Wyre Flood Forum
26 May 2016
Wyre Civic Centre, 1pm

Agenda

1. Introduction.
2. Apologies.
3. Minutes of previous meeting.
5. Flooding December 2015 update.
6. What’s going on in the Region.
   a) United Utilities.
   b) Environment Agency.
   c) Wyre Borough Council.
   d) Lancashire County Council.
   e) Natural England.
   - Updates.
   - Local Flood Groups feedback.
     - Churchtown
     - Cleveleys.
     - Hambleton.
     - St Michaels
     - Preeall.
     - Stalmine.
     - Thornton Action Group (TAG).
10. Any Other Business.
11. Proposed date of Next Meeting –
    1pm, Thursday 15 September 2016.
Wyre Flood Forum

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 26 May 2016 at the Civic Centre, Poulton

Attendance

Present:
Carl Green (CG) Wyre Council (Chairman)
Cllr Roger Berry (RB) Wyre Councillor (Hardhorn with Highcross Ward)
Cllr Philip Orme (PO) Wyre Councillor (Preesall Ward)
Cllr Lynn Walmsley (LW) Wyre Councillor (Marsh Mill Ward)
Paul Long (PL) Wyre Council
Joe Gilmour (JG) Garstang Town Council
Yvonne Miller (YM) Great Eccleston Parish Council
Barbara Mackie (BM) Out Rawcliffe Parish Council
John Maskell (JM) Ribby with Wrea Parish Council
Diane Taylor (DT) Lancashire County Council
Elizabeth Lowe (EL) Lancashire County Council
Graham Wilcock (GW) Lancashire County Council
Pippa Hodgkins (PH) Environment Agency (EA)
Paul Bond (PB) Environment Agency
Dan Blacow (DB) United Utilities
Kev Williams (KW) United Utilities
Irene Horner (IH) Thornton Action Group (TAG)
Phil Jenkins (PJ) Thornton Action Group
Robert Hogg (RH) Churchtown FLAG
Siriol Hogg (SH) Churchtown FLAG
David Walmsley (DW) Cleveleys
Edward Greenwood (EG) Fleetwood
Yvonne Kirkby (YK) Hambleton
Pamela Nickols (PN) St.Michaels FLAG
John Nickols (JN) St.Michaels FLAG
Colin Burke (CB) St.Michaels
George Tyson (GT) St.Michaels

Apologies:
Cllr Tom Balmain Wyre Councillor (Garstang Ward)
Roy Bassnett Myerscough and Bilsborrow Parish Council
Diane Andrews Out Rawcliffe Parish Council
Paul Blakeley Lancashire County Council
Harvey Danson Lancashire County Council
David Darbyshire Environment Agency
Iain Johnstone Fleetwood Civic Society
Pin Dhillon-Downey Natural England
Richard Rhodes Natural England
Howard Philips Thornton Action Group
Peter Walmsley Hambleton
June Jackson Stalmine FLAG
Mike Tucker Stalmine
1. **Introduction**

1.1 CG welcomed everyone to the meeting and everyone introduced themselves to the Forum.

CG noted that the meeting would take a slightly different format from now; reports from the various agencies and Flood Actions Groups would be issued in advance of the meeting to help speed up the reporting process and help concentrate on specific flooding issues. Copies of the pre-meeting reports were distributed to all members.

2. **Apologies**

2.1 Apologies were received as noted on Attendance Sheet.

3. **Minutes of previous meeting, 10 March 2016**

3.1 CG went through the Minutes from the previous meeting; matters arising included;

3.1.1 Page 3; item 6.6 - Garstang Treatment Works.

RH noted that the Treatment Works had suffered some damage during the December flooding; he asked whether any of the plant inside the Works had been damaged and whether this had had a detrimental effect on the operation of the Works. He asked what works, if any, were planned by UU and LCC in response to the flooding of the Works.

KW replied that the Works had been affected by flooding, principally to office space, but had continued to operate throughout the event. He noted that there had been a brief period (approx. 20 minutes) during which the tertiary UV plant had not been operational.

RH considered that the Works should be considered as a vulnerable asset and should be included in the Wyre Flood Plan.

KW reported that the Works (as with all UU plant) was protected to a 1 in 30 year event.

CG agreed that the Works were not in the Flood Plan; he noted that other assets (such as electricity substations) were included in the Plan as these had a more immediate impact. He further agreed that the Works be included in the updated Flood Plan due to be published in August.

KW noted that he had been asked about the existence of an artesian well on the site of the Works. He reported that there was such well on the site.

RH claimed that he has written evidence of an artesian spring on site; KW reported that this was no longer on surveys of the site.

3.1.2 Page 3; item 6.7 - Wyre Planning Committee

PO wished to clarify that the ability of Wyre Councillors to refuse a planning application on flooding grounds was severely compromised when Statutory Consultants responded favourably.
CG noted that larger planning applications were now discussed as part of the Making Space for Water meetings to ensure that a considered response is given that does not contradict other agencies. PO noted that previous comments from MSfW had been fed into planning application responses.

| 3.1.3 | Page 4; item 6.12 – NFU meeting |
|       | PB to forward details of meeting between EA and NFU to discuss cooperation on flooding issues. |

3.1.4 Page 4; item 6.13 –
PB reported that the EA were currently working with NPL at options to desilt Royles Brook watercourse and dispose of any contaminated waste.

3.1.5 Page 5; item 6.17 –
Flood Resilience Grants
SH said that she was happy with the provision of a £5,000 grant to improve resilience of private homes. She asked whether there was a deadline for claims to be submitted. CG replied that there was no official date as yet, but expected that this would be by the end of the year.

PB confirmed that the Business Emergency Resilience Group (BERG) in Cumbria was looking at the end of the year for claims; he expected Lancashire to follow a similar process.

SH noted that grant payment is only payable on completion of works; she noted some companies providing and installing resilience measures were asking for up to half of the grant money in advance and this was proving difficult for some families already suffering hardship to find. CG replied that it was intended that the grant is paid on completion to allow a full audit trail to be demonstrated. He agreed that partial payment on the presentation of a receipt and subject to inspection by Wyre officers.

3.1.6 Page 8; item 8.2 – Development Over Wyre
BM noted that concerns about development in Hambleton were also reflected by Out Rawcliffe.

3.1.7 Page 8; item 8.3 – Removal of tree from watercourse
PO reported that he had not recently inspected the watercourse to determine whether the tree blocking it had been removed. He would check this and report back to the Forum.

3.1.8 Page 10; item 8.7
Flood Advisory Service presentation
CG confirmed that a presentation by the FAS on the work that it does and how residents should respond on receipt of a flood warning is yet to be set up.
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<th>3.1.9 Page 10; item 10.1 – UU planning Policy</th>
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<tr>
<td>KW agreed that he could give a brief presentation on UU criteria for drainage in planning applications if required. He added that if anyone had a specific question he would look to answer these.</td>
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| PO expressed concern that planning applications appear to be approved in areas known to have capacity issues. KW replied that UU cannot object to a planning application on the grounds of network capacity. UU can suggest points for discharge of surface water and ensure that conditions are put in place that prevent surface water from entering public sewers. He noted that the surface water discharges from a single property are typically equivalent to the foul discharge from 30 properties. |

<table>
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<tr>
<th>CG noted that Wyre Planners encourage builders to use a hierarchy of measures to discharge surface water</th>
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<tr>
<td>- Reuse water (rainwater harvesting)</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Discharge to ground</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Discharge to Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)</td>
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<td>- Discharge to watercourse</td>
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<td>- Discharge to surface water drain</td>
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<td>- Discharge to combined sewer</td>
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| EL noted that LCC will always insist that contractors follow the hierarchy and will object where it is not. |

| KW commented that it was a shame that the proposed SuDS Approval Boards (SABs) have been dropped. |

| RB noted that LCC have published a consultation document on SuDS; he suggested that LCC give a presentation. CG said that Wyre would be incorporating LCC’s policy on SuDS in the new Local Plan and when considering planning applications. RB noted his concern that future maintenance of SuDS is an issue and should be determined as part of the planning application. |

| IH added that she was concerned about the number of trees that are removed when building works are started. CG noted that planning conditions are put on some applications. |

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<th>3.1.10 Page 10; item 10.3 – Charity money for flood victims</th>
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<td>CG confirmed that charity bodies had been put in touch with Parish Councils.</td>
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| SH noted that the costs of providing flood resilience was expensive if not covered by insurance. CG suggested that any investment be made on low cost measures such as road signage or sandbag storage. PB added that once a flood action plan is in place the EA can provide a Community Emergency Bag to Parishes. |

| SH noted that there was no problem with getting steel shipping containers for storing sandbags, but added maintenance of the store was an issue. |
CG said that only a small supply of sandbags is required, sufficient to deal with an emergency until assistance from Wyre Council could be provided.

GW advised that only LCC or the Police could authorise the closure of a highway; he said that no signage could be put on the highway that interfered with free passage of vehicles. RH asked whether “Danger Flood” signs could be put up; GW agreed that these would be acceptable.

PO asked how road closures on Sunnyside Terrace, Preesall had been arranged; CG confirmed that the road closures had been agreed with LCC and the Police and put in place by Wyre.

SH said that she had written to Ben Wallace MP that the £5,000 resilience grant was not enough as it is expensive to make properties fully flood resilient.

4. **Fylde Peninsula Management Group**

4.1 Last meeting held 18 May 2016 – Carl Green and Cllr Roger Berry represented Wyre.

- Rossall sea defence scheme is currently approximately 1 month ahead of programme - due for completion in August 2017.
- The Anchorsholme Scheme is now looking at July 2016 completion, mostly due to delays at the start of construction with bad weather.
- The contract for the preliminary design for the Fairhaven and Church Scar scheme has been let. The contract starts on 19th May with construction programmed to start in March 2017.
- Funding for the Sand Dunes Project ends March 2017; the project team are currently drafting a bid for a continuation of funding for a further 5 years. The project has recently commissioned a geomorphological study which reviewed the work to date and concluded that the project should continue.
- United Utilities storage at Anchorsholme is 12400m³ instead of the proposed 12000m³. Together with the Moor Park storage tanks it has met the requirements and has been online from 21 April 2016.
- The Harrowside outfall replacement is complete and is available for further surface water depending on the outcome of the Blackpool South Strategy.
- Consultation on an additional storm tank at Fishers Field starts on Wed 25 May.
- UU have begun a campaign ‘callofnature.info’ which pulls together all the guidance on sceptic tanks and off mains sewage. [http://callofnature.info/](http://callofnature.info/)
Cllr Berry asked for an update on the three caravan parks along the river Wyre which had not connected to mains sewage. It is understood that two of them have been connected to the sewer and the third has been permitted to have a secondary treatment plant to replace the old septic tank.

The Rivers Trusts have been working on getting farming interventions in the catchment to improve the bathing water quality. There are 20 farms signed up along the Ribble and 10 signed up along the Wyre to deliver interventions over the next 1-2 years.

The LOVEmyBEACH campaign have published a number of new posters looking at what not to flush and other aspects of the campaign. Partners are welcome to use them and if they require any should get in touch with Carl Green.

Wyre Council have produced a draft policy for their local plan with respect to SuDS which promotes water efficiency.

Reports from the Lancashire Flooding in December 2015 will be published in the summer as investigations are ongoing. However some information will be used to input projects to the Environment Agency’s MTP refresh which is due at the end of the month and allocates Grant in Aid funding for the 6 year programme. It was noted that a number of properties which are at risk of flooding which was not previously known.

Wyre Council are planning to consult on a draft Local Plan this summer; they are waiting for highways evidence which is fundamental for their allocations.

On behalf of Iain Johnstone of Fleetwood Civic Society, PO reminded CG that he had agreed to put out dog signs on Fleetwood promenade. CG replied that signs have been spray painted on the promenade surfacing and that free standing signs are being put out by the lifeguards on a daily basis.

The Wyre website has been updated wyre.gov.uk/news/article/1276/keep_beaches_clean_this_summer

He added that Council employees will remind dog walkers if they are found on a bathing beach.

5. **Flooding December 2015 update**

5.1 This item was not covered specifically, but addressed through other items, including the What’s going on in the Region and FLAG updates.

6. **What’s going on in the Region.**

(a) **United Utilities**

6.1 On the back of the recent storms we have been dealing with an increased number of reactive incidents. Due to the fact the affects were far reaching across many districts I was asked to highlight the worst affected pockets within my area to carry out Post Storm CCTV investigations. I have highlighted a number or areas within the Wyre area:

- Pilling - Garstang Road, Lancaster Road, Taylors Lane, Smallwood Hey, School Lane
The purpose of the investigations is to establish whether or not the affected areas were true hydraulic incidents, or whether there are operational issues which may have contributed to flooding. If operational issues are identified then we will look to resolve these where possible. This may require multi agency involvement, but this is where the Making Space for Water meetings are key.

Initially I anticipated having all of the CCTV surveys completed by the end of March but due to work being dependant on the weather and various access issues that we have had to overcome, a more accurate estimate would be by the end of June beginning of July.

6.2 On top of the above programme of works we have also carried out some investigations on Rawcliffe Road, St Michaels, but we have with the EA’s support concluded that the flooding was due to the Brook which cuts through Rawcliffe Road adjacent to Doverstones being river locked.

We have also highlighted the need for the riparian watercourse at the rear of the (72-82) School Lane, Thornton Cleveleys needs to be cleaned out again to allow a free passage of storm water.

A final point to add is that we are also happy to support partnership working during the ongoing investigations into the overland/river flooding to Ainspool, Churchtown.

6.3 Major Capital Schemes in the area:

- Mains Lane - The First Time Sewerage Scheme has been completed. (Caravan Parks: one has connected to the public sewer, one has installed appropriate secondary treatment plant, following consultation with the EA on this approach, and the third is believed to have connected and we are going to verify this in due course).

- Anchorsholme Park – The large storm storage tank (circa 300,000) cum is now online (21st April 2016) along with the bringing into operation of further storage at Moor Park – circa 6,000cum.
  - New 3.7km outfall is being constructed in Norway and UU engineering will be inspecting it later in the month (By April 2018).
  - New pumping station to be constructed (by April 2018).
  - UU working in conjunction with Blackpool to ensure that the existing PS roof structure is able to support the final surfacing of the promenade on completion of the Anchorsholme Sea Defences.

- Wyre/Ribble Rivers Tidal Trust Partnership work - to identify and mitigate against other sources of pollution to the bathing waters (non UU assets) is now in implementation mode with interventions once we get farming agreements signed off. Looking for regular progress meetings to drive completion of work on site over the next two years. March 2017 is the UU date for provision of the appropriate funding. However, the work (partially funded by other grants/match funding) will extend beyond this date.
- Broadway PS/Rossall Outfall - Severe delays in getting the report complete (change in contractors and problems getting historic data). The majority of known misconnections have been corrected. Information regarding the remaining 5 incomplete misconnections and 59 properties that we were unable to access has been passed to Wyre EHO. We will be in touch to move this forward through Carl Green.
  - Combined overflow to the SW system has been capped off.
  - UU has explored the possibility of returning the Broadway PS valve arrangement back to its original design, so that more flow is directed towards the Fleetwood Dock outfall. This has the twin advantage of reducing the flow split via the Rossall Beach outfall and increasing the potential for dilution of the forwarded flow discharging at Fleetwood Dock. (By End of June 2016).
- Blackpool South SW separation Scheme - The Harrowside Outfall has been renewed and extended (completed last October) as we have just completed the work to remove the ugly old pipeline across that particular beach).
  - New screens and storage at Lennox Gate PS (By April 2018).
  - SW separation (SUDS storage, new PS and Rising Main) (By April 2018).
- Fleetwood WwTW - focus is on our ability to manage screens load around the first flush to help speed up the ability to get flows into the works after long dry spells. Targeting defining work and tender, award by February 2017 for year’s implementation.
- Rossall Sea Defence - Continuing to work with working with Balfours to protect our outfall pipelines during the Sea Defence project at Rossall.

6.4 KW clarified that two of the three caravan parks were now on the mains network; CG said that this was good news for water quality, particularly in Fleetwood.

6.5 CB disagreed with the comment that flooding on Rawcliffe Road, St Michaels, was due to the Brook adjacent to Doverstones being river locked. KW to meet CB on site to discuss further.

6.6 RB asked whether the overflow from Broadway PS has now been capped. KW replied that UU are working closely with WBC Environmental Health on this project and that works would be completed in the next two weeks; he added that the issue had had little influence on bathing water quality.

(b) Environment Agency

6.7 We have funding for a programme of asset repairs following the winter flood damage, to be delivered by the EA and our contractors.

The EA teams will be delivering mostly patch repairs to return earth embankments to pre winter conditions across the Wyre district and beyond. These works are scheduled to start onsite next week in the Woodplumpton area.
Our contractors VBA will be delivering a large programme of repairs across Lancashire and Cumbria but in the Wyre district, they will be concentrating on the St Michaels area, including the permanent repairs to the breach on the River Brock, Hall Lane, St Michaels and the slip opposite the Old House where the demountable barriers were setup. VBA are setup onsite at St Michaels Hall Lane and using that as their base for all local repairs. Some of the simpler patch repairs are due to start next week, whilst the more involved ones are investigated and a repair is designed and agreed. These sites are being regularly monitored by EA staff for any change but currently none is evident.

We are aware that an illegal embankment has been constructed next to the Ainspool watercourse at Churchtown and will be taking action in due course. However this will not be until late summer due to the urgent nature of the asset repairs and other works we have to get ready for the next winter.

Almonds Farm flood defences have been placed on the National Capital Programme Management Service recovery programme and is currently at design stage. The EA have committed to repair these defences as a one off as they failed and the property was flooded during the December event.

Flooding at Moss Side Lane it is a separate issue to the Almonds Farm defences. We will look into the Whites Brook scheme as part of our Upper Middle Wyre Study, however it may be a while before we have any results. Any future improvements would need to be cost beneficial and currently there are no properties flooding so it would not score highly enough on our partnership funding calculator. For any future project to receive funding we would require significant contributions from partners, local residents.

6.8 RH asked whether the EA programme of works is available to view; he reported that the Churchtown FLAG have undertaken an inspection of the defences and wanted to be assured that any defects were on the EA programme of works.

PH replied that the programme is available online https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/river-and-coastal-maintenance-programme. She added that if the FLAG forwarded her details of the inspection she would respond to any specific concerns as best she could.

BM noted that local farmers would also benefit from knowing what works were being planned.

6.9 PH noted that Churchtown FLAG had also raised the issue of an unauthorised embankment to the south of the village close to the UU works. She added that it would be late summer before this could be addressed.

SH expressed her concern that the person who constructed the embankment would apply for retrospective planning permission and the problem could drag on for a considerable period. CG confirmed that Wyre planners were aware of the problem and will work with the EA to resolve this as soon as possible.

PH added that the EA have a set procedure to follow which might take some time to complete; she agreed to report back to the next Forum.

PH
Rossall sea defence works are progressing well and are currently approximately one month ahead of programme with completion expected in August 2017.

- Installation of precast concrete wave wall units has begun
- 360 stepped revetment units have been placed.
- 121,269 tonnes of structural fill placed
- Of 18 planned beach access point, nine are complete and work is ongoing on a further six.
- Construction of the rock revetment is 65% complete with 233,301 tonnes of primary rock and 69,109 tonnes of underlayer rock being imported.

Investigation works to Branksome Ave open space have begun this week; once completed proposals for works to alleviate the flooding will be drawn up.

CG noted that deliveries of rock armour to the Rossall site should now begin to tail off so there will be fewer HGVs passing through Churchtown, and St. Michaels. He added that, since the flooding in December, he had asked LCC bridge team to check the bridge at St Michaels for any damage.

PL said that Wyre would be undertaking investigation into the drainage on the field; initial dye testing of the existing watercourse has been undertaken to determine whether there is any flow and in which direction. Works are at an early stage and will be undertaken over the summer period.

LW thanked WBC for the works to date and UU for allowing land drainage water to be discharged via the public network. She queried why UU would not allow a controlled discharge from the site; KW replied that it is UU policy that land drainage is not discharge to the local surface water network in case it caused flooding downstream. CG confirmed that by the time of the next Forum there should be a proposed resolution for the site.

JN noted that there was no representation from Wyre Planning Team at the Forum; he said that there was an impression given that, as long as greenfield run off rates are maintained, all is well. He added that the effectiveness of attenuation is dependent on the size and maintenance, and often developed after the granting of outline planning permission.

SH asked whether Wyre Planners knew the location and condition of all watercourses and where they discharged. PL replied that this was not known as many watercourses are privately owned and maintained and are not mapped.

PJ said that, since UU were not able to object to a planning application on sewer capacity grounds, would it possible for Wyre Planners to know which area are already at, or close to, capacity. KW replied that it was generally unknown which sewers are at capacity, since this was dependant on weather conditions and how much land drainage or surface water was getting into the network.
LW asked what monitoring system UU has in place to monitor flows in surface water sewers. KW replied that live sewer monitoring is currently not undertaken as standard although there are currently trials in place in Preston.

CG agreed to add planning issues to the next Forum Agenda

**CG / PL**

**6.15**

**FLOODING TO GARSTANG, CHURCHTOWN AND ST MICHAELS**

- LCC are currently bidding for Defra Grant in Aid funding to undertake a Surface Water Management Plan in depth study including modelling of the surface water flows in these areas. If approved by Defra, the studies will take place in 2016/2017.
- LCC met with residents of St. Michael's on Tuesday 24 May to discuss LLFA responsibilities and the strategy.
- A further meeting with Churchtown residents is being planned, ideally to include EA and Wyre BC.

**PREESALL - SUNNYSIDE TERRACE**

- LCC are currently appraising a scheme to alleviate the flooding in this area. Engagement with the community is expected to begin by mid-summer and works to be programmed in autumn.
- Letters to residents will be distributed to those with riparian responsibilities to undertake maintenance of watercourses on their land.

**GARSTANG, SCORTON, FORTON, UPPER RAWCLIFFE**

- Level 2 Surface Water Management Plans are proposed in these areas that will identify and collate flood hotspots which may require further investigation through detailed assessment. Identification if immediate mitigation measures will be addressed. To be undertaken in 2016/2017 subject to Defra funding approvals.

**6.16**

EL confirmed that LCC would be bidding to Defra for funds for flood and coastal erosion risk management. Defra has made available funding of £2.3 billion for a six year programme of capital investment. She added that CG and WBC have been particularly successful in bidding for investment in recent years.

RH asked whether the application for grant was “a given”; EL replied that any application for grant had to be economically viable. She added that, for the areas under consideration, this shouldn’t be an obstruction – confirmation of a successful bid would be provided in September.

**6.17**

RB asked whether LCC were continuing to clear roadside gullies. GW replied that since the flooding in December LCC have received over 1,600 reports of blocked gullies; each of these reports needed to be checked and GW is currently assessing which assets need to be repaired.
PO noted that repairs to gullies are undertaken in response to complaints and often the gang undertaking the works pass other flooded areas that are on not on their works list. He suggested that it would be prudent to clear all the drains in the immediate area to a complaint and to warn residents in advance to keep clear. GW replied that he did not have the resources to contact all resident in advance. SH suggested that this could be down via the Parish Clerks.

(e) Natural England

Nothing to report.

6.17 CG confirmed that NE were currently working on improving the coastal footpath in Wyre.

7. Making Space for Water Group

Minutes from the MSfW meeting of 19 May appended below.

7.1 PJ asked whether there was an update in whether Royles Brook watercourse would be cleaned as it passed through ICI land. CG replied that he was working with ICI and EA to resolve this. He added that modelling of the network is being undertaken to improve the system. An initial report has been completed, with more details expected in June 2016.

7.2 RH asked re 2.1.4 of the minutes whether a scheme for Ainspool watercourse was likely to be included as part of the highway drainage system for Churchtown. DT replied that, following the December floods, the scheme would be re-examined; details of proposals will be made available when completed.

7.3 RH noted DB’s comments in 2.1.5 that the flooding of 6 December was “an extreme event.” He commented that Churchtown had suffered a number of flooding events in recent years and that this event was not an extreme event, merely another in a long list of flooding events.

7.4 Re item 3.9.1 PH noted that she had been unable to find any correlation between river levels and flooding took place in Churchtown.

RH asked whether there had been any failure of equipment on 5 December; PH was not aware of this but would check with the Operations Team and report back.

RH wanted to know if a failure of equipment had caused a river level rise and the consequent flooding to Churchtown. He said that he would be interested to know how the barrier operates and whether there was any Plan B should equipment fail.

7.5 RB asked whether the MSfW Group are looking at making better provision for holding water back upstream. CG said that he would raise this issue with Keith Ashcroft from EA. He added that the EA are looking to slow flow from high catchment areas in all areas, not just in Wyre.
PO asked whether there are any tree planting schemes planned for the upper catchment areas. CG that the “Slow the Flow” scheme is looking at making changes to the local landscape to delay the downstream movement of rainfall to rivers. As part of the scheme £250k has been allocated to plant trees in the North West.


7.6 SH informed the Forum that members from the Churchtown FLAG had attended a conference at Hebden Bridge Town Hall on 8 May on flooding to Pickering. She said that the conference had been very informative and we needed to arrange something similar for Wyre. CG said that Wyre Council would be happy to host such a conference if SH could pass on details.

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/south-pennines-local-nature-partnership-the-science-of-floods-tickets-21718615965

http://www.pennineprospects.co.uk/news/the-science-of-floods

SH said that it is important that everyone is involved in such a meeting. PB suggested combining such a meeting with a FAS meeting late this summer.

8. **Emergency Planning**

8.1 **Generic arrangements.**

The Generic Emergency Response Plan puts arrangements in place allowing the Council to respond to Major Incidents.

The Councils Rest Centre Plan puts arrangements in place allowing Council to provide humanitarian assistance with the support of LCC by opening Council Owned Facilities during times of evacuation, this plan is reviewed every 6 months.

We have standby arrangements in place with 3 officers on call 24/7/365 allowing us to respond at all times.

We hold a separate document with all the Councils, and our multi agency partners contact details, this is reviewed 3 monthly, or whenever there’s a change to either Officer, or contact number.

We have other plans in place with our partners at LCC allowing us to respond to Severe Weather, Coastal and Maritime Incidents, Coastal Pollution.

8.2 **Wyre Flood Plan**

The 12 monthly review of Wyre Flood Plan leading to Version 3.00 will be completed for the 31/8/16 this will take on board lessons learnt from the recent flooding events, and will superseded all previous versions.

I have worked quite closely over the past 18 months with Local Councillors, Parish Councillors, multi-agency partners and colleagues from the local communities to form Local Flood Groups in Cleveleys, Hambleton, Pressall, and Stalmine. Still working with Thornton Action Group.
Developing Local Flood Advisory Groups with Site Specific Flood Risk Summary Sheets for their patch allowing them to continue to build resilience at a local level and develop, and update local arrangements, hot spots, vulnerable premises, customers, communities, and businesses, etc.

There are now nominated Flood Wardens in in each of the 4 areas and their role is to undertake and provide assistance where possible to the Community and the Council before, during and after any incident as outlined in each of their Flood Risk Summary Sheets.

Could I please reiterate that it is the responsibility of the Flood Wardens to keep the document current and up to date by advising me of any changes at their earliest opportunity?

It makes sense for this to be provided at our 3 monthly meeting as part of their local individual updates from:-
- Cleveleys;
- Pressall;
- Hambleton;
- Stalmine;
- Thornton.

The Wyre Flood plan will be available on the Councils website at the link below; it will not contain any personal contact numbers.

www.wyre.gov.uk/downloads/download/659/wyre_emergency_flood_plan

We will provide a hard copy of the plan to the 5 Local Flood Groups, and also copies of their Site Specific Flood Risk Summary Sheets so they can continue to develop and review local arrangements.

I am more than happy to work with other Parish Councils to form Local Flood Groups, and develop the current generic Site Specific Flood Risk Summary Sheets and local arrangements, it’s important to note the work to collate the local information need to be completed by the Local Flood Group Flood Wardens, I’m there to help and facilitate with this process.

And again I’m also available to attend any of the 5 groups when requested to do so.

It’s easy to get buy from those who want to help immediately after localised flooding, but very difficult when the suns shining.

So I’m happy to help with any group if they would like to make contact with me.

8.3 Community Resilience Update

Wyre BC, Lancashire County Council, United Utilities and the Environment Agency are keen to offer continued support to existing and emerging community groups in a consistent and co-ordinated way. To this end we would like to know whether the groups would like to meet prior to (or after) the Wyre Flood Forum.

In order to allow us to schedule this please submit an expression of interest a minimum of 2 weeks before the Flood Forum via Paul Long and we will schedule slots with the relevant groups.
Local Flood Groups

St. Michaels
At St Michael's most of the tributaries of the Wyre meet. The Wyre Catchment Area extends from Abbeystead in the north to parts of northern Preston including Whittingham, Woodplumpton and Barton in the south. St Michael's is therefore vulnerable to flood in times of prolonged rainfall, as the events of last December demonstrated.

FLAG has been formed by local residents to work to limit the risk of further flooding and provide knowledge to help to make properties more resilient in case of flood and people safer.

More specifically the Group's aims include involving local residents in:

- Checking regularly that river and other watercourse banks are being maintained properly and reporting problems promptly to the contact person at the Group – see below
- Encouraging farmers and landowners to keep ditches and land drains clear and flaps properly maintained
- Reporting to the FLAG contact point all incidents of surging of sewers and drains
- Reducing coverage of Himalayan Balsam on river banks

The Group's representatives will seek to impress upon local councils - principally Wyre, Preston and Lancashire CC and the Environment Agency and United Utilities the importance of always keeping in mind that their decisions may have serious adverse consequences for St Michael's in terms of flood risk to property and people not least the children at the village school.

We shall seek to enter into dialogue with these organisations to improve understanding and press for those improvements to river banks already planned to be implemented fully and promptly. We shall also negotiate for the setting up of machinery to deal effectively with reports of defects and problems received by the Group. A start on this has already been made and we shall ensure representatives of FLAG attend the Wyre Flood Forum regularly.

People with many varied skills are being sought to make the Group effective. Locally we are aiming to meet monthly, usually at the Grapes.

St Michal's FLAG now has a presence on Facebook - https://www.facebook.com/St-Michaels-FLAG-509891412531260/.

Current issues of concern
In addition to the major works proposed for the Wyre and the Brock the following weaknesses in banks on the Wyre have been identified

a) Southern bank behind Rivermede and the Coach House is leaking at times of high water. This appears to be at the very site of the 1980 bank breach which lead to very extensive flooding and damage

b) Southern bank behind Stockenbridge Farm – leak reported in January by Mr Metcalfe (the farmer) but no action so far. This had the potential to cause a major flood similar to that caused by the Brock breaches in Dec 2015. It is very close to the main A586 Road leading to Blackpool.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>c) Sewage surcharging from Great Eccleston pipe to Churchtown adjacent to Doverstones in Rawcliffe Road St Michaels. Mr G Tyson is attending the Forum to elaborate. This has been reported but no action has been taken so far.</td>
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<tr>
<td>d) Continued concern about planning applications and approvals in Wyre, Preston, possibly Fylde and Lancaster leading to increase in volume and rate of flow of water and sewage passing through St Michael’s.</td>
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<td>St Michael’s FLAG is interested in being involved in the project proposed by Carl Green regarding collaborative activities with agencies in developing a communication application in relation to flood risk and warnings.</td>
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<td>8.5 CG said that consideration is being given to holding a brief meeting prior to the Flood Forum with each of the FLAGs to bring up any flood related issues. He confirmed that a meeting with St Michaels FLAG had been trialled prior to the Forum and had proved very useful. He asked that any FLAG wishing to hold such a meeting should forward details to PL.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.6 SH added that the Churchtown FLAG had undertaken a number of actions since its formation, including</td>
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<tr>
<td>• walking river defences and noting any faults</td>
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<tr>
<td>• written to planners at Wyre, Lancaster and LCC re recent planning applications</td>
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<tr>
<td>• produced a document “History of Churchtown Flooding”</td>
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<td>• issued a flooding questionnaire to all Churchtown residents</td>
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<td>8.7 CG said that WBC is looking at updating the flooding page on its website to make it a single point to collate information from all agencies / authorities.</td>
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<td>8.8 <strong>Hambleton</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>YK noted that UU were undertaking works on the main sewer on Carr Lane. DB confirmed that UU has undertaken a lot of survey works in Hambleton and that these are planned to be completed by the end of the week.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Concerns were also raised that the recent drainage works for the new development on Carr Lane may have damaged the existing highway drainage.</td>
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<td>8.9 PO queried whether the existing highway gullies are able to deal with the current volumes. GW replied that LCC are working on the positioning of the gullies. While it was conceded that some gullies may not be aligned correctly these would be addressed in a new scheme for the area.</td>
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<td>8.10 <strong>Thornton</strong></td>
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<td>PJ confirmed that Thornton FLAG had almost completed their Flood Action Plan and were also looking at starting a Facebook page for local residents.</td>
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</table>
9. **Proposed Agenda Items**

9.1 Items proposed for inclusion in future Forum meetings were:

- Presentation from WBC Planners on how they assess planning applications
- Presentation from UU – what they can and cannot do re planning applications
- Operation of Garstang Flood Basin
- Flooding workshop (on similar basis to Hebden Bridge)
- Use of technology and communications – PB is looking to set up a county wide flooding information “In The Know” scheme.

https://www.stayintheknow.co.uk/

10. **Any Other Business**

10.1 RH noted that at the Pickering meeting (item 7.6) a number of low-cost telemetry systems had been demonstrated. He noted that there were no such systems in Churchtown and asked whether there was an opportunity to install telemetry any time soon.

PB replied that the EA were working on installing telemetry on rapid response catchments where flood warnings cannot be issued quickly. He said that he would look into this matter and provide examples of telemetry systems that could be helpful to Churchtown.

10.2 PO noted that Willowgrove Caravan Park in Preesall had undertaken some works to clear the watercourse adjacent to their site. He noted that the section between the newly cleaned area and Wheelfoot Watercourse is in poor condition and proposed that discussion with the landowner to get the remainder of the watercourse cleared. PL to look into this.

11. **Date of Next Meeting**

Next meeting of the Forum will be held at **1pm** on **Thursday 15 September 2016** at Wyre Civic Centre

Details of the Flood Forum, including past minutes and copies of presentations can be viewed on the Council website at [www.wyre.gov.uk/info/100006/environment/883/flood_forum](http://www.wyre.gov.uk/info/100006/environment/883/flood_forum)

**Appendices.**

- Making Space for Water Group - Minutes 19 May 2016
Making Space for Water
19 May 2016

Agenda

1. Introductions

2. Update on flooding issues.
   - Flooding to Garstang, Churchtown and St. Michaels - Dec 2015
   - Other issues
     - Poulton
       - Highcross Road / Lowick Drive
     - Preesall
       - Sunnyside Terrace
       - Pilling Lane - watercourse by Hawkshead Road
     - Hambleton
       - Shard Lane
     - Thornton
       - Northumberland Ave.
       - Fleetwood Road North
       - Branksome Ave.
       - Watercourse to rear of 72 School Lane
       - Lawsons Road / Briar Road
     - Others
       - Ainspool, Churchtown
       - Broadway pumping station, Fleetwood
       - Copp Lane, Great Eccleston

3. New Issues
   - Almonds Farm, Great Eccleston
   - Sandyforth Ave, Thornton (Royles Brook)
   - Grange Lane, Stalmine
   - Fleetwood Road South (Telereal Trillium)
   - Rivermede, St.Michaels
   - Blackpool Road, St.Michaels

4. Planning Applications

5. Any other business
MAKING SPACE FOR WATER TECHNICAL GROUP

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 19 May 2016 at Wyre Civic Centre.

Present:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organisation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carl Green (CG)</td>
<td>Wyre Council (WBC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Long (PL)</td>
<td>Wyre Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paul Blakeley (PB)</td>
<td>Lancashire County Council (LCC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Lowe (EL)</td>
<td>Lancashire County Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graham Wilcock (GW)</td>
<td>Lancashire County Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pippa Hodgkins (PH)</td>
<td>Environment Agency (EA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kevan Williams (KW)</td>
<td>United Utilities (UU)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dan Blacow (DB)</td>
<td>United Utilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Stock (DS)</td>
<td>United Utilities</td>
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</tbody>
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**Action**

1. INTRODUCTIONS

PL welcomed all to the meeting. New Members, EL and DS were introduced to the Group.

2. UPDATE ON FLOODING ISSUES

2.1 **Flooding to Garstang, Churchtown and St. Michaels - Dec 2015**

All Members gave a brief update of works undertaken/planned in response to the flooding events of December 2015.

**Lancashire County Council:**

2.1.1 EL reported that she has arranged a meeting on Tuesday 24 May with representatives from the St Michaels Flood Action Group. It was considered by the Group that the meeting would be better rearranged to Thursday 26 May prior to the Flood Forum so as to prevent two visits for both residents and officers. EL to rearrange meeting date/time; PL to arrange room availability. EL / PL

2.1.2 PB noted that LCC will be undertaking a Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP) - Level 2) - for the Churchtown area. The Plan will look to identify the causes and effects of surface water flooding and agree the most cost effective way of managing surface water flood risk.

2.1.3 LCC (as Lead Local Flood Authority) are undertaking a Section 19 report on the flooding. PB confirmed that the report will be undertaken in two stages.

Stage 1 (to be published in summer 2016) will be an overall summary of what happened during the flooding events and will include all 135 communities that were affected in Lancashire. A scoring matrix will prioritise any works that may be required to improve flood resilience.

Stage 2 (to be published circa December 2016) will be a more in-depth investigation of those areas deemed to be at the highest flood risk. The report will identify any schemes that can be put in place, areas where further investigation will be required and what actions residents can undertake to help themselves.
EL noted that LCC are not just waiting for the report to be drawn up before undertaking any works; she said that where possible quick fixes are being done.

2.1.4 GW asked whether there has been any progress on the proposed tank solution for the highway drainage system for Churchtown. PB confirmed that, following the December flooding, the proposed solution was being re-examined and consideration given to increasing the tank sizes. The works are on LCC’s investment plan for next financial year.

An application for consent to discharge to Ainspool watercourse has been made to the EA. PH confirmed that an application for a discharge structure on Ainspool watercourse has been received and is being considered.

**United Utilities:**

2.1.5 DB noted that the flooding of 6 December was an extreme event. The sewers in Churchtown had not been designed to take the volumes so there had been some flooding from surcharging sewers. He noted that the principal source of flooding had been surface and highway drainage systems.

**Environment Agency:**

2.1.6 PH reported that all EA assets have been inspected and surveyed; a prioritised list of repairs/improvement works has been drawn up and works has begun on these.

2.1.7 Permanent repair works to the River Brock embankment east of St Michaels are to be undertaken this summer and are planned to be completed by October.

2.2 **OTHER ISSUES:**

**POULTON**

2.2.1 **Highcross Road / Lowick Drive**
It was noted that no reports of flooding have been received since 2013; further, improvement works by the initial complainant have meant that the requirement for the diversion of highway drainage from the private piped watercourse on Highcross Road to the UU drain on the opposite side of the carriageway is probably no longer required. It was agreed that these works should be removed from the works programme.

- **NO FURTHER ACTION**

**PREESALL**

2.2.2 **Sunnyside Terrace**
EL confirmed that capital funding is now available for the mitigation works and plans are currently being drawn up. Works are planned to be completed by the end of the year.
PL reported that he had received a number of complaints from residents about the condition of the watercourse to the rear of Sunnyside Terrace.

It was agreed that EL would make contact with residents to remind them of their riparian responsibilities – it was suggested that the EA may be able to undertake the work and recharge the residents proportionately. PH agreed that this could be done but would need to be inserted into an already busy works programme.

- WORKS PLANNED 2016/17

2.2.3 Pilling Lane – Hawkshead Road

PL confirmed that a check on Land Registry records has confirmed that the land, including the watercourse, behind Hawkshead Road is unregistered.

It was agreed that LCC would inspect the watercourse with a view to undertaking any works as necessary. It was noted that no reports of flooding in this area have been received. PL to forward details to PB.

- INVESTIGATIONS ONGOING

HAMBLETON

2.2.4 Shard Lane

PH confirmed that the works to dredge the watercourse to the east of Shard Lane were now completed. It was noted that these works were a one-off and future works would need to be undertaken by the riparian owners.

- WORKS COMPLETED. NO FURTHER ACTION

THORNTON

2.2.5 Northumberland Ave

PH confirmed that the watercourse had been recently inspected; she said that, although the watercourse was heavily covered with vegetation, the flow within it was still good. Works have been programmed to clear the vegetation by December 2016.

- WORKS PLANNED – DEC 2016

2.2.6 Fleetwood Road North

DB confirmed that there had been further external flooding over Christmas. He added that the property owners had undertaken works to the property, including the removal of all the resilience measures that UU had installed.

PH confirmed that the main river culvert under the highway had now been desilted.

- WORKS COMPLETED. NO FURTHER ACTION
2.2.7 Branksome Ave
PL informed the group that Wyre Council have surveyed the site and confirmed that there does not appear to be an outfall from the site to a recognised drainage system.

KW confirmed that UU would not be willing to take land drainage from the site into their local surface water system as this posed a risk of flooding to properties downstream.

DB noted that there is no connection to the current surface water system and suggested that a culverted watercourse which took land drainage from the site was possible. It was agreed that WBC would undertake a further investigation to determine whether a culverted watercourse existed and to look at alternative means of draining the site should this not be the case.

- INVESTIGATIONS ONGOING WBC

2.2.8 School Road
DB asked that the watercourse to the rear of a number of properties on School Road be cleaned out at the earliest opportunity. Concern was raised that the watercourse is in poor repair and it adding to flooding issues in the area.

PL reported that he had not yet been in touch with Network Rail to arrange for the works to be undertaken.

- FURTHER WORKS REQUIRED

Lawsons Road
DB confirmed that UU are planning to undertake a CCTV survey of the surface water system to investigate whether there is a blockage or damaged pipe that is causing the flooding to Lawsons Road and Briar Road.

- INVESTIGATIONS ONGOING UU

OTHERS
2.2.9 Ainspool
See 2.1.4 (above)

- ACTION PLANNED 2017/18 LCC

2.2.10 Broadway pumping station, Fleetwood
KW reported that there were still 50 properties with cross connections to be corrected. In these case either access to the properties had not been possible or the residents had refused to carry out the necessary works; he added that Environmental Health were now dealing with these properties to ensure that the cross connections were rectified.

KW added that the combined sewer overflow has now been capped.

- ENFORCEMENT ONGOING UU
2.2.11 **Copp Lane, Great Eccleston**
GW confirmed that LCC Highways have works to alleviate flooding on the highway planned to be undertaken later this year.

- **WORKS PLANNED 2016**  LCC

3. **NEW FLOODING ISSUES**

3.1 **Moss Side Lane, Great Eccleston**
Raised by Cllr Roger Berry and Cllr Shaun Turner

GW confirmed that he has met with local residents to look at issues relating to the failure of a small bund resulting in water from main river watercourse flooding the road. In addition, there are concerns that the watercourse is in need of dredging.

The EA are undertaking works to repair the original defences as part of the flood recovery package of works, and are looking to investigate the cause of the flooding to determine the level of risk and whether a cost beneficial solution is possible. LCC to assist with any works relating to the highway.

- **FURTHER INVESTIGATION REQUIRED**  EA / LCC

3.2 **Sandyforth Ave., Thornton**
Raised by PL

Damage to fencing surrounding Royles Brook watercourse causing safety concern. PL confirmed that the land is not owned or maintained by WBC; an application has been made to the Land Registry to determine who owns this property.

PL to pass on details to PH.

- **FURTHER INVESTIGATION REQUIRED**  WBC/EA

3.3 **Grange Lane, Stalmine**
Raised by Stalmine FAG

Report of flooding at junction of Grange Lane and Smithy Lane – suspected damaged water main. DB confirmed that no report has been received about this; PL to forward details from Stalmine FAG.

- **FURTHER INVESTIGATION REQUIRED**  UU

3.4 **Fleetwood Road South, Thornton**
Raised by PL

Flooding reported to properties on Fleetwood Road South and around Aintree Road. Source of flooding has been attributed to blocked watercourse along Anchorsholme Road East. PL confirmed that he has written to the riparian owners requesting that the watercourse be cleared. To date no response has been received.

- **FURTHER INVESTIGATION REQUIRED**  WBC/LCC
3.5 **River Wyre embankment, St Michaels**
Raised by St Michaels FAG

Report of scouring to and leakage through the River Wyre embankment at St Michaels. PH confirmed that EA were aware of this and works are planned to repair/reinforce the embankment later this year.

- **WORKS PLANNED 2016**  
EA

3.6 **Blackpool Road, St.Michaels**
Raised by Chris Dunderdale, LCC

Report of flooding to highway (and consequently to residential properties) due to failure of flap valves on the River Wyre and a blocked culvert on Blackpool Road. PB confirmed that LCC were aware of this and were looking at the issues with the culvert. PH confirmed that EA are aware of the river flaps valves and this is to be added to their works schedule.

- **WORKS PLANNED 2016**  
LCC/EA

3.7 **Carr Lane, Hambleton**
Raised by DB

DB reported flooding to the highway at junction of Sandy Lane and Carr Lane. UU are currently investigating this.

- **INVESTIGATIONS ONGOING**  
UU

3.8 **Carrs Green, Inskip**
Raised by KW

KW reported regular flooding to Carrs Green, Inskip caused by septic tanks not being able to discharge to the local watercourse, particularly during periods of heavy rainfall. The initial complaint had been accompanied by a request for a first time sewerage connection.

PH agreed for the EA to investigate the condition of watercourses in this area and report back.

- **FURTHER INVESTIGATION REQUIRED**  
EA

3.9 **Queries from Churchtown FAG**
Raised by Churchtown FAG

3.9.1 The FAG requested information about the maintenance and operation of the Garstang Flood Barrier, particularly how it was operated on the evening of 5 December 2015. PH to speak with the Operations Team and report back.

- **UPDATE TO BE PROVIDED**  
EA

3.9.2 The FAG asked whether the operation of the UU Sewage Works during the night of 5 December 2015 was affected by the flooding.

KW noted that the operation of the Works was affected but did not contribute to the flooding suffered by Churchtown during the night.
3.9.3 The FAG raised concern about the recent unauthorised construction of an earth bund close to the River Wyre south-west of the sewage works. PH agreed to investigate this construction and take enforcement action as required.

- **FURTHER INVESTIGATION REQUIRED**  
  **EA**

4. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

4.1 **Arthurs Lane, Hambleton**
PL noted that an outline application for 165 houses on Arthurs Lane, Hambleton had been received (application 16/00217/OULMJ). He expressed concern that the proposed site drainage showed discharges to watercourses that currently cause flooding on Church Lane and Carr Lane.

4.2 **Hollins Lane, Forton**
PL updated the group on the planning applications for Hollins Lane, Forton; the Applicant has provided an alternate means of draining the site by installing a new surface water drain in the main A6 carriageway. While not ideal, the new drain would allow the site to drain and the objection has been removed.

4.3 **Garstang Marina**
CG noted that the St Michaels FAG has raised an objection to the proposed development of Garstang Marina specifically with regard to the Flood Risk Assessment and the Drainage Strategy Report.

5. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

5.1 **Fleetwood Football Club, Park Ave, Fleetwood**
PB reported that he had received a complaint of flooding from collapsed or broken drains on or close to the football grounds. CG replied that WBC were aware of this and that the flooding is longstanding and caused by piling works that the Club carried out on its grounds. He added that the responsibility for any repairs resided with the Club.

5.2 **Making Space for Water Group**
PB confirmed that LCC (as Lead Local Flood Authority) were looking to update the MSfW groups throughout the county. As such a new Memorandum of Understanding would be drawn up for all agencies to sign up to. He noted that the work carried out by the Wyre Group was excellent and could be used as a template for other groups to follow.

6. **NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 15 Sept 2016 - 10am at Wyre Civic Centre.