt marsh scheme (as 4. Our Future Coast - above) and asked whether OT would be the correct person to represent NE on this scheme. She confirmed that she would be the correct person and asked that CG forward her details.
- CG asked whether NE would be supportive of any works to clean up the River Wyre as discussed previously on the meeting. OT replied that NE would like to be involved in any such works as this very much tied in with works that NE is already undertaking to clean up watercourses around Wyre.
- JS asked whether NE had concluded discussions with the EA to allow the EA to submit their planning application for the Hambleton scheme. OT replied that she had not been involved directly with this scheme but would seek a reply from the department with NE dealing with this.

Wyre Rivers Trust:

- No representative was available from the Trust. PL noted that TM had submitted a brief report on works being undertaken by the Trust.
 - Wyre Catchment NFM Project (delivery April 2022 – Mar 2023)
 - Approx. 10ha woodland created
 - 3.3km of bunded hedge planted
 - 136 small leaky barriers constructed
 - 27 large leaky barriers constructed
 - 0.2ha ponds created
 - 406m Riparian Buffer Strip created
 - 0.6Ha Grassland conversion (permanent pasture to rough pasture)
 - Works on King George's playing fields, Thornton are planned to start in July 2023. Updates will be provided as the work progresses.

- CG reported that the Trust's scheme on the upper Wyre catchment received a number of mentions at the recent National Conference; he added that the scheme is truly ground-breaking and had received a lot of attention from interested parties.

Questions to Wyre Rivers Trust

None raised.

6. Making Space For Water technical group:

- PL reported that the MSfW Group met (via Teams) on 25 May and that minutes of the meeting have been distributed to the Forum.
- PL noted that since the meeting the following works had been undertaken
 - The gauge boards behind Brookfield Road have been cleared of vegetation, and the camera at Brookfield is working. RBT noted that the camera on the screen on Preesall pumping station had been vandalised and currently not working.

Questions to MSfW Group

- RB asked whether the issues about Springfield pumping station were holding up the recent planning application for Fisherman's Friends in Fleetwood. PL confirmed that this was the case. CG added that the Council is working with the Applicant to agree a suitable drainage plan that did not involve discharging to the pumping station and which used a gravity system in preference to a pumped system. PL confirmed that the Council had proposed several drainage solutions and these are being discussed with the Applicant.

7. Local flood action groups (FLAG): reports and questions:

Issues raised by FLAGs at pre-Forum meetings have been added to the Issues and Action log.

Thornton FLAG

- EW noted that he was pleased to hear that contact had been made with NPL to look at flooding issues in Thornton. PL confirmed that he had arranged a Teams meeting with NPL for the previous day, but this had been cancelled at the last minute. He said that he would be arranging a revised date for this meeting. EW added that he was concerned that the flooding issues in this area have still not been addressed, including alterations to the footpath at the junction of Fleetwood Road North and Springfield Drive. MO responded that LCC were aware of a gully on the footpath that could be linked to the highway gullies rather than raising the footpath. He noted that this is a private asset but LCC would be looking to resolve.

PL noted that the flooding in this area was caused by a number of issues, including blocked private gullies, blocked highway gullies, blocked watercourses and flooding land to the rear of Springfield Drive.

- EW reported flooding to properties on Mayfield Ave which he believed is caused by a broken culvert under the bund on Bourne Road. He added that residents had informed him that prior to the construction of Amounderness Way, there had been an open watercourse here and this had been filled in. PL confirmed that he had looked at this issue a few years ago and confirmed that he had looked at this issue

a few years previously and not established a watercourse near the bund; he had noted a pond in the area but nothing that would cause flooding as reported. He agreed to discuss this further with EW.

Preesall FLAG

- AA said that there have no flooding events for the last 18 months and residents are grateful for all the work being undertaken on their behalf. He noted that there was still no movement on the construction of the wetland behind Sunnyside Terrace and hoped that work would start on this soon.

PL noted that there were two outstanding issues that still needed addressing –

- The culvert under Lancaster Road needed looking at – the water level on the north side of the road is higher than the south side and there is concern that the culvert may be blocked. MO confirmed that his team were aware of this and would address the issue.
 - Complaints have been received from local residents that the pumping operations undertaken by the Council and FLAG were causing flooding issues downstream. This was being investigated by LCC.
- PO welcomed the works on Rosslyn Ave, saying that it would help with the local watercourse network; and Pilling Lane roundabout, which he considered was long overdue. He asked whether the watercourses leading to the main watercourse could be checked as there are concerns that these have been filled in or built over. MO said that he would investigate these as part of the works.
 - PO added that progress on the watercourse adjacent to Sandy Bay caravan site on Pilling Lane was also needed – PL agreed to look into this issue again and to check whether planning consent had been passed for the site.

ACTION - PL

- PL noted that he had received a complaint from a local farmer of damage to a culvert on Hackenshall watercourse. The land is owned by NPL and PL said that he would raise this in his discussion with them.

Hambleton & Stalmine FLAGS

- JT thanked MO and PL for their work on Carr Lane and expressed his hope that this would now resolve the flooding issues in this area.
- JT noted that some of the flooding issues in the village had not been included in the Issues & Actions Log - he asked that the Log be updated to include all flooding issues in the village. PL replied that he would ensure that the Log was updated as required.

Great Ecclestone FLAG

- No report was submitted.

Garstang FLAG

- RBr said that all matters (Lancaster Road/High Street and the Garstang basin gate) had been previously discussed in the meeting. He noted that there is a large volume of debris currently behind the east gate and asked if this could be removed. RBT confirmed that removal of the debris is part of the planned works.

- RBr asked whether future Forums could consider the issues geographically from the catchment to the sea rather than alphabetically so that it gave a more logical insights into the flooding issues. CG agreed that that this could be done at the next Forum.

Cleveleys FLAG

- DW reported that rainfall in March had been nearly double the annual average but no flooding issues had been reported. Since then, in the last 50 days, there has only been 20mm of rain. He noted that showers are coming but he expected that we would all experience a good summer this year.

Churchtown FLAG

- RW raised the following issues
 - Eight years ago (2015/6) Churchtown suffered two major flooding events within nine months - many residents believe that this flooding was attributable to the barrage at Garstang. As such many residents are anxious about the current state of the barrage gates. It is understood that the capacity of the storage basin is only 90% of its capacity and this is adding to the anxiety. He asked whether it would be possible to repair the gate in situ rather than have it removed.

RBT confirmed that the basin is 90% capacity and does take longer to drain. He confirmed that the gate will remain on site – the EA are currently uncertain whether the fault is a damaged hinge or damage to the concrete that the hinge attaches. They are proposing to cast a new hinge that can be quickly attached if necessary; the current plan is to dewater and desilt around the gate to expose the hinge so that it can be properly assessed. He confirmed that residents would be advised when the works are being undertaken.

- The EA Pre-meeting report notes that the Upper & Mid Wyre Management Project appears to have stopped and is “*dependent on the project's Partnership Funding score improving*” – he asked what the implications of this is.

RBT replied that concerns will be passed to PH and she will respond.

- The installation of a penstock on the A586 to hold back water within Green Wood to reduce flood risk to Ainspool Lane. He noted that we continue to wait for consent from the landowner, but that the sale of the Wood had still to be finalised.
- Completion of the investigation of the surface water drain on The Avenue / A6/ road to Butler Farm (as discussed previously in the meeting) is still outstanding (he noted that this is not mentioned in the Issues & Actions Log – PL to update)
- Churchtown church yard discharges via a private drain to the river. The drain discharges through a flap valve into a short section of open watercourse before discharging into the river. RW asked who would be responsible for maintaining this short stretch of watercourse.

RBT confirmed that responsibility for maintenance would reside with the riparian owner – this was likely to be either the church or a third party and would need to be undertaken by them.

Out Rawcliffe FLAG

- JS noted that flooding on Dry Bread Road is a source of repeated concern. He noted that LCC have undertaken some works here but it was still a concern. He asked that LCC keep an eye on this area for further flooding issues.
- JS reported that the Parish Council are concerned about flooding of fields in the area which are a loss to agriculture. He added that the Council have written to the EA but had not received any response to date – the Council will look to write again.
- JS noted the reported that the road on Moss Side Lane is being recommended for closure due to its poor condition – it would require a considerable amount of money to resurface it. MO will be keep an eye on this and report any drainage issues should they arise.

St. Michaels FLAG

- No report was submitted

8. Communications Update:

- Wyre Council printed a double page spread in Wyre Voice which was sent to every household in March with the Council Tax bill – see p14 and p15 on this link https://issuu.com/wyrecouncil1/docs/wyre_voice_2023_web.
- Emergency contact details are available at <https://www.wyre.gov.uk/emergency-planning/flooding/8>. Other information is available at [The Flood Hub](#)

9. Emergency Planning Update:

- PL reiterated his report from the previous Forum that Section 2 of the Multi-Agency Flood Plan is to be updated. This includes specific site information, including contact details, pumping plans and any site specific issues. He will be contacting the FLAGS at some point over the coming months to ensure that contact details are up to date.

10. Requests for reports for next Forum:

- CG asked whether anyone from LCC Planning could give a brief explanation on what issues they are looking for when assessing a planning application – BB to take this back to LCC.
- MS reported that he had had a meeting on the maintenance of SuDS and suggested this as an option. It was suggested that this be raised with UU as they are looking to adopt SuDS.

11. Any other business:

- PL reported that he received a complaint about the erosion of the east side of the river embankment, upstream of Shard Bridge. PL to send details to EA.

12. Next meeting:

- 14 September 2023. 1pm start - Details to follow.

Appendix 1

Pre-meeting report from Environment Agency (June 2023)

Maintenance Programme:

The maintenance work the Environment Agency plans to carry out this financial year (1 April 2023 - 31 March 2024) can be viewed online at <https://environment.data.gov.uk/asset-management/index.html>.

This is the planned annual flood and coastal risk management (FCRM) asset maintenance programme. You can find a particular location by entering your postcode or navigating the map by zooming in and out.

Please note that this programme is updated quarterly. However, sometimes work may not go ahead as planned due to adverse weather, floods, or other operational or environmental considerations.

Summary of key features:

- Interactive map.
- It includes a vast amount of detail including extents of work, planned start and end dates, and links out to a description of each type of activity.
- It will be updated on a quarterly basis (eventually monthly), allowing the public to track maintenance progress through the year.

Reporting a problem:

The most effective means of reporting a potential flooding or blockage problem on a Main River is to report it to the Environment Agency's National Call Centre on 0800 80 70 60. The National Call Centre will collect the relevant information and ensure it is passed to the correct team for assessment. A copy of the Main River Map can be viewed here [Main River Map](#).

Here are the present updates since March 2023 from the Environment Agency:

Flood Basin training dates

Garstang Flood Basin Training dates from March 2023 to May 2023:

20/03/2023

05/04/2023

24/05/2023

Catterall Flood Basin Training dates from March 2023 to May 2023:

20/03/2023

05/04/2023

22/05/2023

Highgate Park Training dates from March 2023 to May 2023:

14/03/2023

25/04/2023

17/05/2023

Maintenance Work:

The Frequent maintenance programme for watercourses in the Wyre Catchment is now underway with the cutting of embankments on the Wyre and its flood basins. Due to resource constraints within our Field Operations team, the programme of works is reduced from previous years, with priority given to watercourses in higher risk systems.

We continue to use our Contractor Framework to assist in the delivery of these works and will review the programme as necessary over the coming months.

The planned repair works on the East Gate at Garstang FSB will be carried out by a combination of specialist contractors from our capital framework. The works include the installation of a temporary access route and working platform, and there will be some local diversions to footpaths in the vicinity of the works – further information will be made available as the programme of works progresses.

The silt surveys planned for watercourses (as per the previous Flood Forum report) are currently out for tender, and the works will begin once a suitable organisation has been identified.

Finally, we encourage all present to utilise our free 24 hour hotline to report blockages, flooding or pollution incidents so that they can be assessed as quickly as possible – the number is 0800 80 70 60.

Project / Review updates:

Hambleton Tidal Flood Risk Management Scheme

The proposed scheme will reduce the flood risk to over 600 properties. Linear flood walls are proposed from Kiln Lane, north of Wardleys Pool, to the end of the existing embankment near Peg's Pool. The Hambleton FRMS will provide a consistent standard of protection against a flood event with a 0.5% chance of occurring in any one year. The scheme has included the effects of climate change, with consideration given to the impacts of sea level rise and increased magnitude and severity of flood events.

The detailed design for the scheme is ongoing. We are engaging with individual stakeholders and members of the community, on elements of the detailed design. We are working closely with stakeholders, such as Natural England and Lancashire County Council Highways, on elements of the scheme that fall within their remit. Our current best estimate for the planning application submission is late-spring 2023. We are planning to hold a public engagement event showcasing the scheme design on the 22nd of June ahead of the planning application submission.

Further information relating to the scheme is available via the scheme's FloodHub page (<https://thefloodhub.co.uk/hambleton/>). If you would like to discuss the scheme further, please contact our Lancashire Partnerships and Strategic Overview team at CMBLNC-PSO@environment-agency.gov.uk.

Fleetwood and Copse Brook Flood Risk Management Scheme

The scheme will construct approximately 800 metres of tidal flood defence wall and reconstruction of the Copse Brook outfall to provide protection to Fleetwood. It will protect over 2,200 properties from flooding from the Wyre Estuary Frontage. Total scheme cost is estimated to be £12M and over £7M will be funded through Government Flood Defence

Grant in Aid. We have received an indicative allocation of £4.6M of Other Government Department Funding and £1.77M of Local Levy funding from the North West Regional Flood and Coast Committee.

We have begun work on the final part of the appraisal process – the Full Business Case. We will be working up detailed designs and carrying out engagement with partners and the public as part of this process.

It is our ambition that the scheme will provide a catalyst for the wider regeneration of Fleetwood by injecting capital investment into the frontage, whilst unlocking large areas of derelict land for re-development. We are therefore working closely with Wyre Council and Associated British Ports (ABP). The Our Future Coasts project being led by Wyre Council has an ambition to create an area of saltmarsh in front of the quayside and this would be complimentary to the Flood Risk Management Scheme as it would provide a natural protection to the quayside which the new flood defence would be built upon. It would also create habitat and lead to a significant amount of carbon storage. We are therefore working very closely with Wyre Council and ABP to ensure these intertwined ambitions are delivered together.

Upper & Mid Wyre Asset Management Project (following on from the Upper and Mid Wyre Review)

The Upper and Middle Wyre Asset Management Project was developed following the completion of the Upper and Middle Wyre Review in 2017. In January 2020 we announced that the project was unlikely to commence to the next appraisal stage (Outline Business Case) before spring 2021 due to constraints in available capital funding, as a result of the project's low Partnership Funding score. We are continuing to investigate the funding opportunities available to progress this project. However, progression of the project continues to be dependent on the project's Partnership Funding score improving.

Appendix 2

“Be Flood Smart” Campaign

Flood Re in partnership with the Environment Agency, have launched a new campaign, “Be Flood Smart”. The campaign encourages householders to adapt their homes with Property Flood Resilience (PFR) measures which can help improve their resilience to flooding from rivers, the sea and surface water. The campaign webpage can be found [here](#).

PFR works alongside traditional engineered defences and natural flood management. It includes measures to reduce the risk of flood damage to individual homes, speed up repair work, and help people move back into their properties quicker after a flood. They can include raising electrical sockets and white goods away from floor level, installing self-closing air bricks and flood resistant doors and replacing flooring with waterproof tiling and grout.

The campaign is a key commitment in the [Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management \(FCERM\) Strategy Roadmap](#), published in June 2022. It is also another step towards encouraging property owners to ‘build back better’ after a flood, a focus within the [National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management \(FCERM\) Strategy](#).

Further information on the work we are doing with partners to increase awareness and uptake of PFR can be found in a new [blog](#).