

Apologies:

Cllr Matthew Salter	LCC Councillor, Wyre Rural Central
Cllr Alf Clempson	LCC Councillor, Poulton-le-Fylde
Cllr Andrea Kay	LCC Councillor
Olivia Tindale	Natural England
Elizabeth Lowe	Environment Agency
Kevin Kellett	Lancashire County Council (Flood Management Team)
Rachel Crompton	Lancashire County Council (Flood Management Team)
Lorah Cheyne	Lancashire County Council (Flood Management Team)
Diane Andrews	Out Rawcliffe Parish Council
Tom Myerscough (TM)	Wyre Rivers Trust
Len Harris	Wyre Council (Planning)
Michael O'Flaherty	Hambleton FLAG
Alan Ellerton	Hambleton Resident
Chun Teh	United Utilities
Dawn Bromley	United Utilities

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. He explained that, while the meeting is planned to be principally in person in the Council Chamber, provision continues to be provided for persons to sign in on Teams.

2. Apologies

Apologies were noted as above.

3. Minutes of previous meeting

CG asked whether there were any comments on the minutes of 16 June 2022.

Matters arising:

There were no matters raised from the previous minutes.

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

4. Presentation by Sarah Murray (UU)- “Dynamic Network Management”

A copy of the presentation is attached as [Appendix 2](#)

SM gave a presentation on the installation and monitoring of the sewer flow meters (Dynamic Network Management) which are currently being installed in Wyre.

5. Flooding to Cleveleys 27 June 2022

- PL gave a brief update on the flooding to Cleveleys on the morning of 27 June. Wyre Council has worked with the other flood management agencies to identify the cause of the flooding and identify any issues that could have caused or exacerbated the flooding - a report has been written to document these findings.
- While the flooding did not necessitate the writing of a Section 19 report ([Flood and Water Management Act 2010 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)) - because fewer than five properties were reported as being flooded - the report helps to identify issues so that remedial action can be taken to prevent a repeat. A copy of the report will be sent with a copy of the minutes to Flood Forum members for their information.

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

United Utilities:

- PW reported that installation of the sewer flow meters in the Fleetwood catchment was progressing well and the scheme remains on target to be completed by the end of September. The meters will allow UU to monitor flows in their foul network to highlight areas of concern where inundation of the system by surface water during heavy rainfall could lead to localised flooding or spillages to the river network.
- SM reported that works to update the foul pumping station at St.Michaels are expected to be undertaken shortly. The works will include an increase in storage to reduce the risk of foul flooding

Questions to UU:

- CG asked whether the installation of the flow meters in Hambleton had been completed. PW said that 19 of the 40 meters to be installed in Hambleton were in place, with the rest to be installed later this month.
- PJ asked whether the hole in the culvert adjacent to 104a School Road had been plugged yet. PW replied that this works was still outstanding – a team had attended the site but had not been able to access the pipe without consent from the landowner. PJ confirmed that the landowner has given permission for the pipe to be accessed through their garden.

Environment Agency:

A pre-meeting update to the Forum is included as [Appendix 1](#)

GK provided an update on maintenance works;

- The cast iron tidal flap on the Fleetwood Quay outfall from Copse Brook has now fallen off completely. A team from the EA are currently on site securing the outfall ahead of the high tides this coming weekend.
- The watercourse maintenance team have been undertaking works on Hillylaid Pool watercourse and will be starting works on Royles Brook watercourse this week. He noted that the works are behind programme as the recent hot weather has resulted in low oxygen levels in the watercourse, which temporarily stopped works; works are approximately a month behind schedule
- Repairs to the east gate of the Garstang flood barrier have not yet been completed and the stop logs remain in place.

Questions to EA:

- LW thanked both the EA and Wyre Council for their work to clean up Royles Brook watercourse adjacent to King Georges Playing Fields, Thornton following the departure of the Travellers from the site. She said that the debris dumped into the watercourse caused a serious flooding threat to the people in Thornton.
- JS asked for an update on the Hambleton Tidal Flood Management Scheme. GK replied that the scheme was expected to be go to Wyre Council for planning permission in February 2023. JS asked that residents, Wardleys Yacht Club and local councillors be consulted at the earliest opportunity so that they could comment on the plans.
- CR raised a concern about the capacity of the pumping station and subsequent flooding on Pilling Lane, Preesall. She asked whether the EA would be looking to increase the capacity of the pump to reduce the risk of further flooding.

GK replied that the pump operated on a level system, pumping down the system when the watercourse reached a pre-set level. However, during periods of prolonged heavy rainfall, the pump struggles to maintain the level in the watercourse. This is particularly noticeable at the upstream sections around Pilling Lane due to the distance from the pumping station and a number of physical obstructions downstream of the pumping station (such as culverted sections at access to fields) which slowed the downstream flow of the watercourse. He noted that the EA brought in additional pumps to assist when necessary.

- PJ repeated the concern of the Thornton FLAG of silt levels within the watercourses, particularly the stretch of Hillylaid Pool from New Lane to Belvedere Road.

GK replied that the EA's funding is limited and that any desilting works would need to be targeted to achieve the greatest effect. He confirmed that he was still awaiting quotations for the desilting of Hillylaid Pool.

- PJ asked that the making Space for Water Group arrange for a walk through with Thornton FLAG to include the section of Royles Brook on ICI land and behind Woodland Ave, Thornton. All of the agencies present agreed to attend. A walkthrough is to planned in the near future.

Action - PL / Thornton FLAG

Wyre Council

- PL reported that he had received an email from Paul Maynard MP who has been in contact with National Highways about the culverts under the A585 Amounderness Way. NH have confirmed that there are seven culverts that they maintain under the A585; the culvert at White Carr Lane has been cleared, works are under way on the culvert by Morrisons roundabout and works are planned for the culvert by New Lane, Thornton. Works on the remaining four will be undertaken this year. NH have confirmed that cleaning of all the culverts has been added to their maintenance plan and will be cleared on a five year schedule.
- PL has been in contact with National Grid re the culvert under the sub-station at Stanah – he is still awaiting an update on investigative works on the position and condition of the culvert.
- CG reported that the Beach Management Scheme at Cleveleys has been delayed by a week but will begin next week. The £42m scheme will involve works to improve the revetments and build a number of rock groynes. The scheme will protect up to 11,000 properties within Wyre.
- CG gave a brief presentation on works to update the Shoreline Management Refresh Plan ([Shoreline Management Plans – North West Coastal Group \(mycoastline.org.uk\)](#)) for the region – see [Appendix 3](#)

Questions to Wyre Council

- RB asked whether there had been any movement on resolving the issues on Sefton Ave, Poulton. PL confirmed that he had emailed officers from Wain Homes for information on any works planned for the site but had not received a response. He understood that the land had been transferred from Wain Homes to a management company, but wasn't aware of details. PL agreed to contact the management company to see if works could be done to alleviate the flooding.

BB confirmed that as there were no watercourses on site LCC (acting as Lead Local Flood Authority) could not enforce this under the Land Drainage Act.

Lancashire County Council

- MO provided an update on the works being undertaken by LCC (Highways)
 - continued planned and reactive maintenance and clearing of highway gullies.

- **Fleetwood Road North, Thornton** - works to raise the footpath have been completed.
- **Breck Road, Poulton** – works on highway drainage have been completed.
- **Royles Brook watercourse** – works have been undertaken to clean the culverts on White Carr Lane and Norcross Lane, with a total of 42 tonnes of debris removed from site.
- BB provided an update on the works being undertaken by LCC (Flood Management Team)
 - LCC have been continuing their CCTV survey of the culverted watercourses around the Rosslyn Ave area of Preesall.
 - Network Rail have confirmed that the works to clean the watercourse behind School Road, Thornton (including the culvert into Hillylaid Pool) have been completed.
 - BB confirmed that a survey of the drainage surrounding Royles Brook School, Thornton, is being undertaken. A further day's survey work is required to complete the survey which is being arranged. Further investigation works are required to ensure that the system is running properly.
 - A Section 19 flooding report is to be undertaken at St Michaels, following the flooding earlier this year.

Questions to Lancashire County Council

- DA reported that the flooding issue on High Street, Garstang reoccurred the previous day. She and RBr both expressed their disappointment that the recent works appear not to have resolved the problem, and asked that LCC look into this as matter of urgency
MO confirmed that he had been made aware of the issue, and that he and a drainage team are scheduled to visit the site in the coming morning. He would advise all parties of any issues discovered during these works.
- LR noted that the gullies on Park Lane and Lancaster Road, Preesall have been recently cleared and thanked MO for his response to the FLAG's request to have them cleared. It was noted, however, that the flooding issue on Park Lane has not been resolved as a consequence of these works.
MO said that the issue remains root ingress which required that major works be undertaken to replace the carrier drain – he is looking into this and will report back once works are planned.
- PJ asked that Thornton FLAG be kept updated on the drainage issues around Royles Brook School.

Natural England:

No report was received.

Questions to Natural England

None raised.

Wyre Rivers Trust

- No representative was available from the Trust; however, TM had provided a brief update.
 - works behind Sunnyside Terrace, Preesall are awaiting consent from the landowner. PL/TM to meet with the landowner on 15 September to progress the works. TM confirmed that the Preesall NFM scheme is listed on the UU Green Recovery spreadsheet for funding.

Questions to Wyre Rivers Trust

None raised.

7. Making Space For Water technical group

- PL reported that the MSfW Group met (jointly in person and via Teams) on 25 August May and that minutes of the meeting have been distributed to the Forum.

Questions to MSfW Group

None raised.

8. 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.

Churchtown FLAG

RW reported that there remained two main issues to report

- The proposed scheme to install a penstock to hold back water within Green Wood during a potential flooding event has suffered a major setback as the wood landowner has now refused consent to use the wood as a water storage area. While acknowledging that this news is extremely disappointing, PL suggested that a hydrobrake might be considered to restrict the flow from the wood into the local surface water network. PL and RW to investigate this possibility.
- Works to inspect / clean the surface water drainage system at the junction of The Avenue and A6, and Smithy Lane remain outstanding – this is being addressed with PL and MO.

Cleveleys FLAG

- DW reported that the recent flooding to Cleveleys (27 June) had not been forecast and was somewhat unexpected. He welcomed the report by Wyre Council which went a considerable way to identifying how the surface water in Cleveleys is discharged.
- PL reported that following the flooding, the FLAG has been expanded by a number of local councillors joining. He hopes to hold a full FLAG meeting later in the year.

Garstang FLAG

- RBr reiterated his request that the flooding issue on High Street is investigated as a matter of urgency.

Great Eccleston FLAG:

No report

Hambleton & Stalmine FLAGs

- JS noted that most issues have already been covered in the meeting but added that the watercourse on Marsh Lane remains outstanding.

Out Rawcliffe FLAG

No report.

Preesall FLAG

- AA reported that all issues in Preesall are either now completed, or are in progress. He looked forward to the proposed drainage works on Preesall Hill being installed, but stressed that the delay were frustrating residents.
- CR asked whether an additional drain could be installed at the junction of Cart Gate and Green to drain water off the road into the watercourse. PL noted that the camber of the road made drainage in this area difficult and changing the camber had been considered and rejected some years ago. He noted that additional drains had been installed to help drain the road and that the FLAG had been provided water barriers to deflect the water toward the watercourse. AA said that the barriers did a good job in diverting the water, but required residents to put them in place, often during poor weather conditions. He welcomed any means of draining the road that did not require aging local residents to physically install.

St. Michaels FLAG

No report.

- PL reported that the FLAG has recently reformed and he attended a meeting on the previous evening to discuss flooding issues in the village.
- The new FLAG has requested a walkthrough of issues in the village with _____ representatives from the flood management authorities; this was agreed in principle with a date to be agreed by all parties. *(Edit: this has been agreed for 27 September)*

Thornton FLAG

- The FLAG published a number of questions prior to the Making Space for Water meeting – these are addressed in the minutes of the meeting.
- PJ reiterated his request for a walkthrough of Royles Brook watercourse, behind Woodland Ave and on the ICI site. It was agreed that a walkthrough would be organised in the near future.

- PJ asked that the FLAG be given online access to the new camera on Heys Street. GK to arrange this to be undertaken
Action - GK
- PJ asked that the FLAG be allowed a visit to the new development on Bourne Road to look at the works to culvert part of the Springfield Brook system and to check on maintenance issues. PL/GK to look to organise a visit with the developer.
Action - PL / GK

9. Communications Update

No report.

Other information is available at [The Flood Hub](#)

10. Emergency Planning Update

- PL reported 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. PL will be contacting the FLAGs at some point over the coming months to seek updated information.

11. Requests for reports for next Forum

- No requests were made.
- TM has offered to give a presentation at the next Forum on the Natural Flood Management projects being undertaken locally.

12. Any other business

- None raised

13. Next meeting

- 15 December 2022. 1pm start - Details to follow.

[Appendix 1](#)

Pre-meeting report from Environment Agency (September 2022)

Maintenance Programme:

The maintenance work the Environment Agency plans to carry out this financial year (1 April 2022-31 March 2023) 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 June 2020 from the Environment Agency:

Flood Basin training dates

Garstang Flood Basin Training dates from June 2022 to August 2022:

17/06/2022

04/07/2022

18/08/2022

Catterall Flood Basin Training dates from June 2022 to August 2022:

16/06/2022

04/07/2022
12/08/2022

Highgate Park Training dates from June 2022 to August 2022:

28/06/22
28/07/22
22/08/22

Maintenance Work

Due to the recent hot weather our channel maintenance has been impacted by low oxygen levels in the watercourses. The recent lowering of temperature and rainfall has meant that our work is now underway again and we are working hard to recover the lost time but we are currently about a month behind schedule. We have been progressing our embankment cuts along the Wyre which are nearly complete. We are working to commence the inspection of the east gate at Garstang in late September and have installed stop logs to provide flood protection in the event of a flood event.

The tidal outfall door at Copse Brook in Fleetwood has failed and is allowing tidal water to flow upstream into Copse Brook. We are working on urgent repairs to replace the outfall door and will continue to monitor the area during high tides and keep the debris screen upstream clear of debris. The next high tide cycle starts on the 11th Sep by which time we will have either a temporary or permanent repair in place.

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 winter 2022/2023. We are planning to engage with the public on the scheme design and planning application submission in advance of this.

Further information relating to the scheme is available via the scheme's Flood Hub 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. The scheme will protect over 2,200 properties from flooding. The Outline Business Case was submitted to our Large Project Review Group on 31 January and subsequently received 'technical approval'. However, due to the increase in costs (like across all FCRM schemes) our partnership funding score has dropped well below the 100% required to qualify it for full Government Grant in Aid funding. This means we have a significant funding gap of £4.6M. The scheme will therefore not be able to proceed until we are confident in filling the funding gap with other sources. We have already secured £1.77M of Local Levy funding through the North West Regional Flood and Coast Committee and will be bidding for further funding over the next 5 months.

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, Lancashire County Council and Associated British Ports (ABP). ABP are providing project support by contributing to the cost of the structural survey and providing us with Ground Investigations that will help inform the final design options. The Eco-CoBS project being led by Wyre Council has an ambition to create an area of saltmarsh on 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.

Wyre Natural Flood Risk Management Investment Readiness Project - *"Investing in Nature: Wyre catchment project"*

This was one of four pilot projects that received funding from the Natural Environment Investment Readiness fund last year. It has secured investment and will now deliver work to reduce flood risk to downstream communities – generating income through the sale of these services.

Over several years, interventions in the Wyre catchment will include wetland creation and temporarily storing water by putting in place leaky barriers, sloped embankments and hedgerows alongside peatland restoration and river restoration. Other measures include slowing overland water flow through changes in grassland management, and tree planting to allow water to seep into the ground.

It is the first project to use a new green investment financial model, which will see the upfront investment repaid through contracts with organisations that benefit from these improvements, including water and insurance companies.

Further information on the project, as well as useful links and answers to frequently asked questions, is available at <http://thefloodhub.co.uk/Wyre-NFM-Project/>

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.