



Wyre Flood Forum

Minutes of meeting held Thursday 11 March 2021
@ 1pm via Microsoft Teams.

PRESENT:

Chair

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

Wyre Borough Councillors

Cllr Roger Berry (RB) Neighbourhood Services & Community Safety Portfolio Holder
Cllr Phil Orme (PO) Preesall Ward and Preesall Town Council
Cllr Lynn Walmsley (LW) Marsh Mill Ward
Cllr David Walmsley (DW) Jubilee Ward

Lancashire County Councillors

Cllr Matthew Salter (MS) Wyre Rural Central
Cllr Alf Clempson (AC) Poulton-le-Fylde
Cllr John Shedwick (JS) Thornton & Hambleton

Parish and Town Councillors

Cllr Roger Brooks (RBr) Garstang Town Council
Dianne Booth (DBo) Stalmine Parish Council
Diane Andrews (DAn) Out Rawcliffe Parish Council

Council Officers/Agency Representatives

Graeme Kelly (GK) Environment Agency
Alistair Graham (AG) Lancashire County Council (Flood Risk Engineer)
Stephen Clarke (SC) Lancashire County Council
Mark O'Donnell (MO) LCC (Highways)
Emma Lyons (EL) Wyre Council
Dan Blacow (DB) United Utilities
Paul Davenport (PD) United Utilities
Tom Myerscough (TM) Wyre Rivers Trust
Richard Rhodes (RR) Natural England

FLAG Representatives

Roger Weatherell (RW) Churchtown FLAG
Linda Rowland (LR) Preesall FLAG
Phil Jenkins (PJ) Thornton FLAG
John Quine (JQ) Thornton FLAG
David Astall (DA) Great Eccleston FLAG
Pamela Nickols (PN) St Michaels FLAG
John Nickols (JN) St Michaels FLAG
Michael O'Flaherty (MF) Hambleton FLAG

Apologies:

Cllr Andrew Cropper	Preesall Ward and Preesall Town Council
Cllr Paul Moon	Preesall Ward and Preesall Town Council
Cllr Julie Robinson	Hambleton Ward and Hambleton Paris Council
Cllr Graham Holden	Pilling Ward
Cllr Liz Webster	Brock with Catterall Ward and Garstang Town Council
Cllr Mary Stirzaker	Mount Ward and Fleetwood Town Council
Paul Long	Wyre Borough Council
Kathrine Pye	Wyre Borough Council
David Thow	Wyre Borough Council
Christine Hamilton	Environment Agency
Lydia Cowell	Environment Agency
Paul Bond	Environment Agency
Nicola Beale	Environment Agency
Simon Bennett	Environment Agency
Maria Ulyart	Environment Agency
Katie Duffy	United Utilities
John-Gareth Phillips	United Utilities
Rachel Crompton	Lancashire County Council (Flood Risk Management)
Nicola Pattrick	Preesall FLAG
Cindy Moseley	Preesall FLAG
Rita Carr	Preesall FLAG
Ashley Anderton	Preesall FLAG
John Kenyon	Barnacre Parish Council
Graham Hargreaves	Hambleton Resident
Richard Beatson	Out Rawcliffe Parish Council

The Forum was again being held remotely due to the Covid pandemic.

I. Introduction by the Chairman, Carl Green (Wyre Council):

Carl Green welcomed all attendees to the meeting.

2. Apologies:

Apologies were noted as above.

3. Minutes of previous meeting:

The minutes of the meeting of 10 December 2020 were confirmed as a correct record.

4. What's going on in the region.

Reports from Flood Management Authorities:

i United Utilities:

There were no representatives from the catchment or planning teams from UU. DB explained that there had been a major restructuring of the teams and several officers had changed roles.

- JS and DBo noted that several UU issues had been raised at the MSfW meeting which required attention. They raised the issue of muddy brown water being discharged onto Carr End Lane, Stalmine from the Wain Homes Linley Grange site and of water bubbling up from sewer covers on A588 neat Carisbrooke, Hambleton. They expressed concern that the capacity of the drainage system may not be sufficient to cope with future development in the area and queried whether UU is planning to increase capacity of its network. DB replied that UU will take foul flows only from new developments – he agreed to raise the issues with Katie Duffy.

Action - DB

- MF noted that LCC have undertaken works to clear a private culvert and watercourse that take highway drainage off Kiln Lane. He confirmed that Kiln Lane did not suffer any flooding as a consequence of heavy overnight rain and expressed his pleasure that the work had been undertaken.
- MF expressed concern about the increase in hardstanding in the Hambleton area. UU had previously said that they would monitor flows in Hambleton to model the sewer network, however it was now understood that this work will no longer be undertaken. PD confirmed that UU have completed the modelling of the network and would provide a summary soon.

Action - UU

- MF expressed concern that the surface water drainage system in Hambleton discharges to Wardleys Creek and becomes tidally locked at high tide. He considered it necessary for a scheme to be constructed that allowed discharge over the high tide (possibly by pumping from the watercourse).
- SC confirmed that UU are lobbying for a change in Planning Legislation to remove the automatic right to connect to the main sewer.
- PJ noted that repairs to the public sewer on Church Road, Thornton has been put back for two years. This would make it six years since the flooding issues of 2017. He noted that Royles Brook School has had to close a number of times because the toilets can't flush due to issues with the sewers.

- PJ noted that there had been issues with the camera survey on the drainage system around Aintree Road, Thornton, as water levels were such that the camera was submerged. DB noted that the surface water drainage system in this area was private and did not form part of the UU network. Issue to be looked at by MSfW Group.

Action - MSfW Group

- PO reported that there is a potential flooding issue due to problems with the combined sewer on Rydal Grove, Grange Close and Coniston Ave., Knott End. He speculated whether the issue was related to tidal outfall flaps being buried. UU have undertaken some works and there has been a slight improvement, but this requires further investigation.

Action - UU

- LW reported that there are 35 properties with sewage in gardens on Calder Ave, Thornton. DB replied that he believed that flooding was not sewer related but due to a surcharging private watercourse. He added that it was important that flooding incidents are reported promptly to allow the source to be identified.

ii. Environment Agency:

- LR reported that there had been repeated flooding this year to properties on Sunnyside Terrace and Cart Gate, Preesall. The residents were very grateful to Wyre Council for providing pumps to resolve flooding issues.
- RBr raised concern about planning applications 20/00212 (for 70 dwellings south of Prospect Farm, Garstang) and 16/00241 (270 dwellings at Nateby Crossing, Garstang) – both sites discharge surface water to the Ainspool watercourse. He asked whether the watercourse has been assessed to determine whether it is appropriate for surface water from these two sites to discharge to the watercourse. GK replied that the EA has sensors at Catterall and would continue to monitor these.

Action - EA

- GK reported that the following works were ongoing
 - o Work on the embankment of the River Wyre on Rawcliffe Road, St. Michaels was expected to start later in the month.
 - o Relining works to the culvert on Green Lane, Garstang have started.
 - o Plans for the Hambleton flood defence scheme were progressing and now included the outfall from Wardleys watercourse (possibly including storage over the high tide period).
 - o The Upper Mid Wyre Review now has partnership funding and may be included in the asset replacement scheme.
- RB asked about EA's involvement with advising on planning applications and water running off fields. EA to assist farmers with land management and explain the advantages of good water management and the benefits to water quality.
- JS asked for an update on the waterlogged fields in Out Rawcliffe. He added that flooding issues to Dry Bread Lane, Out Rawcliffe had been resolved by LCC. Other issues included Union Lane watercourse at Scronkey, field drainage on Knitting Row Lane, Out Rawcliffe and Broadfleet watercourse backing up to Union Lane. GK responded that it was difficult to get funding for existing works, let alone additional watercourses. Issues to be added to log for consideration by MSfW Group

Action - MSfW Group

iii. Wyre Rivers Trust

- TM said that land management had lots of issues including water quality, habitats, carbon sequestration, leaky dams buffer strips, subsoilers, aerators, and heavy agricultural vehicles causing compaction. He added that he was trying to get equipment that could be loaned to farmers.
- Works on the Hillylaid wetland scheme is ongoing; it is expected to be completed by the end of April.
- Works to plant trees, install leaky dams and buffer strips are planned to be installed in Abbeystead – these can reduce flow levels in the river by up to 10%.
- To date, five customers had signed landowner agreements where they will be paid to undertake maintenance works – this has positive benefits for everyone downstream.
- Ainspool watercourse - flood resilience measures,
- Natural Flood Management and water storage out of the channel all help to reduce pressures on Ainspool Bridge and the sand lenses on the Ainspool banks. They are looking to restoring the flow down to Catterall's Farm, St Michaels, following the old river course.
- MS said that he would be very interested in TM working with farmers and sharing equipment – he suggested using the FLAGS and Parish Councils to reach landowners.
- MS expressed his concern about the lack of impetus for the Upper and Mid Wyre management scheme – he asked that the Forum lobby and support the bidding process.

iv. Lancashire County Council

- MO informed the Forum that LCC (Highways) had three main revenue streams with which to undertake flood response works; revenue (gullies), capital and storm damage. He had obtained some finance and works undertaken to date included Kiln Lane, Hambleton; Underbank Road, Thornton; Dry Bread Lane, Out Rawcliffe; Breck road, Poulton; and Rawcliffe Road, St.Michaels; Church Lane, Bilsborrow, Stanah Road, Thornton, Ash Grove, Garstang and Sunnyside Terrace, Preesall.
He added that works agreed for this coming year included Brock Road, Great Eccleston; Cart Gate, Preesall; Wallace Lane, Forton and School Lane, Forton.
- v. PO asked what progress had been made in taking action against the landowner above Sunnyside Terrace, Preesall. MO replied that he had requested that a letter be sent to the landowner to take remedial action otherwise LCC would take legal action to resolve the issues. He noted that it would be necessary to get LCC solicitors involved with drafting a letter.

Action - LCC

- JS reported highway flooding on Grange Road, Hambleton (see I & A log 21/08) – he wished that this be investigated to prevent flooding to properties.
- RB asked for an update on the culvert under Burned House Lane, Preesall and Linderbreck Lane, Poulton. MO confirmed that an order had been raised for a survey of the culvert. Linderbreck Lane is being investigated by Wyre Council in conjunction with Wain Homes and local residents.

- RBr raised the issue of flooding to a property on Park Lane, Winmarleigh. MO replied that LCC were aware of the issue and were planning to undertake works in April to bypass a damaged culvert.
- AC noted that there were flooding issues on Hayfield Ave, Normoss Road and Linderbreck Lane. He considered that Poulton was now over developed and noted that further development is planned.
- PJ raised concerns that LCC (as LLFA) did not comment on drainage issues on planning applications but left this for Wyre to deal with. AG replied that LCC always respond to planning application with more than nine dwellings. He added that he would be leaving his post in April and that LCC have advertised for additional staff for the Flood Management Team. CG commented that it would be helpful to have a Planning Officer with specialist drainage knowledge.

v. Wyre Council

- CG updated the Forum on the Coastal Regeneration Project. He noted that lessons learnt through the project may be helpful to groups inland affected by flooding.
- CG confirmed that the project was being undertaken in conjunction with the Regional Flood and Coast Committee (RFCC), a group comprising representatives from LCC (as LLFA), the EA and UU. The group is responsible for looking at issues of planning and flooding and determining how EA money is spent. He confirmed that SC was the local representative on this group.
- PO noted that Preesall and Knott End were both located on the coast but regeneration works had so far been concentrated on the urban centres (Cleveleys and Fleetwood).
- JS asked whether the Hambleton Flood Alleviation Scheme would be submitted to Wyre planning; CG confirmed that it would.

vi. Natural England

- vii.** RR updated the Forum on initiatives being undertaken by NE. These included the Countryside Steward Scheme, Capital Grants, aim to reduce ammonia emissions and planting shelter banks. He noted that NE also gave advice on land and soil management and maintenance of watercourses.

5. Issues from Flood Forum and FLAGS:

Issues raised by FLAGS at pre Forum meetings are detailed in the Appendix and have been added to the Issues and Action log.

Churchtown FLAG:

- RW noted that the new flap valve on the highway drainage outfall at Kirkland Bridge prevents discharge to the river at high river levels and it might be better to replace the valve with a different type. MO agreed to look at changing this. RW noted that The Avenue still flooded during peak rainfall.
- RW noted that water was still surcharging from road gullies on Ainspool Lane and reiterated the need to look at flooding woodland north of the A586 (opposite Ainspool Lane) to reduce flows under the road and into the Ainspool.
- RW suggested an improved method of reporting issues to the EA – he suggested a 6 or 8 figure map reference – he offered to send a link detailing his proposal.
- RW advised that he would consulting with Lancaster University to look at flooding issues in Churchtown.

Cleveleys FLAG:

- DW reported that Cleveleys had received around 40mm of rain in the previous two days, but that surface water drains had coped well. Recent gales had coincided with low tides; the sea defences had been checked and were in good order.
- JQ asked whether the culvert off Northumberland Ave had been recently cleared, as the trash screen is often blocked. MO confirmed that the screen had been recently cleared by LCC

Garstang FLAG:

- RBr noted that the Garstang flood gates had been recently raised to clear silt; he asked if this was a design issue. GK confirmed that the east gate has a lower flow of water through it so required to be flushed through from time to time.
- RBr asked what the purpose of the weir was downstream of the flood gates, and whether this had an effect on the river downstream – he asked whether a hydraulic analysis could be undertaken to see whether this had implications for flooding downstream, particularly in Churchtown.

Hambleton and Stalmine FLAGS:

- DBo noted that there were several locations where highway flooding was an issue – these have been passed to PL and added to the Issues and Actions Log.
- Concerns were raised about the capacity of UU drains in the area and MF asked that UU provide a summary of what monitoring is planned. UU will provide an update through the MSfW Group.
- JS asked whether the surface water system at Stalmine is at capacity. MF said that the key to flooding in Stalmine was how the watercourses discharged to Wardleys Creek in Hambleton. When the watercourses were full due to heavy rainfall and the tide was high then the watercourses were unable to discharge to the River Wyre causing flooding further upstream. He added that the FLAG has asked for a review of the design of the watercourses to maximise the volume of water discharged. He noted that this may require a new pumping platform. He also considered that the pumping station and outfall to the river at Wardleys may need cleaning.
- MF has been requesting details of piping, invert levels etc. He thinks that surface water may be getting into the foul sewer. The tide stops the flow and he needs to understand the mechanisms. It was agreed that this would be an action for “Paul and his team” JS agreed that this information is required so that it can be shown that the scheme works properly. DB said lots of factors are involved.

Action - UU

Great Ecclestone FLAG:

- DA raised concerns about highway flooding on Raikes Road at junction with A586. The local drainage system discharges to the River Wyre via drains on opposite side of A586 – the watercourse on the western side of the lane has been cleared and allows a low flow. On the eastern side, an inspection cover was recently removed and it was noted that the water was flowing rapidly. Drainage needs further inspection to ensure that Raikes Road does not flood again.

Action - WBC / UU

Appendix

Issues raised by FLAGS

Hambleton and Stalmine FLAGS (met 15 Feb)

- a) Four main areas of flooding concern remain –
Carr Lane (by Queensland),
Carr Lane (by paper shop),
Sandy Lane / Marsh Lane
and Sherbourne Road/Kiln Lane.
Updates to be provided on works to resolve flooding. **ALL**
- b) Queensland country park has culverted watercourse between them and The Coppins - could this be opened up again to reduce risk of flooding? **ALL**
- c) Kiln Lane – private culvert and watercourse north of Kiln Lane have now been cleared – FMAs to monitor highway during future events to determine whether the flooding issue on Kiln Lane and Sherbourne Road has been resolved. **UU / LCC / WBC**
- d) Can culvert on Broadpool Lane from former Police station to Market Street be inspected – flooding is being experienced on Sandy Lane, Pauls Lane and outside Ryecroft Hall? **LCC**
- e) Update on when UU will install flow meters into foul system to establish flows and locate where problems are? **UU**
- f) Highway flooding at junction of Highgate Lane and Staynall Lane – repeated flooding from overflowing watercourse. Road is impassable when flooded.
- g) Highway flooding on Wardleys Lane, north of New Road
- h) Can UU provide details of the layout of the foul pumping station on Kiln Lane – FLAG would like to know how the station discharges to the river at Wardleys Creek and whether or not this is contributing to flooding on Kin Lane when the outfall is tidally locked. **UU**
- i) Can UU check 9” surface water sewer on Marsh Lane where it discharges to watercourse for a potential blockage? **UU**

Thornton FLAG (met 15 Feb)

- a) Hornby Corner - blocked gullies (roots); when are LCC planning to clean out roots? Can gullies be cleaned and the pipes under the road be checked for damage? **LCC**
- b) A585 Amounderness Way - can an update on the clearance of culverts by Highways England be provided? **WBC**
- c) Marsh Road / Church Road sewers - can UU provide an update on drainage works? **UU**
- d) Fleetwood Road North - can Highways provide update as to when repairs to broken gullies at junction with Bourne Road will be undertaken? **LCC**
- e) Can EA provide an update on the proposed installation of cameras on Royles Brook (close to Sandyforth Arms) and at Stanah PS help monitor main river levels? **EA**
- f) Site visit to be arranged to inspect New Lane watercourses (east of A585) following works to roadside vegetation by WBC. **WBC**
- g) Site visit to be arranged for 1 March to check Royles Brook on Marsh Farm and the structure in Hillylaid Pool close to the junction with Horse Bridge Dyke. **WBC**

Out Rawcliffe FLAG (via email)

- a) EA previously advised that they would investigate problem of water logged fields – no communication yet from EA. Can EA confirm that this is in hand? EA
- b) Road flooded, Bodkin Lane. LCC
- c) Dry Bread Lane, matters being managed by Mark O'Donnell. LCC
- d) Union Lane watercourse which flows to Broadfleet in Pilling, running clear? EA to confirm.
- e) Road flooded on riverside road Out Rawcliffe, at the bottom of the hill just past Town End, possibly a drain needs clearing, but water is normally across the road. LCC
- f) Knitting Row Lane / Hudson Cottage, needs attention re drainage into field. LCC