

## Thornton Flood Action Group Report

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2017 Thornton experienced severe weather disruption when a total of 75 mm of rainfall fell on the Thornton catchment area. This data was supplied by the Environment Agency.

Various homes were flooded on :-

New Lane, School Road, Tarnway, Leeway Close, Calder Avenue, Woodlands Avenue, Fleetwood Road North, Springfield Drive. Some residents had to be evacuated from their flooded homes including one family evacuated by boat on Calder Avenue. Thornton Sports Centre was opened as a refuge centre and sandbag collection point.

At this present time, some Thornton residents are out of their homes and still in temporary accommodation.

Royles Brook Primary School on Marsh Rd was flooded and had to be closed. Thornton Medical Centre on Church Road had the fire brigade on standby as it was very close to being flooded. In addition to flooded properties many of Thornton's roads were also flooded causing vehicles to be stranded.

Many homes in Thornton suffered garden and garage flooding along with sewage contamination, and also power outages due to water ingress under the floor in the foundation space. Personally, whilst collecting sandbags for flooded residents, I saw sewage spurting from the centre of the road on Meadows Avenue.

At the Wyre Flood Forum meeting on April 5<sup>th</sup> United Utilities gave a presentation regarding the reasoning on how sewage was able to enter peoples properties. This was as follows.

The two main dykes which flow through Thornton, Royles Brook and Hillylaid Pool overflowed in various locations.

Both of these dykes meet up at the Stanah Pumping Station where the water is pumped into the river Wyre. On the night of the 22<sup>nd</sup> November this facility couldn't cope with the sheer volume of water in the system.

Road drains flow into these dykes and as they were overfull water couldn't drain off the roads. This surface water then flowed into the sewage system which couldn't cope with the combined volume of water and sewage and the sewage drains overflowed in certain roads and contaminated the flood water which went into peoples homes.

United Utilities explained that the system in Thornton is very old and if a new town was being developed the system would be designed totally differently.

The Thornton Flood Action Group feels that this brief resume of what happened on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November gives weight to the argument that permitting further building in Flood Zones 2 and 3 can only be allowed under very strict criteria which will not negatively impact on existing residential areas.