

Wyre Flood Forum

Minutes of meeting held Thursday 14 December 2023

Meeting held at Civic Centre and via Microsoft Teams

PRESENT:

Civic Centre:

Chair:

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

Wyre Borough Councillors:

Cllr Roger Berry (RB) Neighbourhood Services & Community Safety Portfolio Holder

Cllr Collette Rushforth (CR) Preesall Ward

Parish and Town Councillors:

Roger Brooks (RBr) Garstang Town Council & Winmarleigh Parish Council

John Thompson (JT) Hambleton Parish Council

Council Officers/Agency Representatives:

Paul Long (PL) Wyre Council (Engineering)

Mark O'Donnell (MO) Lancashire County Council (Highways)

Graeme Kellott (GK) Environment Agency

Pippa Hodgkins (PH) Environment Agency

FLAG Representatives:

John Bracken (JB) Churchtown FLAG

David Walmsley (DW) Cleveleys FLAG

Harry Hutcheon (HH) Knott End FLAG

Ashley Anderton (AA) Preesall FLAG

Linda Rowland (LR) Preesall FLAG

Phil Jenkins (PJ) Thornton FLAG

John Quine (JQ) Thornton FLAG

Mike Pollard (MP) Thornton FLAG

Peter Kayley (PK) Thornton FLAG

Kerr Andrew (KA) Thornton FLAG

Others:

Richard Green (RG) Carleton resident

James Sloane (JS) Garstang resident

Steven Penny (SP) Knott End resident

Diane Brown Preesall resident

G Bolton Preesall resident

Via Microsoft Teams:

Parish and Town Councillors:

Phil Orme (PO) Preesall Town Council

Council Officers/Agency Representatives:

Paul Bond (PB) Environment Agency

Brian Birkett (BB) Lancashire County Council (Flood Management Team)

Phil Wylie (PW) United Utilities

FLAG Representatives:

Others:

Apologies:

Cllr John Shedwick LCC Councillor, Thornton & Hambleton

Cllr Matthew Salter LCC Councillor, Wyre Rural Central

Cllr Stephen Clarke LCC Councillor, Fleetwood West & Cleveleys West

Cllr Alf Clempson LCC Councillor,

Tom Myerscough (TM) Wyre Rivers Trust

David Astall Great Eccleston FLAG

Steve Elliott

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. He advised attendees that photos were being taken of the Forum for publication in a video being undertaken by Churchtown FLAG on the work to construct the flood embankment by Kirkland Bridge.

CG said that, as a consequence of the good work of the Forum, there had been few flooding events over the last year – he added that there was still a lot to do but the Forum should celebrate what had been achieved to date.

2. Apologies:

Apologies were noted as above.

3. Minutes of previous meeting:

CG asked whether there were any comments on the minutes of 14 September 2023.

- RBr asked whether there had been any movement on desilting of watercourses following comments by Paul Maynard MP at the previous meeting. CG replied that Wyre Council is looking to desilt a short section of watercourse leading to Royles Brook pumping station at Thornton and has received quotations for the work; GK said that survey works have been started on Roles Brook, Horse Bridge, Hillylaid and Springfield watercourses to determine the hard and soft beds and the volumes of silt in them – the report is expected by the end of January, after which any decision to desilt or not would be taken.

RBr noted that at previous meetings the question of funding and decision at a higher level had been factors that restricted desilting works – he asked whether desilting was now back on the agenda. CG replied that works are in progress to determine whether or not the watercourses need work to be undertaken as well as works being done as part of the Our Future Coast to look at reducing the levels of silt entering the watercourses in the first place.

RBr noted that he had seen operatives for United Utilities desilting part of the River Wyre at Garstang and removing the silt from site. GK noted that these works were for a very small section of river adjacent to the raw water extraction point – he added that the survey currently in progress is intended to identify areas where targeted desilting works could be undertaken to have the greatest impact - whole scale desilting of the watercourse network is not financially viable.

- PJ asked for information re the silt survey currently in progress; he asked how frequently the silt levels were inspected along the length of the watercourse. GK replied that levels were recorded within the watercourse channel, either on foot or from a boat, and were taken at regular intervals – he was not sure of the spacing between recordings. RG said that he had spoken with the surveyors who had confirmed that a reading was taken every 50m. GK replied that he thought 50m was too big a gap between survey points, but would check to confirm the agreed spacing.
- KA noted that it has been repeatedly said that preventing silt entering the watercourse network in the first place was critical, but noted that the building site on Lambs Hill, Thornton had seen wagons leaving the site caked in mud which had found its way in

Hillylaid Pool watercourse. CG agreed that we need to look at preventing silt entering the network, but in the meantime, the EA are looking to remove it from selected areas of the network to improve drainage and reduce the risk of flooding to properties.

- AA asked whether areas at particular risk of flooding due to silt build-up were highlighted to planning when considering future developments. He considered that adding more houses in such an area would only exacerbate the problem. CG said that planning now requires that no additional load is placed on the current drainage system and requires attenuation to natural run-off rates. AA replied that the issue is build-up of siltation during the construction works, rather than once built. CR agreed that there have been a number of sites where mud has been transferred to roads, and ultimately to the drainage network, through poor site management. MO confirmed that LCC (Highways) do take action to clean up roads whenever this is reported to them. RB confirmed that Wyre Environmental Officers had attended complaints of mud on the road in his ward – he said that it was a safety issue for road users as well as potentially silting up drainage assets.

PL noted that, as far as planning is concerned, it is assumed that watercourses are free flowing and not restricted by siltation. CG added that drainage routes for all proposed new development sites, as part of the Local Plan, were considered at an early stage to ensure that sustainable drainage was possible; these were assumed to be unrestricted and free flowing.

- There were no other matters arising from the minutes. The minutes of the meeting were otherwise confirmed as a true record.

4. Presentation by Paul Bond (EA) – Environment Agency Innovation.

(see [Appendix 2](#))

PB gave a presentation on innovation within the Environment Agency (see Appendix 2) – he is working with the EA on digital skills and working with schools and the public to inform them about flood risk and nature based solutions.

He added a brief presentation from Chris Shuttleworth from Lancashire Police about the Lancashire Emergency Radio Area Link (ERAL) – see [Appendix 3](#)

Questions to PB:

- AA asked whether it would be possible / useful to use QR codes on lamp columns in flood risk areas to help emergency services or the public during flood events – such as the local pumping plans or Community Flood Plans to allow quick and easy access. CG confirmed that emergency services do have access to Level 1 and Level 2 Flood Plans, but it would be useful for members of the public to have quick and easy access to local plans. CG noted that the Flood Plans are due to be updated and would include contacts and the protocol on who and when to contact them.
- RBr noted that the proposed defence works at Hambleton are planned to reduce the flood risk to over 600 properties – he asked why permission was ever given to build these in the first place.

PB replied that when the properties were built, over 50 years ago, the understanding of flood risk was different – plus, as time has gone on, what was once low risk may now be medium or high risk due to local changes or climate change. He added that the EA are

set to launch an updated assessment of national flood risk soon; NaFRA2 ([National flood risk assessment 2 \(NaFRA 2\) evidence assessment](#)) to make communities aware of their flood risk.

- CG thanked PB for his presentation; he said that it was useful to show residents what a flooding event could look like through augmented reality without the properties ever having been flooded.
- CR said that her experience of planning applications is that surface water is not considered and only sea and river flooding is considered. CG replied that LCC and Wyre Council consider these, and other sources of flooding, in their consideration of planning applications. He added that knowledge of flooding issues has improved over time, but we have a legacy of properties that have been built many years ago, potentially in the wrong places to deal with flooding. CR replied that the problem remained that the EA often comment back that there are no local flooding issues when there are serious surface water flooding issues; PH replied that the EA only comment on tidal and fluvial flooding issues and do not include local surface flooding. PL confirmed that this is considered by LCC and Wyre Council as part of their consultation.
- CG informed the group the Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) Explorer would be published this Christmas – this is a major plan for the coast, looking at how we manage the coast and control development in a sustainable manner over the next 100 years. He confirmed a link to the YouTube video – [video link](#). Further details are available at [Appendix 4](#).

He added that there is a lot of work going on at the moment with regard to the SMP, including the NaFRA2 work (see above) linking coastal, tidal and surface water flooding into one package, as well as including coastal erosion.

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](#)

PH gave a brief update on the Hambleton Tidal Flood Risk Management Scheme – she said that much of Hambleton has been in place for some time and has expanded over time, including some areas that lie within Flood Zone 3. She said that mapping skills have improved over the years and together with improvements in modelling, this has allowed the EA to improve its understanding of flood risk. As such, some older properties that had previously not thought to be at significant flood risk have now been reassessed as high risk (Flood Zone 3). Additionally, new developments within flood risk areas need to be protected by adequate flood defences.

- CR asked what the Flood Zone rating was for Preesall. PL / CG confirmed that most of Preesall lies within Flood Zone 3 – details of all areas can be found at [Flood map for planning - GOV.UK \(flood-map-for-planning.service.gov.uk\)](#) - PH confirmed that the maps are updated quarterly
- AA noted that new development sites often raise ground levels higher than neighbouring land resulting in water running off onto existing properties. PH replied that the EA encourage finished floor levels be increased to protect from flooding, but that land levels remain the same. Should the land level be raised, this constitutes a filling of the flood

plain and compensation storage must be provided elsewhere on the site. She added that the storage needed to be hydraulically connected.

- LR said that there did not appear to be any consideration of existing properties, particularly at lower levels, when undertaking planning assessments. She said that properties on Sunnyside Terrace were being affected by works at the top of Preesall Hill.
- CR said that there needed to be enough space between new development and existing watercourses to allow access for regular maintenance – she asked why some new developments have been allowed to build right up to the edge of watercourses. PH replied that development next to main river watercourses requires 8m easement either side of the watercourse – ordinary watercourses require an easement of 5m. Any development within these areas required a permit from either the EA (main rivers) or LCC (ordinary watercourses).

GK gave an update on maintenance works recently undertaken by the EA;

- Maintenance works are currently being undertaken in the Pilling area, including works on Wheelfoot Dyke, Middle Dyke and Cockers Dyke.
- Works have been completed on Hillylaid Pool in Thornton, including removal additional silt from the upper length of the watercourse.
- The silt survey of watercourses in the urban area is currently in progress and the report is expected in January.

GK noted that there had been no significant damage as a consequence of Storms Elin and Fergus and the flood basins at Garstang and Catterall were not required to be used.

Questions to EA

- RBr noted that the government seems to be constantly changing the requirement for additional homes to be built, and he felt for officers who can only recommend what they see. He said that officers could only be honest with local residents and he commented that all persons attending the Flood Forum were frank and tells what they believe to be true – he added that he wished this to long continue.
- CR reminded CG that she has requested a meeting with him and PO to discuss the pumping station on Cockers Dyke and asked that this be arranged soon. CG noted that there was a meeting of all local landowners in Pilling / Preesall arranged for the following week to look at local issues, including Cockers Dyke and the pumping station.

Lancashire County Council:

Highways:

- MO provided a summary of the works being undertaken by LCC (Highways). He noted that the authority has been inundated with issues and is looking to deal with as many of these as possible.
 - Cyclic gully cleaning – MO reported that the programme of works for 2023/24 has now been completed.

- Works have been continuing on reactive gully clearing has been undertaken as necessary in response to complaints. He noted that there have been a huge number of blockages reported and that the team were having to triage works as many of the reports were found not to require any work, but were down to a short-term lack of capacity in the downstream systems.
- St.Michaels drainage – LCC have been working with the Parish Council to investigate flooding issues on the highway around the junction of Rawcliffe Road and the A586
- Churchtown drainage – MO confirmed that LCC have been working with Churchtown FLAG to survey the existing surface water drainage system at the junction of The Avenue and the A6. Further investigation works are planned.
- Other works undertaken include
 - Rawcliffe Road
 - Catterall Lane
 - High Street, Garstang – the surface water drain has been cleared and de-rooted over a 195m length and is now running, although some works are still outstanding for the local landowners.
 - Inskip – looking at flooding issues on the highway, with other flood risk agencies.
 - Resurfacing of Longmoor Lane and Rawcliffe Road

Questions to Lancashire County Council

- KA asked whether there was a reason that grass clippings were not collected when being cut. He noted that clippings were normally blown onto the road and flushed down highway gullies potentially blocking them over time. CG said that this had been discussed before and that grass cuttings should be blown back onto grassed areas rather than onto the road; he noted that it was much more expensive to collect and dispose of the cuttings than to put back onto the land. While noting this KA thought that the removal off site of all cuttings would have a drainage benefit.
- CG noted that current predictions are that rainfall will increase up to 20% in the next few years and the current systems are not designed to cope with this much water.
- LR asked about the proposal to undertake works on the watercourse close to the bridge on Hall Gate Lane. MO replied that he considered cutting the corner of Green Lane watercourse would allow it to easier join with Grange Pool and could help better clear the watercourse from Sunnyside Terrace / Cart Gate. It was noted that that GK considered that the flow in Green Lane watercourse was the dominant flow at this intersection, so this was unlikely to work.
- CR said that there were a number of residents from Preesall who are attending the meeting and were looking for assurance that the gullies on Pilling Lane, from Lancaster Road to the roundabout would be cleared – they are blocked and not taking water. PL confirmed that he has seen the report from CR and had passed this to LCC to clear. MO promised to check these and make sure that they are cleared. PL noted that BB is

currently investigating the watercourse north of the roundabout to establish how and where it discharges.

ACTION – LCC (Highways)

- CR noted that there is a similar issue of a watercourse now running adjacent to Sandy bay caravan park. She said that this is maintained by the EA but that the landowner had not permitted them access to undertake any maintenance work. GK confirmed that the EA had undertaken maintenance works last year – he said that the landowner was concerned about damage to the land caused by maintenance equipment. He added that maintenance of this watercourse was a matter of choosing a time where the ground conditions were such that the equipment did minimal damage. MO reiterated that BB is undertaking works in this area and how it all connects together – PL added that there is a working theory that the surface water drains through the watercourse network on Meadow Ave, through to Rosslyn Ave and thus to Wheelfoot Watercourse – this would be checked as part of the work being undertaken by BB. PL confirmed that these issues have previously been raised by PO.
- PJ asked whether the offer to undertake weekend clearing of gullies – he asked whether this offer was still on the table. MO replied that currently LCC are very busy dealing with their own gully work, but that when things calmed down a bit, he would OK the works.
- PO noted that not all the building has been completed on the “Lakes Estate”; he queried whether the responsibility for maintaining watercourses on the built sections had transferred to the residents (as riparian owners) or resided still with the Developer. He asked that this area be considered by BB as part of his investigation works.
- JB noted that The Avenue, Churchtown was flooded again recently. He thanked MO and PL for their recent visit and noted that the following works had been agreed – a further survey/CCTV of the drainage by The Avenue/A6 intersection, the proposed penstock from Green Wood and survey works on Smithy Lane. MO confirmed that works are planned to be undertaken in January, and PL confirmed that he would be contacting the owner of Green Wood again to seek consent to install a penstock.
- JB asked whether the Ainspool watercourse had been cleared yet – he said that a number of farmers had complained about it being in poor order. GK replied that he understood that the works had been completed, but would check and report back.

ACTION – GK

- CR introduced SP to the meeting, a resident from Knott End with drainage issues. SP said that his surface water drains have been flooding for some years and UU have informed him that the main drains that discharge to the sea are all blocked. He asked whether the issue will ever be sorted. CR added that the residents cannot use their toilet as it is blocked. PL noted that the toilet is not connected to the surface water system and the resident should report this to UU. PW confirmed that the surface water outfalls on the beach are buried and the system is permanently full. He said that UU were aware of an issue in this area but it was not a priority and he did not expect that this would be resolved any time soon. SP also noted that the highway gullies in this area have not been cleaned in many years.

United Utilities:

- PW provided an update on works undertaken by UU. He said that works were “business as usual” and there was nothing of any major significance to report. There are no capital schemes in progress in Wyre.

Questions to UU

- PJ asked whether there is an update on the works on Marsh Road, Thornton; he said that this work had been going on for six years and is still not resolved. PW replied that UU have traced the line and proved that there is a length of pipe (10-15m in length) seemingly missing; the local drainage does not appear to connect and UU cannot confirm where the surface water is draining to. He added that MO and BB have been working with Royles Brook School to look at the outfall into the pond on the school.

PJ said that this issue has been going on since 2017 and still no progress. MO said that the works had been delayed as the school head teacher had been concerned about possible flooding to the school. He added that the works are planned to be undertaken soon. PJ added that the surface water is not getting away as it should, is backing up near the school and flooding the local area, including several properties.

- JT said that he understood results from the flow meters in Hambleton had been inconclusive – he asked whether the flooding problems in Hambleton were simply due to the pumping stations not being sufficiently large enough to cope with the volumes from an increase in development in the area. PW replied that the meters recently installed were confirming what was already known ie that the foul system is taking in a lot of water from an unknown source. The pumping station should be coping better than it is and it can only be assumed that more surface water is being put into the system than should be, for example by residents paving gardens and incorrectly putting surface water into the combined system. He noted that UU are looking into the issue and the area is due further investigative works.
- PO asked whether there had been any progress with the property Ambleside on Stricklands Lane, Stalmine. PW replied that UU had replaced the non-return valve in the property and had provided some mitigation measures. While this would not prevent flooding in the area, it should better protect the property itself.

Wyre Council:

- CG reported that works on the Wyre Beach Management scheme are progressing well; works are slightly ahead of target – phase 1 has been completed and works are progressing on phase 2. To date, the scheme has improved the protection from flooding from the sea to around 1200 properties, while the rest of the scheme will further protect another 2700 properties.
- CG reported that the council is continuing to work on the Our Future Coast Project [Our Future Coast \(arcgis.com\)](http://arcgis.com) – he said that there are a number of sites in Pilling and Preesall that are being developed and the council has been looking at improvements to store water. He added that a meeting of the interested partners would be held on the following Tuesday at Pilling Parish Hall.
- CG reported that works on the scheme at Hillside have stopped as a result of a change in ownership of the land. Consequently, the focus of the work has moved to the Stanah

site to look at making improvements to the salt marsh and, working with land managers, to reduce the volume of nitrates and silt running off onto the salt marshes. This work is being managed by Wyre Rivers Trust.

- PL provided a brief update on works being undertaken by Wyre Council.
- there was minor highway flooding on 10 December on Calder Ave, Stanah Road and Lawsons Road, Thornton.
- During investigation of the Calder Ave flooding, it was noted that Royles Brook pumping station was not operating – this was reported by Thornton FLAG and found to be due to the station having switched off (presumably during recent repair works).
- Works on refurbishing the pumping station are in progress – one pump has been completed and is awaiting reinstallation, after which the others will be done. A new telemetry system is in place and working.
- Inspection works of the private culvert between Calder Ave and Victoria Road East, Thornton are on hold while works to desilt the watercourse downstream are undertaken.
- The council has been working with partner agencies on flooding issues in Churchtown and Inskip.
- PL has contacted the management company responsible for watercourse maintenance at Cathrow Way and Hawley Gardens to ensure that maintenance is undertaken to reduce the risk of flooding.
- Works are planned to upgrade Springfield pumping station at Cala Gran, Fleetwood.

Questions to Wyre Council

- AA asked whether the Our Future Coast meeting planned for the following week would include Preesall. CG replied that the original concern had been the operation of the Cockers Dyke pumping station, to prevent the repeated on/off of the pumps. This then escalated to looking at the whole of the catchment and storing of water to prevent the rapid discharge of water into the watercourses overwhelming the pumping station. CG said that there has been great success in holding back water on the Upper Wyre catchment preventing rapid runoff in the river, and the Pilling/Preesall scheme aimed to do similar here but prevent rapid run-off into the watercourses network.

CG said that storing water on farmers' land helps to reduce the risk of flooding and can help clean up the water entering Morecambe Bay. Farmers would receive payment for creating biodiversity on part of their land rather than farming it. CR said that she would be concerned if a neighbouring farmer was holding water which overflowed and flooded onto hers. CG replied that the idea is to hold the water on the lowest land.

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 and no report had been submitted to the Forum.

6. Making Space For Water technical group:

- PL reported that the MSfW Group met on 31 August and minutes of the meeting have been distributed to the Forum. He invited questions to the Group.

Questions to MSfW Group

- RB asked whether money from the EA's "Quick Wins" could be used to expedite works to Sunnyside Terrace. CG confirmed that the budget for 2023/24 has been spent.
- RB noted that the Flood Hub contains a list of reputable suppliers of flood resilience products – he said that he had been unable to find the list online and asked if this could be listed separately. Details can be found here [Blue Pages](#)
- RB noted that Developers are being asked to support flood resilient measures as part of any large development site; he said that all agencies should be looking to ensure that developers install such measures as routine. CG agreed; he noted that, from April 2024, the rules on development would be changing to ensure that at least 10% of the site is used for biodiversity net gain (BNG) [Biodiversity Net Gain moves step closer with timetable set out - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- JT asked the EA whether any works are planned for the private culvert on Rydal Road, Hambleton where it discharges into Kiln Lane watercourse (Issues & Action list item 23/01) He said that the culvert was essential for drainage in Hambleton and works were essential. GK replied that no work had been done to date by the EA although he was aware that the landowner had undertaken a desilt in the last couple of years. He noted that the latest silt survey had noted that the silt levels had not changed dramatically but he confirmed that there is silt adjacent to the outfall. He added that foul deposits had been noted at the outfall and this needed to be resolved. PL noted that UU have undertaken a survey of their foul network and confirmed that there is no connection to the outfall from their foul pumping stations – it was likely that one or more local residents have connected their foul to the surface water system.
- JT said that the culvert Green Meadow Lane could be added to the Issues & Actions log – PL confirmed that the culvert had not been inspected yet between the old Police station and Pauls Lane. PL agreed to add to the I & A list.

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 13 November 2023)

Garstang FLAG

- RBr noted that there were no representatives from the Planning Section of Wyre Council in the meeting – he asked whether a planning officer could attend future forums. CG agreed to raise this with the Planning Team.
- RBr asked if a definite explanation could be provided as to what works were being recently undertaken downstream of the barrage by UU. He was aware that UU have consent to remove water from the river at this point, but noted that UU were removing large quantities of silt and removing it from site. GK was aware of the works and assumed that the works had been undertaken to allow UU to fully extract water through their pipe system.
- JS asked whether the EA have a contingency plan should the west gate on the Garstang flood basin also fail. GK replied that any action by the EA would depend whether the gate failed in the open or closed position; if it failed in the upward position then it wouldn't cause a problem; if it failed in the downward position then the EA would issue flood warning to downstream properties. He noted that the EA were monitoring the site as part of the repair works.

Churchtown FLAG

- JB said that he was a flood warden for Churchtown, and it was normal procedure that he was informed each tide the barrage was operated. He reported that nobody had notified him during the last few events. PH asked for JB's details so that the EA could ensure that warnings were forwarded in future.

St. Michaels FLAG

- No representatives were present from the FLAG. No report was submitted.
- MO reported that he and BB had been working with the FLAG to survey and map the drainage system around Allotment Lane.

Great Eccleston FLAG

- No representatives were present from the FLAG. No report was submitted.
- CG noted that there are no real issues in the village, although there remains minor flooding of Raikes Road and some minor flooding to gardens close to its junction with the A586. He acknowledged that works were done previously to clear the watercourse on the north side of the A585, but asked that LCC check that this remained clear and their highway gullies checked.

Action - LCC

Out Rawcliffe FLAG

- No representatives were present from the FLAG. No report was submitted.
- MO reported that LCC (Highways) have undertaken some resurfacing work on Rawcliffe Road.

Hambleton & Stalmine FLAGS

- JT said that he had previously reported that the flap valve on the watercourse running through Hambleton Fisheries had been repaired – he wished to update that he has since checked the outfall and noted that the repair had not be done.
- He asked whether the works on Bull Park (off Shard Lane) – I & A 21/02 - could be dealt with – he suspected that the water from Bull Park Lane was not getting into the watercourse, possibly due to blocked road gullies. MO asked if this was still a flooding issue; PL replied that the flooding was not as bad as it used to be, but was still an issue. MO said that LCC would look at it again.

ACTION - LCC(Highways)

Preesall FLAG

- AA reported that flooding on Park Lane appears to have been significantly reduced since works were undertaken. While the road still partially floods during heavy rainfall, it quickly subsides.
- AA expressed his disappointment that works have not yet started on the water retention scheme to the rear of Sunnyside Terrace. PL replied that LCC have been given consent from the landowner to dig out the watercourse that runs parallel with Sandy Lane. It is considered that having this operational will reduce volumes behind Sunnyside Terrace and reduce the risk of future flooding. PL noted that the new watercourse should not connect to the watercourse behind Sunnyside Terrace, as it would likely to transfer the flooding issue on Sunnyside to Sandy Lane. MO to arrange for watercourse to be dug.

ACTION - LCC (Highways)

- AA reported that the ACO drains in front of the houses at the junction of Sunnyside Terrace and Sandy Lane needs clearing as they are full of debris. MO to look into this.

ACTION - LCC (Highways)

Knott End FLAG

- CR introduced HH to the Forum – he is the Chair of the new Knott End Flood Action Group. HH said that he found the meeting to be helpful and had some useful information to take away from it. He hoped to continue to learn and to contribute to future meetings.

Thornton FLAG

- PJ asked whether the pumping stations switch on automatically do they switch off early when the rain stops to reduce the carbon footprint of the station. He also asked whether the pumps were routinely switched on ahead of any forecast rainfall so that the watercourse system could be emptied in advance to provide storage for surface water. He was concerned that the non-starting of pumps was a deliberate policy to reduce running costs and to give a smaller carbon footprint. CG replied that there was no policy to reduce running of pumps and that they were left on automatic at all times. PJ noted that historically Wyre officers have switched on Stanah pumping station early and this has reduced the effects of flooding.

- PJ noted that the attenuation pond on the new development site on Bourne Hill (Centurion Park) was dangerously full, with steep sides and no life buoys – he added that he raised this with PL at the FLAG meeting and the FLAG is concerned about this from a safety position as there were a number of people digging on the site. PL noted that he had passed to Wyre Planning to raise with the Developer. He also noted that Springfield watercourse adjacent to the site is in a poor condition and needs maintenance – he asked whether the Develop was now the riparian owner of the watercourse and would be responsible for future maintenance. This would be the case, although it is noted that the watercourse to the north of the site is classed as main river so the EA has powers to maintain as they see fit.
- PJ noted that the site on Bourne Road (south of the Hickory Smoke House) has a watercourse on it that is in poor conditions – he said that this needs clearing. PL said that the future maintenance of the watercourse would be undertaken by the site maintenance company.

Cleveleys FLAG

- DW noted that the borough had just experienced a very wet autumn with six inches of rain being recorded in the last month. He reported that there were no flooding incidents in Cleveleys and the drains are all working well. He noted that the tides in November had been very high, particularly around 13 November, and Storm Debi, the strongest storm to hit the Fylde coast in ten years, had coincided with the high tide. Fortunately, the storm had come from the south-west and this prevented extensive flooding to Cleveleys. He reported that the next tides of any significance would be in April 2024.
- DW reported that as part of the beach renovation works in Cleveleys, new groynes are currently being installed. He said that the developer is doing a great job of installing these and wished to pass on his thanks.

8. Communications Update:

- No updates received 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 this Forum.
- Section 2 of the Multi-Agency Flood Plan is to be updated soon. This includes specific site information, including contact details, pumping plans and any site specific issues. Wyre Council 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 said that he was looking to have a presentation next meeting “How planning works” and to get input from everyone involved in the planning process to give an insight into what they do.

11. Any other business:

- None

12. Next meeting:

- 14 March 2024. 1pm start - Details to follow.

Appendix 1:

Pre-meeting report from Environment Agency (December 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 September 2023 from the Environment Agency:

1. Flood Basin training dates

We were unable to report the basin training dates in our last pre-meeting report. The dates on the training sessions since May 2023 are listed below.

Garstang Flood Basin Training dates from June 2023 to November 2023:

30/06/2023

26/07/2023

22/08/2023

28/09/2023

30/10/2023

27/11/2023

Catterall Flood Basin Training dates from June 2023 to November 2023:

30/06/2023

25/07/2023

02/08/2023

28/09/2023

30/10/2023

27/11/2023

Highgate Park Training dates from July 2023 to November 2023:

05/07/2023

04/08/2023

05/09/2023

04/10/2023

06/11/2023

2. Maintenance Work:

We will shortly be starting our maintenance work on Springfield/Burn Drain. We have finished the maintenance work on Hillylaid Pool which included desilting the open section around Breedy Butts farm.

The silt surveys planned for Royles, Hillylaid, Horsebridge and Springfield watercourses (as per the previous Flood Forum report) have been awarded to our contractors who will be undertaking the work shortly, with the reports due by the end of January.

3. Garstang update:

We are planning to remove the east gate which will allow us to survey the area under the gate and confirm our design to repair the hinge mountings. The work required to repair the hinge and reinstall the gate is complex (at an estimated cost of £1.5million) and requires careful planning and will also mean working in the channel for prolonged periods. Any in-channel works during the winter period present a safety risk to personnel and risk equipment (scaffolding etc) being washed away, therefore the repair work will be planned as a priority after the winter period. We are working on the temporary works design to accommodate the very large crane (estimated at 450t) that will be required for the work. We will be able to inform you of our updated work programme shortly.

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 900,000m³ of flood water in the basin, for comparison, a typical flood event will see us storing around 325,000m³ of flood water. We believe that up to 16 properties may be at increased risk from the reduced basin capacity but wish to stress that this is only for a very large flood event. We have also adjusted our Flood Warning thresholds to reflect the temporary storage levels.

The stop logs will remain in place until the repair has been completed. The west gate remains operational and will be used alongside the stop logs to operate the flood storage basin. We have operated the basin in this way successfully this year on the 10th Jan, 23rd July and the 6th Oct and will continue to do so until the repair is complete.

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 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 sealevel rise and increased magnitude and severity of flood events.

The planning application for the scheme was validated by the LPA Wyre Council on the 7th of November and has now entered a 16-week determination period. 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. The project team met with Hambleton Parish Council on the 22nd of November to discuss our planning submission and look forward to receiving theirs and the wider community's feedback on our proposals. Ahead of planning determination, we are

continuing to work with external stakeholders, including Natural England, 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@environment-agency.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 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 in 2024.

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 ABP (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 from January 2020 until Spring 2021. 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 six 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; and Padiham.

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:

Omitted.

Appendix 3:

Omitted.

Appendix 4:

What are Shoreline Management Plans?

Shoreline Management Plans set out a planned approach to managing flood and coastal erosion risk around the coast of England through this century.

They identify sustainable management approaches over three planning timeframes:

- Short-term: 2005 to 2025
- Medium-term: 2026 – 2055
- Long-term: 2056 – 2105

They are **mutually owned plans**: developed in partnership by the Environment Agency, local authorities, and other coastal partners.

Management Approaches

Hold the Line

This management approach looks at maintaining or improving the current standard of protection to the shoreline.

Typically soft or hard defences actively provide protection and this approach is usually adopted where damaged could be large - where there is a risk to communities, infrastructure and other key interests.

Advance the Line

This management approach essentially moves the defences seaward. Use of this policy is limited to where significant land reclamation is considered. There are very few examples in Britain.

Managed Realignment

This approach allows the Shoreline to move backwards or forwards with management to control or limit movement.

This includes reducing erosion or building new defences on the landwards side of any original defences.

This approach provides an opportunity to create a natural coastline, but challenges exist where communities and assets are located behind a managed realignment area.

No Active Intervention

This allows nature to take its course by allowing the coast to develop naturally without any management.

There is usually no investment here due to coastal land of low value or very few properties are at risk.

However, this requires engagement and adaptation where it affects communities and monitoring and inspections are still required.

What work has been done so far?

The development of Shoreline management Plan has evolved over the last 30 years.

1995-2012

1st and 2nd generation SMPs were developed.

2017

SMP Refresh starts.

In 2017, the Environment Agency working with coastal groups identified work was needed to bring SMPs up to date and more accessible. A fundamental re-write was not necessary, but instead a '**refresh**' of the SMPs was started.

Over the last 4 years, the Environment Agency has worked closely with coastal groups to improve Shoreline Management Plans by:

- Strengthening governance and scrutiny of how the plans are implemented.
- Improving the evidence that informs them, including flood and erosion risk, and coastal habitat change.
- Bringing them up to date and being clear on the management approaches and actions to implement them.
- Making them more accessible so they guide local development planning and coastal management investment decisions.

2020

SMP-Refresh Health Check Reports undertaken by Jacobs.

The Health Check provides the SMP Management Group with guidance to enable delivery of SMP policies and to advise on what activities should be considered to address the challenges faced.

The SMP-Refresh is:

- Ensuring SMPs are technically reliable and reflect latest evidence.
- Improving clarity of SMP management approaches, through the addition of sub-categories.
- Improving the accessibility of SMPs, through the development of SMP Explorer.

- Supporting the update of SMP action plans.

The SMP Refresh is not:

- Changing the policies/management approaches in SMPs.
- Formally re-consulting communities or stakeholder groups.

2022

Updating the action plans for each area

Each Shoreline Management Plan has an action plan outlining short-term actions that will benefit the coast. Action plans will include ways to protect and enhance coastal wildlife and their habitats, and to contribute to net zero carbon targets.

They identify key actions on:

- Engagement
- Implementation planning
- Monitoring
- Research

2024

SMP Explorer launch

Improving access to Shoreline Management Plans through the development of a new digital tool called Shoreline Management Plan Explorer (SMP Explorer).

SMP Explorer will be launched early in 2024. This will make all Shoreline Management Plans easier to understand and access. SMP Explorer is aimed at coastal managers and planners, but it will also be accessible to members of the public. This will help pave the way for well-informed discussions about the future of the coast.

2024 and beyond

Updated evidence and mapping

Updated evidence on flood and coastal erosion risk will be published in 2024. This will ensure we have the strongest possible evidence base for coastal planning and management. It will include evidence on the risk from coastal erosion, as well as flood risk from the sea, rivers, groundwater and surface water. For the first time, this evidence will also include our best understanding of how climate change is predicted to impact flooding and coastal erosion.

This new evidence will be incorporated onto the SMP Explorer and other gov.uk digital services such as [Check Your Long Term Flood Risk](#) and [Flood Map for Planning](#).

Action plan implementation

Work is ongoing to keep Shoreline Management Plans and action plans up to date as new evidence becomes available. Through 2024 and beyond, coastal groups and Shoreline Management Plan groups will be focusing on implementing the updated action plans.

Through these action plans we will continue to build a more coordinated approach to planning, supporting local aspirations for sustainable development, business growth and coastal places where people want to live.

SMP Explorer – Everything you need to know!

The Environment Agency are improving access to Shoreline Management plans through the development of a new digital tool called Shoreline Management Plan Explorer (SMP Explorer).

SMP Explorer will be launched early in 2024. This will make all Shoreline Management Plans easier to understand and access. SMP Explorer is aimed at coastal managers and planners, but it will also be accessible to members of the public. This will help pave the way for well-informed discussions about the future of the coast.

October 2023

Elected members and planners survey.

Firstly, a big thanks to those of you who completed the survey. Nationally we had a total of 261 responses and in the North West we had 13 responses from the Coastal Group including 1 from an elected member.

The survey this will help us get a better understanding of how elected members and planners are currently accessing and using SMPs and coastal flood and erosion risk data.

A workshop was held on Tuesday 14th November to discuss the survey results. The results will help us plan and prioritise the next phase of the SMP improvement work. It will also help us evaluate the impact of this work we and coastal authorities have been doing to refresh shoreline management plans and improve their use by coastal decision makers and planners.

November 2023

Sharing briefing materials.

Information is available to help explain what SMPs are and the action you can take as decision-makers to support communities living with a changing coast.

Please watch this [video](#) which provides a narrative around the SMP-Refresh and the SMP-Explorer. It summarises the work the EA and the Coastal Group have done to date, what we're doing now and what we're doing next.

The EA are also producing some more resources to support you, and this will include an elected members' pack, FAQs and a SMP Explorer user guide. For more information on your local coastal area please reach out to your Local Authority Officers.

December 2023

Early Access

Shoreline Management Plan Leads and Coastal Groups will have early access so they can familiarise themselves with SMP Explorer. This will give coastal practitioners early sight of SMP Explorer and help them prepare local engagement for the launch.

January 2024

SMP Explorer go live!

The Environment Agency will be holding a webinar on the day SMP Explorer goes live - provisionally 30 January 2024. The webinar will introduce SMP Explorer. It is targeted at coastal group members including Environment Agency and local authority coastal managers, practitioners, planners and Regional Flood and Coastal Committee chairs and coastal members. It will last for 1 hour. More information and how you can register your interest can be found through this [registration form](#).

Appendix 5:

Important Documents

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

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

Appendix 6:

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>