

Wyre Flood Forum

Minutes of meeting held Thursday 21 March 2024

Meeting held at Civic Centre and via Microsoft Teams

PRESENT:

Civic Centre:

Chair:

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

Lancashire County Councillors:

Cllr Matthew Salter (MS) LCC Councillor, Wyre Rural Central
Cllr John Shedwick (JS) LCC Councillor, Thornton & Hambleton

Wyre Borough Councillors:

Cllr Dulcie Atkins (DA) Garstang Ward
Cllr Roger Berry (RB) Hardhorn with Highcross Ward
Cllr Collette Rushforth (CR) Preesall Ward

Parish and Town Councillors:

Roger Brooks (RBr) Garstang Town Council & Winmarleigh Parish Council
Phil Orme (PO) Preesall Town Council
John Thompson (JT) Hambleton Parish Council

Council Officers/Agency Representatives:

Paul Long (PL) Wyre Council (Engineering)
Ryan Hirstwood (RH) Wyre Council (Engineering)
Mark O'Donnell (MO) Lancashire County Council (Highways)
Graeme Kellott (GK) Environment Agency
Pippa Hodgkins (PH) Environment Agency

FLAG Representatives:

Roger Weatherell (RW) Churchtown FLAG
David Walmsley (DW) Cleveleys FLAG
Harry Hutcheon (HH) Knott End 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:

James Sloane Garstang resident
Diane Brown Preesall resident

Via Microsoft Teams:

FLAG Representatives:

David Astall (DA)

Great Ecclestone FLAG

Apologies:

Cllr Stephen Clarke

Cllr Alf Clempson

Cllr Julie Robinson

Rachel Crompton

Brian Birkett (BB)

George Briscoe

Jake Hilton

Tom Myerscough (TM)

Ashley Anderton

Diane Andrews

Edward Greenwood

LCC Councillor, Fleetwood West & Cleveleys West

LCC Councillor,

Hambleton Ward

Lancashire CC (Flood Management Team)

Lancashire CC (Flood Management Team)

Wyre Council - Planning

United Utilities

Wyre Rivers Trust

Preesall FLAG

Fleetwood Resident

The Forum was held as a combination of live event and remotely via Microsoft Teams.

1. Introduction by the chairman, Carl Green (Wyre Council):

CG welcomed all attendees to the meeting and all introduced themselves.

2. Apologies:

Apologies were noted as above.

3. Minutes of previous meeting:

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

- JT noted that the address on page 11 of the minutes “Green Meadow Lane” should read Broadpool Lane. This was noted and PL to amend as required.
- There were no other matters arising from the minutes. The minutes of the meeting were otherwise confirmed as a true record.

4. What’s going on in the region - Reports from Flood Management Authorities:

Environment Agency:

- A pre-meeting update to the Forum is included as [Appendix 1](#)
- GK gave an update on the maintenance works being undertaken by the EA. He confirmed that the maintenance works for 23/24 were now complete and that throughout the year the maintenance team had cut back 120km of grassed embankment and carried out 90km of in channel maintenance. He reported that much of the work had been carried out later than programmed due to resource issues, but the work had now been completed.
- GK confirmed that the silt survey report for Thornton has now been received. He said that he had yet to read it but would provide feedback to the Forum once he had.
- GK reported that there had been a collapse of the embankment on Whites Brook watercourse near Great Eccleston. The head wall on the River Wyre outfall has collapsed – this is shortly to be addressed by the EA.
- Desilting works at the outfall at Stanah has not yet been undertaken. A site meeting is planned with Cadent Gas concerning the gas main that runs close to the works site. The desilting works are expected to go ahead very soon.
- Works to repair the Garstang barrier are still in the planning stage – further talks are planned with UU to ensure that the crane does not damage a pipe intake structure in the vicinity as it tracks to the site. It is planned that works will start on the gate in July/August. Phase one of the works is to remove the gate, inspect the hinge mechanism and undertake any works required to the concrete structure of the barrier. At this time it is uncertain what the full extent of the works will be, but it is expected to have the gate back in place by the end of October.
- GK reported that the footbridge leading to Catterall flood basin at St Michaels is due to be replaced this year – it is expected to start in June.

Works are planned to repair a length of wall between the mainline railway bridge at Six Arches in Scorton and the small road bridge adjacent to it.

Repairs are also planned to the Wyre embankment at Great Eccleston where a tree has fallen and damaged the embankment.

Questions to EA

- RB noted that, in the EA report referring to the Fleetwood and Copse Brook Flood Risk Management Scheme, reference had been made to liaising with the Fleetwood authorities; RB advised the EA that ABP have now sold their interest in the port and the new owner would be Fox Jackson Ports. PH replied that the EA was aware of the change and have already held meetings with them. CG noted that negotiations were still ongoing with Fox Jackson Ports and it was expected that the takeover would not be for about 18 months.
- RBr noted that the EA report claims that the Copse Brook scheme would protect around 2,200 properties and that the Hambleton Scheme would protect a further 600 – he queried why the properties were ever built if they were at risk of flooding. PH noted that the properties were constructed many years ago when our knowledge of flood risk was not as good as at present. CG noted that improvements in flood mapping in recent years has highlighted which properties are at the greatest risk of flooding and that there is a legacy of older properties that were constructed in areas now deemed to be at high risk. He added that no new properties are built on flood plains. PJ pointed out that properties are still be constructed in Thornton in Flood Zone 3 areas, which are deemed to be higher risk. PH noted that new housing in FZ3 was required to be raised to the 1 in 100 year flood event level or to have flood mitigation installed; this was not the case historically.
- RBr asked whether the EA were aware of the local nature recovery strategy for which consultation is scheduled to end on 31 March. [Local nature recovery strategies - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/local-nature-recovery-strategies) GK replied that this was not an issue that he was involved with. CG said that this strategy is being led by LCC – he noted that it is a strategy on how to make better use of water; he added that Wyre Council would be submitting a response.
- PO noted that there appeared to be an issue with the new lightweight tidal flaps that the EA has been installing recently – the new flaps have been bowing and buckling and don't appear to be up to the job. GW confirmed that some issues have been noted, although all flaps are constructed to current standards. MS noted that there are issues with the tidal flap at Pilling – it appears that there is play in one of the hinges. GW confirmed that the EA are aware of this.
- JS asked whether the EA had an update on a meeting earlier this year with Ben Wallace MP about flooding of fields in Out Rawcliffe and Pilling. GW replied that this issue was being looked into by Robert Ide of the EA – it is understood that there may be an issue with the old wooden outfall doors at Pilling. He agreed to provide RI's contact details at the end of the meeting.

Lancashire County Council:

Highways:

MO provided a summary of the works being undertaken by LCC (Highways). He noted that the authority continues to be inundated with issues from their Love Clean Streets app and is looking to deal with as many of these as possible.

- Cyclic gully cleaning – MO reported that since December 2023 a total of 9213 highway gullies have been cleared.
- Works have been continuing on reactive gully clearing has been undertaken as necessary in response to complaints. He noted that there is a new cleaning contract due to start on 1 April and that LCC now have five jetting machines dealing with the backlog of works reported.
- Churchtown drainage – MO confirmed that he now had the report of the investigation works in Churchtown, at the junction of The Avenue and the A6. He would forward a copy of the report to Churchtown FLAG for their information. Further works are to be undertaken to resolve flooding issues there.
- Inskip / Catforth– investigation works have been undertaken looking at flooding issues on the highway. A report on the findings of the investigation has been drawn up and is to be discussed with colleagues.
- Other works undertaken include
 - Moorland Road, Poulton
 - St Heliers Place, Barton
 - Bodkin Lane, Out Rawcliffe
 - Grange Road / Bull Park Lane, Hambleton
 - Rawcliffe Road
 - School Road, Winmarleigh
 - Sunnyside Terrace
 - Royles Brook School, Thornton
 - Investigation on Roslyn Ave, Preesall
- The Council has also been given some money from the HS2 fund – MO said that works planned to be undertaken using this funding include
 - A6 at Barton
 - Churchtown surfacing works
 - Repairs to damaged culvert on Delta Lane, Fleetwood
 - Lord Street, Fleetwood
 - Poulton Square
 - Victoria Road West, Cleveleys
 - Catterall Lane, Catterall
 - Whitters Lane, Winmarleigh
 - Moss Lane, Myerscough

Questions to Lancashire County Council

- JT noted that the Love Clean Street app was not particularly accurate and did not always show the correct position for highway gullies – as such gullies that are reported are not always those that are cleaned. MO replied that the app was not a LCC product and he could not change this. He added that if there were particular issues with gullies not being reported properly, these could be reported directly to LCC or to PL at Wyre Council.
- DA thanked MO for the work in clearing the drain on High Street, Garstang. She noted that the minutes from previous meetings had reported that LCC would have a meeting with local residents and representatives from Garstang Community Sports Club – she asked that a date for this meeting be agreed so that this work can be progressed. MO said that a meeting needs to be arranged – he and PL will arrange this to suit all parties.

ACTION - PL / MO

- DA reported that since the gulley outside The Old Grammar School on the junction of High Street and Croston Road has been cleared, the gulley on the opposite corner now appears to flood. MO suggested that this be reported via the Love Clean Streets app or directly to LCC and it will be addressed.
- JQ noted that the accuracy of the Love Clean Streets app can be influenced by the individual's phone settings and suggested that this be checked.
- JS noted that there remains repeated flooding on Stanah Road, Thornton and asked whether this could be addresses as it was causing inconvenience to local residents.
- JS said that he wished to report flooding to Bodkin Lane in Out Rawcliffe, although he was pleased to note that this has been listed on LCC's schedule for works
- JS reported that the highway gullies on Victoria Road East, from the junction at Four Lanes End to Meadows Ave do not drain well and there major puddles on the highway during and after heavy rainfall events.
- MS asked for an update on the investigation works at Inskip and Catforth – he asked whether the works were yet at a stage when LCC could report back to the County Council. MO said the report has been published and he would forward details to all interested parties.
- MS asked if there was an update to the works to School Lane, Winmarleigh. MO reported that there was no flow under the road so LCC are looking to install a replacement pipe; this is expected to be completed early next week.
- MS added that he thought that issues with the Love Clean Streets app could be related to not all highway gullies being mapped or that private gullies were not included in the app. MO noted that, while the app is useful for reporting faults, there were issues when issues have been misreported or exaggerated and this caused problems for planning works. He added that there are currently over 3,500 defects reported on highways at the moment.
- RB raised an issue from Cllr Andrew Walker about flooding on Blackpool Road, Carleton earlier this year; he asked whether this issue had now been resolved. PL reported that he had attended the flooding – this was a consequence of a blocked foul sewer caused by a build-up of baby wipes. He confirmed that representatives from Wyre and LCC visited the site and cleared the blockage – UU were informed and attended the following day to inspect the pipes. He reported that there was flooding to a number of gardens and some reports of water under floorboards, but no reports were received of internal flooding of residential properties. RB noted that concerns had been raised by residents that the flooding had been caused from debris from the new building site. PL confirmed that this was not the problem in this case.

- JS noted that, on many large developments sites there is a planning condition that wheel washing of vehicles exiting the site must be undertaken – he gave examples of Lambs Road in Thornton and Arthurs Lane in Hambleton – he thought that, in many cases, this condition was not being fully adhered to and that highway gullies in the areas around major sites were being blocked by mud from these sites. MO said that such occurrences should be reported to LCC on the Love Clean Streets app.

Wyre Council:

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

- The tidal flap at the outfall at Ramper Pot is missing. PL confirmed that a replacement flap has been ordered and will be installed in the next few weeks. He noted that the cage covering the valve has been opened and required a new padlock fitting. JQ said that he considered that the watercourse from Underbank Road to the outfall might be blocked as it had water in it on a dry day.
- PL confirmed that work is still outstanding on the culvert between Calder Ave and Victoria Road East. He is planning to bring in a second contractor to CCTV the culvert to inspect for defects that lead to the flooding in July 2023 (and potentially 2017). PJ asked whether the plans to desilt the section of watercourse downstream of the culvert to Royles Brook had been cancelled; PL replied that this work still needed doing but the priority was to inspect the culvert – if this could be done without first desilting the watercourse then it would be preferable.
- Wyre had been involved in investigating a long-standing flooding issue on Moorland Road, Poulton, close to Sheringham Way. This is an LCC highway drainage issue and will be sorted by them.
- CG reported on the works under the Wyre Beach Management scheme. Phase 1 of the works are completed and works are progressing on constructing rock armour groynes on the beach. He added that, as part of the works a number of access ramps have been constructed to allow movement across the beach.

Work has started on the northern section of the defences at Rossall Point – this work is away from the main bathing beaches and work will continue here during the summer months.

In addition to the construction works, the Council has also been involved with Community Engagement on the scheme including a number of school visits.

He confirmed that the rock works are slightly ahead of target, while the concrete works remain on target.

Questions to Wyre Council

- RBr asked whether there was an update on drainage investigation to the playing field on Moss Lane, Garstang. PL replied that he had raised this issue with the council's parks team who said that they were not aware of any drains on the field. It had been suggested that the Town Council may have funding to undertake these works. RBr replied that this was not the case.
- PJ asked whether representatives from the Wyre Planning Dept would be attending the Forum as discussed at the last meeting. PL confirmed that they had been invited and had initially accepted; however, works commitments around the new Local Plan meant that they had had to cancel at short notice – they would look to make the next one.
- CR reported that she had recently given a budget speech to Council in which she said that residents are concerned that planning consent is being given to developments in areas where there is insufficient infrastructure. She said that Councillors agreed with her but planning officers hands were tied by government initiatives. CG agreed and said that he would look to invite planning officers to attend the next meeting.

United Utilities:

- There was no representative at the meeting from UU and no report had been provided in advance of the meeting.
 - PL asked whether there were any issues and he would try to answer on behalf of UU.
 - **Questions to UU**
 - MS said that he understood that there were issues with a pumping station on Derby Crescent, Inskip – he asked whether there was an update on this. PL replied that the station came under UU at Preston, not Wyre, and that he had been in contact with them to look at the issue. He added that he had met with UU and the affected resident to look at the issues, which look to relate to misconnections of foul and surface water drainage, and an excess of surface water in the foul system leading to regular spillages to the main river watercourse. PL confirmed that this issue had first been looked at approximately 5 years ago and was thought to be due to a misconnection of the LCC highway drains into the watercourse; this had been resolved, but the system is still surcharging with excessive rainwater during a heavy rain event.
 - JT said that UU have previously reported that the foul pumping station on Kiln Lane, Hambleton is being inundated with surface water and that UU have previously said that the excess water was coming from Stalmine. He asked whether the flow meters recently installed by UU could monitor exactly where the excess water was entering the foul system. PL replied that UU have stated that the meters have confirmed that there is excessive water but have not been able to pinpoint exactly where. JT noted that there had been a rumour that Win Homes had connected the surface water to the foul system and asked whether there was any truth in this rumour. PL replied that he had personally confirmed that this was not the case and that the surface and foul drainage was correctly connected.

PL said that the foul drainage system from Stalmine runs along Carr End Land and Carr Lane towards Hambleton and it is clear that there is excessive water in it as water can be seen bubbling out of all the manholes leading from Stalmine during heavy rainfall events.

JT suggested that additional holding tanks might be helpful in temporarily storing water during a rainfall event and should be considered by UU.
 - PO noted that local residents in Stalmine had complained about the condition of the watercourse on Carr End Lane between the new development and Lynwood Drive. PL replied that he had looked at the watercourse and not noted anything out of the ordinary. He agreed to revisit the site and see whether there were any issues.
- ACTION - PL**
- CR said that she was very disappointed that UU had not attended the Forum. She said that she had an issue to raise but would do so as part of the FLAG report.

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. PL reported that TM had provided a recent update to the Making Space for Water meeting and this was included in the supplied minutes. PL noted that WRT have been successful in bidding for NFM money and had four projects planned for this year – Ainspool watercourse, Churchtown; Sunnyside Terrace, Preesall; Millfield School, Thornton and landscaping to the River Brock – details are included in the minutes of the meeting.

Questions to Wyre Rivers Trust

- RB said that the minutes of the MSfW meeting reported that farmers in Pilling have expressed concerns that they have not been allowed to undertake any drainage works for several years. He queried how this fitted into the remit of WRT. GK suggested that there had been a misunderstanding on this issue – he said that farmers are allowed to undertake works on watercourses – they remove weed without a permit from the EA but cannot desilt without a permit. CG added that Wyre was working with TM and local farmers on drainage issues as part of the Our Future Coast programme. CR said that she had spoken recently to local farmers and not all were aware of the Our Future Coast scheme. She added that farmers were looking for the formation of a local Internal Drainage Board (IDB) and get the water off the land through the gates on Broad Fleet watercourse. MS said that a desilting permit is required for farmers to undertake dredging works and said that it was frustrating for them to go through the application process to undertake drainage works. He also noted that the process for forming an IDB was long and drawn out and required Government consent – he said that this was the dream of local farmers and would hopefully become reality.

1. Making Space For Water technical group:

- PL reported that the MSfW Group met on 29 February and minutes of the meeting have been distributed to the Forum. He invited questions to the Group.

Questions to MSfW Group

- PO noted that the minutes reported that BB (LCC) has arranged for a CCTV survey of the culvert on Sorrel Close and Willow Close, Preesall to determine the direction of flow in the watercourse off Pilling Lane. PO understood that the watercourse flow had been redirected to the south and asked for confirmation. PL replied that BB wanted to inspect the culvert to the north of Sorrel Close to check that the culvert has been blocked off. PO asked whether the CCTV survey had shown whether the flow runs south and then down Pilling Lane. PL noted that BB had recorded a difference in levels in the pipes adjacent to the roundabout on Pilling Lane that made it difficult for water to discharge this way and BB was not yet convinced that the water flowed south. PL said that he would send a copy of the survey to PO.

CR asked for clarification as to where this watercourse runs – PL said that the watercourse used to run north to the sea but this was now closed off. She said that the watercourse was full of debris and needed to be cleaned. PL said that, at the moment, it is assumed that the watercourse flows to the south and then easterly before discharging to the watercourse on

Meadow Ave. – this has yet to be confirmed. It is also suspected that there is an additional connection to the land off Rosemount Ave which is currently with planning – this has yet to be proved either way.

PO noted that there is a trash screen on the north side of the roundabout – he said that this suggested that the watercourse flows to the south as it would be illogical to put a screen upstream of the direction of flow. This was agreed.

- PO said that there is an issue with the roundabout on Pilling Lane; it appears to be dropping – he asked MO if he could investigate this. MO agreed to look into this.

ACTION - MO

- RB asked about the condition of pumping stations in the Thornton area. He noted that the EA have yet to take over the operation of Stanah pumping station from Wyre Council, and noted that this was a concern to Wyre Council – he asked that this be progressed as quickly as possible. GK replied that this transfer is in progress and is currently being dealt with by the EA's Estate's Team. CG added that he had concerns over other stations in the borough that needed to be agreed with the EA.

2. 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 16 January 2024)

Cleveleys FLAG

- DW reported that this last winter had been very mild with excessive rainfall. He said that there had not been any flooding events due to heavy rainfall and the drains had coped well. He said that the main threat to Cleveleys was tidal and there had been four major storm events that caused concern. He noted that all storms came from the south-west and this had not caused any concern as the tidal surge moves along the coast. He added that there had been an event on 21 December that came from the west but this had arrived on a neap tide and not caused a problem. Had it been a spring tide things would have been far different, with significant overtopping.
- RBr asked how much high tides affect flooding as far as St.Michaels. GK replied that the tidal influence is considered to be as far at the weir in St.Michaels; he added that it affected the EA's ability to release water from the flood basins at Garstang and Catterall. RBr said that he thought that the combination of a high tide and storm conditions had led North West Water to invite concerned residents from St Michaels to the Abbeystead pumping station in 1984, and noted that it would be forty years in May since the explosion there. CG said that Abbeystead pumping station was a low level station designed to move water from the River Lune to the River Wyre to be extracted for drinking water.

Thornton FLAG

- PJ said that he had been looking forward to meeting representatives from Planning to discuss a number of issues that the FLAG has with developments in Thornton. He added that it has proved difficult to get anyone from the Planning team to react when issues are raised about a development; he said that it took a long time for any action on the Lambs Hill site and was proving to be similar to the development off Fleetwood Road North. PL replied that he spoken with the Planning Officer regarding the Fleetwood Road North site who in turn had spoken with the Developer and confirmed that the Development is being constructed as per Planning Consent and that the required easement to the watercourse will be maintained.

- PJ reiterated concerns from the previous Forum that the attenuation pond on the new development site on Bourne Hill (Centurion Park) was dangerously full, with steep sides and no life belts. PL confirmed that the Developer had been made aware of the concern.
- PJ said that the blockage of Royles Brook at the intersection of the watercourse from White Carr Lane and Anchorsholme Lane East has not yet be cleared. He asked if there were plans to do this soon as the FLAG was receiving complaints from residents upstream of the intersection. GK replied that the EA contractor had been instructed to clear the blockage but had been unable to get plant and equipment on the site. He would look at this issue again once the ground conditions improved.

ACTION - GK

- PJ announced that, following several years of work, he and the majority of the FLAG would be stepping down from their roles. He explained that most of the Group were “getting old” and it was time for others to get involved. This would be the Group’s final meeting. For the immediate future MP would be continuing to monitor the Group’s Facebook site and would continue the works of the Group. CG thanked the Group members for their work in protecting the people of Thornton adding that they had significantly improved the area and been responsible for a significant number of schemes that had been put in place as a consequence of the Group’s work. His sentiments were echoed by all Forum members in the room.

Knott End FLAG

- HH wished to thank MO and LCC for his prompt action in clearing the gullies on Pilling Lane.
- HH said that he had received a complaint from a resident on Pilling Lane that the road outside his property floods due water from the watercourse adjacent to the roundabout (as discussed above). The resident has asked whether a new drain could be put outside his property. CR said that she has spoken with the resident and she is aware of the issues. HH noted that the watercourses by the roundabout, Meadow Ave and Pilling Lane were due to be inspected soon and gave his thanks for the work being done.

Preesall FLAG

- LR said that all issues of concern had already be raised in the meeting. She said that, despite excessive rainfall over the last few months, there had been no incidences of flooding, particularly around Sunnyside Terrace. She said that residents were very grateful for the works that have been undertaken to protect Sunnyside Terrace from flooding.
- LR noted that works are planned to dig out the watercourse on the field north of Sunnyside Terrace to discharge water away from the properties and looked forward to these works being undertaken. She noted too that works to construct the wetland area adjacent to Sunnyside Terrace remain in place and hoped that this long awaited project would be undertaken soon.
- PO reported that the watercourse in the north-east corner of the Preesall sports field is very high – he suspects that the watercourse is blocked somewhere near Willow Grove – he asked if this could be looked at.

Hambleton & Stalmine FLAGS

- JT thanked LCC and WC for their actions in Hambleton, without which the recent poor weather would have caused flooding in the village. He noted that further works were required, particularly on Church Lane where repeated flooding near Market Street and the park continues. MO said that LCC had spent a lot of time and money in resolving flooding issues in Hambleton and considered that a meeting with the Parish Council would

be advantageous to update them on the works done so that there was a record for future maintenance.

- PL said that the proposed flood gate as part of the new defence works at Wardleys Creek appeared to be a different design that previous and would discharge water from Wardleys watercourse at higher tide levels than currently. If this were the case then the risk of flooding in Hambleton (and possibly Stalmine as well) would be significantly reduced.
- PO thanked officers for dealing with the flooding issues on Stricklands Lane – he noted that the road is full of mud and may cause issues with blocking the local gullies.

Out Rawcliffe FLAG

- JS said that all issues had been discussed with the EA and LCC. He said the only outstanding issue was flooding to Bodkin Lane which MO was aware of and would be dealing with.

Great Ecclestone FLAG

- DA raised the issue of a blocked gully on Raikes Road which has running water constantly running out of it – he wondered if the cause was a damaged water main that was filling the gully and said that this had been reported no fewer than seventeen times to date. PL said that this will be forwarded to UU to look at.
- DA reported that Copp Lane is flooding again to a local farmer blocking the watercourse; he asked that this be looked at.
- DA noted that there is a planning application for caravan storage on Cross House Farm which is in Flood Zones 2 and 3. CG said that PL would be consulted on drainage issues as part of the planning process.

St. Michaels FLAG

- No representatives were present from the FLAG. No report was submitted.
- MS said that LCC were aware of flooding along Rawcliffe Road – Mo said that LCC had undertaken significant works along the road
- PO asked whether Rawcliffe Road would drain into the river if the embankments were not there. MO replied that the highway gullies drain directly into the river – he noted that some of the gully outfalls were blocked due to a build-up of silt on the embankment and this could be a reason for the flooding to the highway. GK also noted that since works to a damaged pipe, where a pile had been driven through the drainage outfall, had been completed, flooding on Rawcliffe Road had reduced. PO asked whether the embankments themselves may be porous and letting water through. MS said that one of the key issues is that the river is tidal and the road may flood because water cannot discharge to the river as the tidal flaps are closed. Once river levels drop with the tide the gullies are released and the flooding dissipates. MO said that this is a common issue on the Fylde coast and many reports of blocked gullies are often found to be because of tidal issues.

Churchtown FLAG

- RW said that the FLAG is in a “constant state of almost solving the problem” – while the main issues have been tackled there remains the issue of resolving the drainage at the junction of The Avenue, Smithy Lane and the A6. MO said that he had recently send RW a copy of the survey at this location to clarify the drainage layout at this point.
- RW reported that the other area of concern was Ainspool Lane, although he noted that there had been no flooding this area this winter despite the poor weather conditions. He added that the FLAG is still awaiting consent from the owners of Green Wood to put in a penstock to see if this could help reduce the risk of flooding to Ainspool Lane. He said

that it was good news that TM had received NFM funding to undertake works on the Ainspool watercourse, including installing leaky dams upstream of Churchtown.

- RW reported that the FLAG had published an article in the Parish magazine to allay residents' fears about the Garstang barrage, explaining to them how it operates.
- With regard to highway gullies not operating, RW said that Churchtown suffers a "double whammy" because when the tide goes down, floodwater stored in the Garstang flood basin is released in readiness for any further flooding. As such the river level downstream of the barrage is kept artificially high, so the tidal flaps are kept shut and cannot release water. GK confirmed that the release of water is carefully monitored and controlled to reduce the risk of flooding to communities downstream of the barrage.
- RW informed the Forum that the FLAG are making a film about the Wyre Forum – he said that all parties in the Forum were working together to resolve flooding issues and, as far as he was aware, this is the only such group in the country. He considers that there are lots of other communities and authorities who might benefit from the work being undertaking here and, as such, the FLAG were making a film of the work of the Forum. The film is due to be released shortly.
- PO asked whether Nateby and Longmoor Lane would be affected by the works being undertaken by TM since this is likely to hold back water in the Ainspool. RW confirmed that both areas would be included in the scheme. PL noted that LCC have undertaken works on Longmoor Lane to reduce the flooding. MO confirmed this, reporting that the culvert had been damaged by one of the utilities piling through it; this has now been resolved.

Garstang FLAG

- RBr noted that the Ainspool watercourse rises in Garstang as a small trickle but becomes a major flow by the time it reaches Churchtown.
- He said that as long as the river embankment and the barrage gates remain in good working order then Garstang should remain dry. CG said that he couldn't guarantee this but there was a very good chance of it being so.

1. 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](#)

2. Emergency Planning Update:

- No update received this Forum.
- PL confirmed that he is still updating Section 2 of the Multi-Agency Flood. This includes specific site information, including contact details, pumping plans and any site specific issues. He will be contacting the FLAGs at some point over the coming months to ensure that contact details are up to date.

3. Requests for reports for next Forum:

- CG said that he would arrange a planning presentation for the next meeting.

4. Any other business:

- MO noted that today would be the last working date for BB who is retiring from LCC after 47 years. On behalf of the Forum, CG passed on thanks to BB for all on his work with the Forum and wished him well in his retirement.

5. Next meeting:

- 13 June 2024. 1pm start - Details to follow.

Appendix 1:

Pre-meeting report from Environment Agency (March 2024)

Maintenance Programme:

The maintenance work the Environment Agency has carried out this financial year (1 April 2023 - 31 March 2024) can be viewed online at

<https://environment.data.gov.uk/assetmanagement/index.html>.

The programme for the next financial year (1 April 2024 - 31 March 2025) will shortly be available using the same link. 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](#).

Updates since December 2023 from the Environment Agency:

1. Flood Basin training dates:

Garstang Flood Basin Training dates from December 2023 to February 2024:

29/12/2023

30/01/2024 [6 monthly reservoir inspection]

20/02/2024

Catterall Flood Basin Training dates from December 2023 to February 2024:

27/12/2023

25/01/2024 [6 monthly reservoir inspection]

20/02/2024

Highgate Flood Basin Training dates for January and February 2024:

16/01/24

21/02/24

2. Maintenance Work

Our 2023/2024 maintenance programme is now largely complete. Over the year we have carried out over 120km of embankment grass cutting and 90km of channel maintenance

in the Wyre catchment. We are preparing next year's programme, which will be published shortly into the new financial year. We encourage all present to utilise our free 24 hour hotline to report blockages, flooding or pollution incidents so that they can be assessed as quickly as possible – the number is 0800 80 70 60.

We are shortly about to complete a repair to the outfall structure at Whites Brook which collapsed on the 5th February 2024. Conveyance of Whites Brook has not been affected by the damage and the repair will rebuild the headwall structure.

We are expecting the work to desilt the Stanah pumping station outfall to begin imminently. This work will remove the silt that has been blocking one of the three outfall doors.

We are busy planning the following work in the months ahead:

- Bank repair at Old House, St. Michaels
- Yoad Pool outfall improvements
- Wild Boar outfall improvements
- Rivermede bank repairs
- Catterall Footbridge replacement
- Six Arches Wall repair

3. Garstang update:

Planning is continuing for the repair to the east gate. Our initial site set up and enabling work is due to start in June, with work on the gate planned to start in August.

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. The west gate remains operational and will be used alongside the stop logs to operate the flood storage basin.

Project / Review updates

1. 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 sea level rise and increased magnitude and severity of flood events.

The planning application for the scheme was validated by the Local Planning Authority, Wyre Council on the 7th of November and the determination period is expected to be complete by the end of April.

The documents can be viewed 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@environmentagency.gov.uk.

2. 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 Associated British Ports (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 and intend to carry out ground investigation works at the quay in the coming weeks.

3. 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:

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 \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[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 \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Funding arrangements | Local Government Association](#)

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

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

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

Appendix 3:

Flood Action Groups (FLAGS)

Churchtown	https://www.facebook.com/Churchtown.flood.action.group
Cleveleys	
Great Eccleston	
Knott End	
Pilling	https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100077390085558
Preesall	https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064811682463
St.Michaels	
Thornton	https://www.facebook.com/thorntonflag

APPENDIX 4:

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