



**Via Microsoft Teams:**

**Wyre Borough Councillors:**

Cllr Dulcie Atkins (DA)                      Garstang Ward

**Council Officers/Agency Representatives:**

Len Harris (LH)                                  Wyre Council (Planning)  
Amy Collier                                        Wyre Council  
Mark O'Donnell (MO)                        Lancashire County Council (Highways)  
Phil Wylie (PW)                                United Utilities

**FLAG Representatives:**

David Astall (DAs)                            Great Eccleston FLAG

**Apologies:**

Cllr John Shedwick	LCC Councillor, Thornton & Hambleton
Cllr Julie Robinson	Hambleton Ward
Rachel Crompton	Lancashire CC (Flood Management Team)
Darren Bell	Fylde BC
Dan Blacow	United Utilities
Melissa Kangur	United Utilities
Melissa Hanson	Environment Agency
Paul Bond	Environment Agency
Tom Myerscough (TM)	Wyre Rivers Trust
Mike Pollard (MP)	Thornton FLAG
Roger Weatherell (RW)	Churchtown FLAG
Harry Hutcheon (HH)	Knott End FLAG
Brenda Brodie	

**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.

**2. Apologies:**

Apologies were noted as above.

**3. Local Plan update by Len Harris (Wyre Council Senior Planning Officer):**

CG introduced LH, Senior Planning Officer, who have been developing the Local Plan update. He said that the Forum has always been interested in how planning and the local plan works and how this incorporates flood resilience within the borough.

LH said that he intended to give an update on the Local Plan review today and would give a more detailed presentation on the Local Plan and water management at the next Forum.

Wyre Council is currently doing a full review of the Local Plan – currently officers are working on an Issues & Options document, to identify key issues in the borough, including flood risk and options for dealing with it.

The Plan will also look at future development and the issues around that. The document will map potential site allocations – he stressed that this is a long list of potential sites and not a definitive list where development will occur. LH noted that the list of sites was supposed to have been released for consultation in June, however, the decision to call a general election in July meant that this has been delayed and would now go ahead in late July into September. He encouraged members to sign up to the Wyre Local Plan consultation database <https://www.wyre.gov.uk/local-plan/local-plan-2011-2031/4> for the latest information.

LH said that a series of exhibitions are planned throughout August to look at the mapping of potential sites and to discuss any issues with local residents.

LH said the production of a Local Plan is a very technical process and, as part of the process, the Council is required to produce an extensive document of evidence to support the Plan. Part of that evidence is around flood risk and the Council is in the final stages of finalising a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) – Level 1; this is a comprehensive document that looks at flood risk across the borough as a whole from all sources. When land is allocated as potential for development, sites are considered in a SFRA – Level 2 which is a more detailed and site-specific assessment of flood risk. A final allocation of sites for development will be based on these assessments. The policy is to direct development to areas of little or no flood risk.

Wyre is also reviewing the policies in the Local Plan that deal with how the council manages planning applications and flood risk matters; this will include looking at sustainable drainage systems (SuDS). Additionally, Wyre will be looking at developing an infrastructure development plan, which will look what infrastructure is required to support any site that that is allocated for development – this will include consultation with other organisations (such as United Utilities) to support future developments.

## Questions to LH

- JT said that Planning details are now more computer based and it is difficult to determine what planning development is being undertaken in any locality. LH agreed that it can be more difficult to get a fuller picture of proposed development in any one area but said that, if anyone wished to discuss issues with the planning team then they could make an appointment to discuss issues with the team. He added that planning applications, both current and historic (around 10 years), can be viewed on the Council's website [Simple Search \(wyre.gov.uk\)](http://wyre.gov.uk) and these can be searched by a number of criteria or by a map [Map Search \(wyre.gov.uk\)](http://wyre.gov.uk)

In addition, there is an interactive Local Plan map [Interactive Adopted Local Plan Policies Map \(arcgis.com\)](http://arcgis.com) showing areas of interest for potential development.

- AA asked whether planners looked at historical flooding and how this might affect potential new development, and whether planners look at how potential sites linked up with utilities in the area. LH said that such issues were considered when looking at site specific issues – should the site cause a flood risk elsewhere then it should be picked up. He confirmed that, as part of the infrastructure delivery planning, the planning team would be in contact with United Utilities, LCC (as Local Flood Risk Authority) and internally with Wyre's Engineering Team to look at flood risk and on water supply.
- CR asked whether the SFRA was a new thing – LH replied not; he explained that the Council undertakes SFRAs regularly, often through consultancies. Currently, an SFRA Level 1 assessment is being undertaken by [JBA Consulting](http://jbaconsulting.com) – the document is expected to be published later this summer and an update is to be provided to the September Flood Forum.

CR said that SFRAs should look at all issues of flooding including surface water and displaced surface water – she asked whether these issues are considered now as part of the planning process. LH replied that there is a current SFRA in place [level-2-sfra-report-and-community-assessment \(wyre.gov.uk\)](http://wyre.gov.uk) When considering planning applications a number of issues are considered, including the SFRA, EA's flood maps (which are reviewed every three months), historic flooding records and any local knowledge that may affect the site.

CR said that a number of buildings have been constructed very close to watercourses; she asked whether this was a mandatory or voluntary requirement. LH replied that this issue would need to be questioned and queried as part of the consideration of the planning appraisal. He added that an easement of either 5m or 8m (depending on the type of watercourse) is required to allow access for maintenance of any watercourse. CR asked whether planning officers would pick this up as part of the consideration. LH thought that this should be noted by planning officers.

- RBr noted that in the 2019 Local Plan, on page 87 there 25 developments listed totalling 3,432 properties to be built by 2031. He noted that each development had a paragraph about the destination of surface water. He asked whether planners were confident that there is sufficient capacity to take all the surface water from this proposed development. LH replied that water management and flood risk is considered in detail as part of the SFRA Level 2 and planners look to satisfy

themselves that the water can be managed satisfactorily. He added that the Plan looks to direct development into areas with the lowest flood risk to reduce flooding to the site or to established development. While he could not guarantee no flood risk, work is undertaken to try and minimise it.

RBr asked how the Council monitored flood risk on new developments – LH replied that he was not aware whether monitoring was undertaken after development has been undertaken.

- JT said that Wyre policy is not to build on flood plain. He noted that some properties in Hambleton had been built on flood plain and queried this. LH said that there is nothing in government policy that prohibits building in areas of flood risk. He noted that the properties in Hambleton would likely to be in Flood Zone 3 but not on flood plain. He added that Wyre Planners have refused permission for some sites where flood risk was a serious issue.
- DA added that as Chair of the Planning Policy Committee over the last year she was pleased that there has been continuity of the officers undertaking the work and thanked all officers for their hard work in dealing with flooding issues as part of the planning process.
- RBr thanked LH for attending and asked that a planning officer regularly attend future Flood Forums. CG said that further planning presentations are planned for future Forums.

#### **4. Minutes of previous meeting:**

CG asked whether there were any comments on the minutes of 21 March 2024.

- Action from p3 of minutes - Address on Issues & Actions incident 23/01 changed from Green Meadow Lane to Broadpool Lane as requested.
- Action from p6 of minutes – PL confirmed that meeting between PL/MO and residents on High Street had not yet been held. PL to arrange meeting.

##### **Action - PL**

- Action from p7 of minutes – PL confirmed that the tidal flap at Ramper Pot, Thornton has been replaced by Wyre Council.
- RBr asked whether there was any update about the playing fields on Moss Lane, Garstang. PL replied that he spoken with the parks Development Officer at Wyre Council who confirmed that the fields did not have any formal drainage and that the fields were not maintained by Wyre Council. A further discussion with Garstang Town Council would be necessary to determine what action is required.

JT noted that Hambleton has a similar issue with drainage on the Bob Williamson Park. PL replied that he was aware of this issue and had been asked by the Parish Council for help in resolving this issue.

- Action from p8 – PL confirmed that, following a request from PO, he had inspected the watercourse adjacent to the new development on Car End Lane. He reported that

no issues were noted; he noted that the developer had extended the pipe entering the watercourse from the opposite of the road but that that this was not causing any issues or concerns.

- RBr asked whether there was any update on the NFM project planned for the Ainspool watercourse. PL replied that TM had provided an update which will be given later in the meeting; however, the main works would include leaky dams, hedges and ponds – see Wyre Rivers Trust report. RBr noted that the Ainspool watercourse is a major waterway and a major concern for flooding in Churchtown.

JB asked whether there was an update on the proposed installation of a penstock on the pipe exiting Green Wood in Churchtown. PL reported that he had previously written to the owners of Green Wood on this issue – while not refusing consent, they had asked to be reconsulted later in the year due to other ongoing issues. PL has yet to write to them but would do so before the next Forum.

#### **Action - PL**

- Action from p10 of minutes – MO reported that he had not yet investigated the report that the roundabout on Pilling Lane, Preesall dropping – he reported that the highway drainage on Pilling Lane has been checked and cleared – the drainage has been confirmed as running west to east before discharging into Wheel Foot watercourse, and not as suspected into the watercourse on Meadow Ave.

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

### **Environment Agency:**

- A pre-meeting update to the Forum is included as [Appendix 1](#)
- GK reported that there had been an amber rainfall event on 23 May – while the EA had operated flood basins elsewhere, none were operated within Wyre. There were no reports of any flooding within Lancashire.
- GK reported the following works
  - Removal of a tree from watercourse at St. Michaels and repair to damaged embankment has been completed
  - Repairs to the headwall and embankment on Whites Brook watercourse where it discharges into the River Wyre in Great Eccleston are now finished
  - Work to replace the foot bridge to Catterall flood basin at St.Michaels is underway – construction is expected to begin soon.
- GK reported that the EA had still to confirm budgets for external contractors for 2024/5 financial year and there was likely to be a shortfall this year. As such there is no published programme of works and no maintenance has yet started. As such the works programme is at least two months behind normal. He said that, once confirmed, works would be undertaken on areas at highest risk.

He confirmed that works undertaken internally by EA maintenance staff are continuing as normal – grass cutting works have been completed on the flood basins and work is now starting on main watercourses.



- GK confirmed that he had received the silt survey report for Thornton. He said that the data was “patchy”; particularly on Hillylaid Pool downstream of Belvedere Road. He reported that silt levels around Breedy Butts, New Lane and towards School Road appear to be quite low but did increase around School Road. The siltation looks, at first glance, to be worse in Royles Brook than Hillylaid Pool, particularly around White Carr Lane. He said that he would look at the report in more detail and report back to the Forum.

#### **Action - GK**

- GK reported that the EA are struggling with the works to replace the east barrier on the Garstang flood basin. He said that the concrete pads for placing the 450-tonne crane had proved to be much more complex than anticipated and further works are required. As such, GK did not expect that the gate would be removed this winter and that it would likely be June 2025 before the work could be undertaken.

#### **Questions to EA**

- RBr asked whether the limitation on the east gate of the Garstang severe weather event on 23 May had been a threat to the river system. GK replied that the gate was not operated during the event, although technically the east gate was slowing water because the stop logs are in place. As such water was backing up, but not to a significant level. He confirmed that the downstream water level never got above the critical 2.31m level at which the basin is normally operated.

RBr noted that the water level rises very quickly at this point; GK agreed and said that staff were on site monitoring levels. CG said that the catchment at this area is very flashy and noted that TM from the Wyre River Trust is undertaking works under the NFM to slow the flow so that the water doesn't arrive all at once. He added that part of the scheme is to monitor the hydrographs so that they can monitor the runoff from watercourses upstream and see whether they are having an effect on the peak level of the hydrographs. As a consequence of the works undertaken at Abbeystead, the water is flowing more slowly and reducing the threat of flooding downstream.

- RB thanked the EA for the works undertaken on 23 May to prevent flooding in the Borough. He asked whether GK would be able to bring to the September Forum further details of the recent silt survey and whether desilting works to improve the watercourses could be undertaken. He added that he hoped that the Copse Brook Flood Risk Management Scheme could be progressed quickly, and asked whether finance is in place to undertake this work. PH confirmed that colleagues within the EA have been in contact with the site owners to progress the scheme. GK replied that he intended to look at the silt survey soon and would send over details to Wyre Council to look at.

SC noted that much of Cleveleys discharges surface water through Copse Brook, and that it is imperative that works are undertaken as soon as possible.

#### **Lancashire County Council:**

##### **Highways:**

MO provided a summary of the works being undertaken by LCC (Highways).

He noted that, in recent months, LCC has received the highest increase in the number of reported defects. He said that in 2023/4 the highway team dealt with 14,500 defects in Wyre and Fylde. Since April 2024 the team have completed 7,000 jobs. To deal with the high level of works LCC have had to shelve some of the drainage works and divert teams to other works. He did note that drainage works are still being undertaken – he confirmed the following works

- Cyclic gulley cleaning – works to clear 9,213 highway gullies started in April and are scheduled to be complete by September.
- There are two reactive gulley clearing wagons operating, reacting to any reports of blocked gullies.
- Churchtown drainage – MO reported that LCC have been working with Wyre Council and Churchtown FLAG on investigation works in Churchtown, principally around the junction of The Avenue and the A6.
- Inskip / Catforth – MO confirmed that a works team have undertaken repairs to LCC assets in the area. He added that LCC needed to meet with Wyre Council and local residents to resolve other flooding issues in the area.
- Other works undertaken include
  - St Heliers Place, Barton
  - Blackpool Road, Carleton
  - Moorland Road, Poulton
- The Council has also been given some money from the HS2 fund. He said that, if members had any specific issues that they would like addressed, then now is a good time to bring these up. He said that any requests for work should be through PL.

### **Questions to Lancashire County Council**

- RBR noted that surface dressing works have been completed on the A6; he asked whether this had an adverse effect on drainage; would it allow water to shed off the road more quickly? MO replied that the works had been undertaken to increase the life of the road and there is no improvement to water shedding off the road.
- RBR noted that LCC have reported 9,213 gullies cleaned; he asked whether this was the whole of Lancashire or within Wyre. MO confirmed that the number referred to gullies within Wyre. He added that there are approximately an additional 7,700 gullies in Fylde, so that each year around 17,000 gullies are cleaned, In addition to the planned cleaning, there are a huge number of gullies that are reported in need of attention – he reported that an additional two gulley cleaning machines were operating within Wyre and at the last check only 67 defects remained to be completed.
- JT asked whether the gulley cleaning team received the photographs added via the Love Clean Streets app as often the wrong gulley is cleaned; he asked whether any defects noted by the team (such as broken pipes or no access) was actioned by LCC. MO replied that LCC relied on the information from Love Clean Streets – he accepted that the system is not perfect and occasionally the wrong location can be reported. He confirmed that any defects noted are reported back for further investigation and repair.



- JB thanked MO for the work in Churchtown and for resolving much of the drainage issues around The Avenue and the A6.
- RB thanked MO for the work undertaken by LCC in resolving flooding issues within the borough. He asked for further details of the proposed work on Blackpool Road, Carleton. MO explained that the work involves remains to pipework on Blackpool Council land close to the crematorium – works are expected to begin in the next couple of weeks.
- MW said that he has experienced issues with the Love Clean Streets app as not all gullies are shown on the app. He asked how he could report a gully that is not shown on the app. MO replied that the maintenance team can add any gully that is not shown on the app. He added that blocked gullies can also be reported directly to him or through PL at Wyre Council.
- MW asked whether there is a public list detailing what dig-down works have been reported and whether work has been planned. MO replied that there is a list, but it is not open to the public. He suggested that MW had a specific gully in mind he could raise this with himself or through PL.
- MO confirmed that LCC works closely with the public and local flood groups to resolve flooding issues relating to the highway. He said that if anyone has an issue with a highway asset then these can be reported on the Love Clean Streets app or directly with himself or through PL.

#### Wyre Council:

PL gave a brief summary of works undertaken by Wyre Council since the last meeting.

- Sunnyside Terrace, Preesall – PL met with CR and contractor the previous week to look at digging out the watercourse alongside Sandy Lane. CR has obtained consent to undertake the works from the landowner and these are expected to commence in the next couple of weeks.
- Calder Ave., Thornton - PL confirmed that work is still outstanding on the culvert between Calder Ave and Victoria Road East due to excessive water levels in the pipe.
- Royles Brook pumping station – All three pumps have been refurbished and reinstalled. There is an issue with pump no.2 which requires a new part, and this is to be ordered and installed at the earliest opportunity.

CG reported on the works under the Wyre Beach Management scheme and gave a brief presentation. He explained that the scheme is one of the largest flood defence schemes in the country, providing flood protection to around 11,000 properties. Works included;

- replacing some of the timber groynes along the coast with rock armour groynes and installing access ramps to allow movement across the beach. Works at Cleveleys are 50% complete, by Rossall School 80% complete and are now starting in Fleetwood.
- Deliveries of rock armour are ahead of schedule
- Works to build revetments at Rossall Point are in progress to help stabilise the beaches.
- Flood gates at Cleveleys are being renewed over the next few weeks.
- As part of the works in Fleetwood, the car park opposite Beach Road has been surfaced and marked out.

CG explained that the Council and the Contractor have been working with local schools to show them the works and said that there is a legacy from the works as it helps to attract the next generation of Civil Engineers and environmentalists. In addition, there have been a number of visits from local schools and from the EA Coastal Practitioners Conference which was held in Blackpool.

### **Questions to Wyre Council**

- RB asked that Wyre look to complete the investigation on Calder Ave. at the earliest opportunity. PL replied that the culvert takes water from over a very large catchment area and as such holds significant levels of water; to enable the Council to inspect the private culvert water levels needed to be as low as possible for access.
- RB asked for an update on the drainage issues on Hollins Lane, Forton. PL confirmed that the new housing estate on Hollins Lane discharges surface water through a private culvert in the rear gardens of properties on Hollins Lane. He said that there is a blockage / collapse of the culvert approximately 200m into the watercourse. He added that the culvert is privately owned, and it is the responsibility of the landowners to resolve this. RB noted that the water is not draining from the estate and asked whether the Developer should be contributing to any repair. PL noted that the Developer had a right to connect to the watercourse and that the responsibility ultimately remained with the riparian owner. RB asked if this could be looked into as a matter of urgency so that it could be quickly resolved.
- LR said that it was reassuring for resident of Sunnyside Terrace that works are planned to be undertaken soon on Sandy Lane. She asked that the Aco drain on Sunnyside Terrace be looked at again as this is causing local flooding issues for residents and for children using the road as an access to school. AA noted that the drain fills up with debris very quickly and queried why it was installed – PL replied that it was likely put in to prevent localised flooding to the properties on the junction with Lancaster Road. PL agreed to discuss this with MO.

### **Action - PL / MO**

- RBr queries whether contributors were losing interest with the Forum and whether it was losing its credibility. He said that there was no representation from Wyre Rivers Trust or Natural England and that the meeting was becoming “bland”. PL explained that WRT were actively involved in undertaking flood defence works but had provided a written update to the meeting. Several members disagreed with this description and PL noted that there were still many flooding issues around the Borough that are ongoing and require resolution. PL noted that there have been a large number of success stories, but that Flood Management Authorities are being asked to do more and more. RBr replied that he considered the Forum to be a superb initiative by Wyre Council but that he did not wish to see it “wither on the vine”. PL noted that interest in the Forum appeared to be dependent on whether there had been any recent significant flooding.

AA noted that there were several meetings with FLAGs and the Making Space for Water Group prior to the Forum and that these tended to “steal the thunder” of the Forum – he added that the main works were reported in the MSfW minutes, and this may be why the Forum seemed a little dull in comparison.

- CR raised concerns about a wall on the new site on Blackpool Road North which appears to be built very close to the watercourse; she asked whether Wyre Council was

aware. PL replied that he was aware, but the wall was being used as a retaining wall to allow the land levels to be raised – an easement of 8m would be maintained to the watercourse. PL confirmed that Thornton FLAG had raised this early on.

- RG asked what the objective of using the rock armour on the beach. CG replied that the object is to stabilise the beaches and maintain high sand levels. RG said that there has been a significant reduction in beach levels since the works started. CG replied that the beaches are being monitored throughout the works and levels are higher now than they had ever been. RG said that gullies have appeared on the beach – CG replied that this was because existing gullies have been pushed back off the shore; he added that radar system are in place which monitor the beach every 30 minutes and confirm that the beach is stabilising.

RG noted that a lot of sand has drifted northwards and not come back; CG replied that the sand normally drifts north, and the scheme is attempting to trap some of that sand to stabilise the beach. He noted that, at Rossall, the beach levels have risen by around 2.5 – 3.0m.

CG confirmed that the intention of the new defences is to prevent flooding. The last major flooding was in 1977 due to breaches in the sea defences. Since that time significant works have been undertaken to protect properties in Fleetwood. RG said that the height of the sea defence has not changed significantly; CG replied that levels have gone up by as much as 1.5m at Rossall and 1m at Cleveleys.

SC raised concerns that the increasing beach level by Rossall Promenade, Cleveleys is blocking the drain holes in the sea defences, preventing any water that gets onto the promenade from draining back to the sea. He suggested that the promenade would regular sweeping to keep sand and water off the promenade.

- PO asked whether the groynes would stop the build-up of sand at Knott End. He noted that the beach levels on the foreshore and around the Knott End slipway have risen in recent years and are becoming a problem. CG replied that Morecambe Bay is currently slowly filling and is developing salt marshes; this helps protect from flooding. He explained that, with changes due to global warming, it was likely that this would reverse in the future and sand levels drop.
- SC noted that, as beach levels increased, it was probable that land behind the sea defences would be lower than the beaches and would become difficult to drain. It was noted that this is already happening in some parts of Knott End and Preesall with drainage outfalls unable to discharge to the sea. CG noted that the Council is working on a scheme, [Our Future Coast](#), which is looking at how best to manage the hinterland.

### **United Utilities:**

- PW provided an update on works being undertaken by UU. He said that routine day to day maintenance continued as normal, but there were a couple of capital schemes in progress, including
  - St Michaels – provision of additional storage next to the last in line pumping station on Rawcliffe Road. The works are being undertaken to reduce the unconsented discharges from the overflow on Rawcliffe Road and are expected to commence very soon. He added that a public consultation in the village is expected soon to make locals aware of the works.

- Little Eccleston – works are in progress to remove surface water from the combined sewer system and to redirect that to the local watercourse network and hence to the River Wyre. Removing the water will reduce the strain on the sewer network. He also said that work on the pumping station in Great Eccleston is also planned and he would provide further information on this when he had it.
- PW noted that preparation works are in progress to put in place teams to deal with foul spillages to rivers over the next twelve months. Further information will be forwarded on once available.

### **Questions to UU**

- RB noted that the MSfW report details an issue in Derby Crescent, Inskip – he asked whether anything could be done to retain the surface water and prevent it from entering the foul system leading to a foul slippage into the watercourse network. PL replied that the station came under UU at Preston, not Wyre, and that he had been in contact with them to look at the issue.
- PW confirmed that this issue has been previously investigated and surface water from the local highway gully system had been removed from the system. He added that the problem was that the problem is not from a single source, as this could be easily identified and removed, but from a large number of sources across the whole length of the catchment and will require significant time and manpower to resolve.
- JT expressed concern that UU seemed to be dragging their heels in dealing with some of the flooding issues; he said that some issues seemed to remain on the list of works needed for some considerable time. PW noted that UU is a large company and deals with issues outside of Wyre; as such requests for works in Wyre have to compete with Manchester and Liverpool for finance and works are undertaken on a priority basis. He added that there are plans for works in Hambleton but the cost benefit for removing water from a small number of properties does not stack up against other larger schemes and may not be resolved soon. As the drive to remove spills into rivers and the sea intensifies it may become harder and harder to deal with individual or small numbers of properties that are experiencing issues.
- PW said that the Flood Forum has been a useful resource for getting things done; however, all the quick wins have been completed and what now remains will require significant time and money to resolve.
- DA noted that work has been undertaken at Great Eccleston pumping station; he noted that a pipe was seen coming out of the pumping station and filling up tankers which then disappeared towards Garstang. PW reported that there had been a burst of the foul rising main; to allow a repair to be undertaken the station had been switched off and all water had been tankered off to avoid it spilling into the river. The rising main has now been repaired.

### **Natural England:**

- No representative was available from Natural England and no report had been submitted to the Forum.

### **Wyre Rivers Trust:**

- No representative was available from the Trust; however, TM had provided an update on works in progress.

### **Wyre Catchment NFM Project**

- Approx 35ha (of 70ha) delivered at end of Year 2. Wide range of interventions including 15ha of peat restoration, 3km of bunded hedgerows, hundreds of leaky dams and floodplain reconnection.
- Year 3 delivery programme now agreed which will see the remainder of the interventions delivered by March 2025.
- Current monitoring data for water level is indicating reductions of between 20 and 30% at case study sites.
- Around 12ha of woodland was created as part of the project in Year 2.

### **King Georges Playing Fields, Thornton**

- Interventions completed in September 2023 and have survived a very wet winter, creating storage at periods of peak flow. Monitoring equipment to be installed this summer to assess effectiveness.
- Remedial works currently taking place at the site to ensure renovated sports pitch is fit for handover by September.

### **Wyre Catchment Resilience Project**

- WRT were successful in obtaining funding via the Environment Agency's NFM Programme.

Projects will focus on the following areas;

- Sunnyside Terrace - Creation of wetland areas to help store water during peak flow periods.
- Millfield School - As above.
- Ainspool - Delivery of a suite of NFM measures (Leaky barriers, hedges, ponds, etc) to help alleviate flood risk from the Ainspool.
- Brock - Delivery of a wide range of NFM measures across the Brock and its tributaries. This also links to UU Green Recovery Project focusing on the same catchment with works to be delivered before March 2025.

### **Brock and Calder Landscape Recovery Project**

The BCLR Project has now entered its development phase. For the next two years we are working with around 25 land managers across 4000 hectares of the Brock and Calder to develop a landscape recovery scheme which will result in a 20-year delivery programme. The project focuses on improving sustainability and resilience across farm businesses to benefit the environment with no impact on food production. There is also a key focus on natural flood management. The project will focus on the implementation of field scale measures which help to reduce soil compaction and improve the infiltration of water into soils, as well as more typical NFM measures such as leaky barriers, ponds and bunded hedges.

### **Questions to Wyre Rivers Trust**



- AA asked whether the finance for the works on Sunnyside Terrace was time restricted and would it disappear if not spend this year? PL said that he did not know the answer to this, but that TM had requested a meeting with the other authorities with the intention to start works on site this September.
- CR asked what the fall-back plan is if the landowner did not give permission to undertake the wetland as proposed. PL said that an alternate site, in the same vicinity, would need to be considered; at this time there are no plans for such event.

## **6. Making Space For Water technical group:**

- PL reported that the MSfW Group met on 30 May and minutes of the meeting have been distributed to the Forum. He noted that most of the issues had been covered in this meeting and invited questions to the Group.

### **Questions to MSfW Group**

- PO noted that the Issues & Actions has been updated and that there are a large number of issues that have now been marked as “no further action”; he pointed out that some of the issues appear to require further action but have now been marked as no further action – he gave the example of Allotment Lane in St.Michaels which is reported as needing inspection but is then marked no further action. PL explained that the inspection had been undertaken some time ago and the issue resolved. He explained that at the meeting it had been noted that there remained a large number of old issues which had been completed but not marked off as such on the list. A conscious effort was made to clear these old cases from the list to clarify what works were genuinely still outstanding.
- RBr asked what had been the aim of the Upper and Mid Wyre Review. GK replied that the Review was an attempt to look at all the assets in the area from Garstang to Great Eccleston to see whether funding could be obtained to make substantial upgrades to the river defences, including the Garstang and Catterall flood basins. After initial modelling works had been undertaken, it was concluded that any works would not have the required cost/benefit ratio to go ahead, and the scheme was dropped. GK added that the review had identified a number of areas that required works and some of these issues are being looked at as smaller individual schemes where the cost/benefit ratio is sufficiently high enough.

## **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 (latest copy updated 03 June 2024)

### **Cleveleys FLAG**

- DW reported that Cleveleys had had a very wet spring but there were no flooding issues to report. He noted that on 22 May there had been nearly two inches in 24 hours;



fortunately there had been no rain in the previous six days so the drains were able to cope with the rain.

RBr asked whether DW had received the weather warnings sent out by PL on 22 May and whether these had been accurate. DW confirmed that he had received the warning and that it had been accurate in its forecast. PL noted that the flood authorities had been particularly concerned about the forecast and, as a precaution, Wyre Council had sent out pumps to Sunnyside Terrace, Preesall and to Ainspool Lane, Churchtown in anticipation of potential flooding. In the event, the rain mostly missed the borough, and no flooding was experienced.

### **Thornton FLAG**

- PL reported that there were no representatives present from the FLAG, but he had received a detailed report and request for information from them – this was reported in the minutes of the Making Space for Water meeting.

### **Knott End FLAG**

- There was no representative from the FLAG present at the meeting.
- PO noted that there was already an established FLAG that covered Knott End and Preesall. It was agreed that the two FLAGs could be combined; PL to contact the Knott End FLAG and propose that they join the established Preesall FLAG.

**Action - PL**

### **Preesall FLAG**

- LR said that residents on Sunnyside Terrace wished to thank Wyre Council for providing the pump to the area on 22 May. She said that, while it was not subsequently required, it had provided comfort to the residents, many of whom have suffered repeated flooding in the past.
- LR confirmed that there has not been a major flooding event on Sunnyside Terrace for some time now, but residents were not complacent and were aware that flooding could occur at any time. She said that it remained essential that the proposed wetland area went ahead to significantly reduce the risk to the properties. PL agreed that the works were required; he confirmed that the works to dig out the watercourse alongside Sandy Lane are planned to go ahead in the next couple of weeks.
- AA said that Wyre has helped the residents over the last few years and provided a pump to help prevent flooding of properties. He said that, if the pump was on site before the rain started then it was possible to prevent flooding and residents slept easier at night knowing it was there.
- PO raised an issue with the public footpath that runs alongside Sandy Bay Caravan Park. He reported that there are number of times throughout the year when access is restricted by flooding due to overtopping from the watercourse. He asked whether the EA had managed to resolve issues with the landowner so that works could be undertaken on the watercourse. GK said that works have been undertaken and was not aware of any issues with the landowner – he would enquire with the maintenance team to see whether there are any issues at this location.

### **Hambleton & Stalmine FLAGS**

- JT reported that the gullies along Arthurs Lane, Hambleton are blocked, and surface water is not getting away. PL confirmed that these had been cleared the previous year as part of the works to clear all the road gullies in Hambleton. He agreed to raise this with LCC (Highways).
- JT reported that there is significant flooding of the highway on Church Lane due to runoff of surface water from Bob Williamson Park. He asked whether someone from the Council could attend the next Parish Council meeting to discuss this issue. PL replied that he had been made aware of the problem by the Parish Clerk; he would discuss this issue with the Parks Officer and see whether there are actions that can be taken to reduce the runoff.
- JT asked whether the road gullies on Cutts Lane could be cleared. He added that the gullies themselves looked OK so wondered whether the issue is down to blockages or collapse of the connecting pipes. PL agreed to raise this with LCC (Highways).

### **Out Rawcliffe FLAG**

- No representatives were present from the FLAG. No report was submitted.

### **Great Eccleston FLAG**

- DA reported that he had inspected the highway gullies in the village; he reported that there were three that were noted as blocked, and these will be reported directly to LCC by the Parish Clerk.
- He reported that a number of vehicles are parking on the grass verge on Butts Lane and he raised concerns that these may be damaging the surface water drain at this point. PL noted that the drain is very deep and unlikely to be affected by the weight of vehicles.
- DA reported that the Pinfold is planned to be completed this summer prior to adoption by LCC. He noted that there have been flooding issues here in the past due to high the gullies being higher than the road surface. It is hoped that, once the road is re-laid, flooding here will no longer be an issue

### **St. Michaels FLAG**

- No representatives were present from the FLAG. No report was submitted

### **Churchtown FLAG**

- JB said that all issues have been previously discussed in the meeting. He asked whether LIDAR data could be provided for the village. PL noted that data had previously been provided for the Green Wood area; unfortunately, the person with the skills to provide the data has since left the authority and no-one else is able to provide this. GK said that he would ask at EA whether this could be provided.

### **Garstang FLAG**

- RBr said that Garstang FLAG included Garstang and four parishes on its boundaries – he considered that it was not on any one parish council to deal with flooding issues.
- He said that one of the roles of any FLAG is to keep residents informed on flooding issues – he said that the FLAG informed residents via Facebook and an article in the Over Wyre Focus Magazine. CG agreed that education and communication were key roles for the FLAGs.
- RBr asked whether Wyre Council had deployed during the severe weather on 23 May – PL replied that the mobile pumps had been deployed to Churchtown and Preesall but that these were not used during the event and the Council had not deployed any personnel.

#### **8. Communications Update:**

- No updates received for this Forum.
- 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:**

- No update received for this Forum.
- PL reiterated that the Council is still updating Section 2 of the Multi-Agency Flood. This will include 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 confirmed that there would be a planning update, an update on the Our Future Coast project and an update from the Wyre River Trust on their works at the next Forum meeting.

#### **11. Any other business:**

- PO noted that one of the major issues relates to riparian ownership and landowners not being aware of their individual responsibilities to maintain watercourses. He asked whether the Council's mobile information unit could be used to inform residents at shows and events throughout the summer. GK replied that the EA already attend some shows to advise residents. CG recommended [The Flood Hub](#) website as a useful resource for homeowners.

#### **12. Next meeting:**

- 05 September 2024. 1pm start - Details to follow.

## **Appendix 1:**

### **Pre-meeting report from Environment Agency (June 2024):**

#### **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 2024 from the Environment Agency:**

#### **Flood Basin training dates**

Garstang Flood Basin Training dates from March 2024 to May 2024:

26/03/2024

16/04/2024

28/05/2024

Catterall Flood Basin Training dates from March 2024 to May 2024:

26/03/2024

16/04/2024

28/05/2024

#### **Maintenance Work**

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.

We are on-site repairing the outfall structure at Whites Brook which collapsed on the 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024. Conveyance of Whites Brook has not been affected by the damage and the repair will rebuild the headwall structure. The work to desilt the Stanah pumping station outfall and the bank repair at Old House, St. Michaels have been completed.

The silt surveys have been completed on Royles Brook, Hillylaid Pool, Springfield and the main River Wyre, however the data gathered varied in quality. We are examining the long profiles and cross sections currently and will report on the findings. We aren't funded for wholesale desilting and will continue to concentrate on our frequent maintenance programme with an emphasis on targeting areas that we struggle to access properly, such as behind Woodlands Avenue.

#### **Garstang update**

Designs for the crane pad improvements are being finalised now as we await our permit to begin the work. Our initial site set up and enabling work is due to start in late July/early August, with the gate planning on being removed in September/October. This means that it is unlikely that we will be able to replace the gate this winter due to the necessity of inspecting and fabricating parts once the gate has been removed. We understand that this remains a cause of concern to the local community and to ensure that a standard of flood risk protection is provided to people and property downstream of the basin, additional stop logs were installed upstream of the floodgate on the east side in October 2022. These allow us to be able to store around 900,000m<sup>3</sup>

of flood water in the basin, for comparison, a typical flood event will see us storing around 325,000m<sup>3</sup> of flood water. The west gate remains operational and will be used alongside the stop logs to operate the flood storage basin.

### **Project / Review updates;**

#### **Hambleton Tidal Flood Risk Management Scheme (FRMS)**

The proposed scheme will reduce the flood risk to over 600 properties. Linear flood defence walls are proposed from Kiln Lane, north of Wardleys Pool, to the end of the existing embankment near Peg's Pool which will be strengthened and raised. 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 planning application for the scheme was validated by the Local Planning Authority, Wyre Council on the 7<sup>th</sup> November and the determination period is expected to be completed this summer, ahead of planning committee in early Autumn.

The documents can be viewed online here or through Wyre Council's planning portal by searching for application "23/00960/LMAJ". A printed copy of the Environmental Statement is available for public viewing at the Shovels Inn, Hambleton. Ahead of planning determination, we are continuing to work with external stakeholders, including Natural England, the Marine Management Organisation, United Utilities and Lancashire County Council Highways, to finalise elements of the scheme that fall within their remit.

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@environmentagency.gov.uk](mailto:CMBLNC-PSO@environmentagency.gov.uk).

#### **Fleetwood and Copse Brook Flood Risk Management Scheme**

The scheme will include the construction of approximately 800 metres of tidal flood defence wall and the 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 Northwest Regional Flood and Coast Committee.

An Outline Business Case (OBC) for change at Fleetwood and Copse Brook was submitted and approved in May 2023, recommending the development of a comprehensive scheme to raise the standard of protection against tidal and fluvial flooding to a 0.5% AEP. Post OBC approval, the existing landowners (ABP) have entered into an agreement in principle to sell the landholding to another party (Fox Group). This has added extra complexities to scheme progression as we negotiate agreements with partners.

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 redevelopment. 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 Associated British Ports (ABP - current landowners) to ensure these intertwined ambitions are delivered together. We have also started discussions with the boat owners at Jubilee Quay regarding our proposals and how it will affect their activities.

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

The Upper and Middle Wyre Asset Management (U&MWAM) Project was developed in 2017, but due to constraints in available Capital and a low Partnership Funding score was deferred. There have been limited opportunities to progress this project since then as there remains a large funding gap for delivery of the preferred way forward. Key strategic partners for funding could include other government departments, Wyre Council and key businesses in the local area, from where an external contribution of over £11.6 million is required to make a scheme viable. This does not take into account recent inflationary pressures on the Environment Agency's Capital Programme resulting in Grant in Aid (GiA) being prioritised onto more viable schemes across Lancashire as follows on the coast: near Cleveleys; Blackpool; and St Annes and also on rivers at Hambleton: Preston & South Ribble. In summary, because of current financial challenges, the U&MWAM Project is unfunded in the capital programme and without significant partnership funding it will remain on hold for the foreseeable future.



## **Appendix 2:**

### **Important Documents**

[Local Flood Risk Management \(lancashire.gov.uk\)](https://www.lancashire.gov.uk)

[Planning & Development | The Flood Hub](#)

[Plan for Water: our integrated plan for delivering clean and plentiful water - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

[Accelerating adaptation action: Councils preparing for climate change | Local Government Association](#)

[Get in on the Act: The Environment Act 2021 | Local Government Association](#)

[Flood risk and coastal change - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

[Funding arrangements | Local Government Association](#)

[Sustainable drainage systems review - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

[River basin planning process overview - 2. River basin management plans - Guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Flood risk and coastal change - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

### **Appendix 3:**

#### **Flood Action Groups (FLAGS)**

Churchtown <https://www.facebook.com/Churchtown.flood.action.group>

Cleveleys

Great Eccleston

Knott End

Pilling <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100077390085558>

Preesall <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064811682463>

St.Michaels

Thornton <https://www.facebook.com/thorntonflag>

### **Appendix 4:**

Source of flood resilience products <https://bluepages.org.uk/>