

Wyre Flood Forum Minutes of meeting held Thursday 09 March 2023
Meeting held at Civic Centre and via Microsoft Teams

PRESENT:

Civic Centre:

Chair

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

Wyre Borough Councillors

Cllr Roger Berry (RB)	Neighbourhood Services & Community Safety Portfolio Holder
Cllr Steven Clarke (SC)	LCC Councillor, Fleetwood West & Cleveleys West
Cllr Matthew Salter (MS)	LCC Councillor, Wyre Rural Central
Cllr Dulcie Atkins (DA)	Garstang Ward
Cllr Phil Orme (PO)	Preesall Ward and Preesall Town Council
Cllr David Walmsley (DW)	Jubilee Ward
Cllr Collette Rushforth (CR)	Preesall Ward
Cllr Ian Amos (IA)	Cleveleys Park Ward
Cllr Richard Rendell (RR)	Cleveleys Park Ward

Parish and Town Councillors

Roger Brooks (RBr) Garstang Town Council

Council Officers/Agency Representatives

Paul Long (PL)	Wyre Council (Engineering)
Harry Grundy	Wyre Council
Robert Brooks-Taylor (RBT)	Environment Agency
Daniel Archer (DAr)	Environment Agency
Pippa Hodgkins	Environment Agency
Phil Wylie (PW)	United Utilities

FLAG Representatives

Phil Jenkins (PJ)	Thornton FLAG
Peter Kayley (PK)	Thornton FLAG
Eddie Waring (EW)	Thornton FLAG
Nigel Litherland (NL)	Thornton FLAG
John Quine (JQ)	Thornton FLAG
Linda Rowland (LR)	Preesall FLAG
Ashley Anderton (AA)	Preesall FLAG
John George Thompson (JT)	Hambleton FLAG
John Bracken (JB)	Churchtown FLAG
Roger Weatherell (RW)	Churchtown FLAG

Others

Richard Green (RG)	Carleton Resident
Peter Holt (PH)	Carleton Resident
Edward Greenwood (EG)	Fleetwood Resident
Ian Somerville (IS)	Fleetwood Resident

Via Microsoft Teams:

FLAG Representatives

David Astall (DAs)
Mike Pollard

Great Ecclestone FLAG
Thornton FLAG

Apologies:

Cllr Alf Clempson
Cllr Andrea Kay
Cllr Mary Stirzaker
John Kenyon
Brian Birkett
Mark O'Donnell (MO)
Dan Blacow (DB)

LCC Councillor, Poulton-le-Fylde
Pheasants Wood and LCC Councillor
Mount Councillor
Barnacre PC
Lancashire County Council (Flood Management Team)
LCC (Highways)
United Utilities

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 to the meeting.

2. Apologies:

Apologies were noted as above.

3. Minutes of previous meeting:

CG asked whether there were any comments on the minutes of 15 December 2022.

Matters arising:

EG noted that at item 10. Any Other Business, the tidal surge experienced at Fleetwood in 1927 should have read 3m and not 1.2m as recorded in the minutes. CG noted this correction.

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:

United Utilities:

- PW provided an update on works undertaken by UU over the last three months.
- He reported that UU have completed the construction of an emergency overflow from the pumping station on Rawcliffe Road, St Michaels (Issue & Actions ref 19/20).

Questions to UU

- PJ asked for updates about works around Royles Brook School, Thornton being done in conjunction with LCC (Flood Risk Management). PW said that UU are working with LCC to plan works around the school and neighbouring roads. PL added that LCC were investigating the drainage around the school as part of a Section 19 flood report in the school – LCC (Highways) are planning to undertake an exploratory dig around the junction of Tennyson Ave and Wordsworth Ave during the Easter holidays to determine the drainage layout in the area. LCC will be liaising with UU during these works.
- PL asked if PW could provide an update of the Dynamic Network Monitoring. PW confirmed that some of the monitors have been installed in the easy to access areas of Hambleton (for example where road closures were not required) but those remaining will be installed at some point soon. He agreed to make the Forum aware of any results from the project.
- JT read out a letter on behalf of a resident on Carr Lane, Hambleton – *“UU installed a non-return valve in the garden of my neighbour to the right of my property approximately 12 to 18 months ago. The valve has helped the flooding from the sewage drainage system which flooded up to 15 to 20 times per year every time it rained near enough prior to the valve being installed. We do have flooding when the valve is closed and rain continues, but this is water from the three houses connected to a joint drainage system so we manage the situation and occurrences are infrequent. We have had one occasion since*

the valve was installed when flooding occurred from the gullies overflowing and also the drains being full with rain being heavy. We had to rush to put sandbags out in front of my house, next door, Birkrigg and The Coppins to protect our properties from potential flood damage. In summary, the valve has helped. Gullies and drains need to be cleared of silt and broken pipes replaced to keep the water moving. If this doesn't happen we will be relying on sandbags and being at home to prevent our homes from flooding due to being situated at the lowest land points in the village."

PW replied that UU have looked at the possibility of putting the pump return onto the sewer so that it could drain away, but this has now be discounted. He added that UU need to look at the drainage system for the whole Hambleton area as the issues are not solely confined to Carr Lane; there are issues on Sherbourne Road, Kiln Lane and towards Stalmine. UU will continue to push forward with drainage works in Hambleton, including removing surface water from the sewers.

CG reminded those present to ensure that any flooding issues are reported to UU so that they are aware of any issues and can look to prioritise works.

PL reported that LCC (Highways) have cleared the gullies on Carr Lane and repaired the manhole outside Queensland on Carr Lane. He also reported that LCC (Highways) are looking to investigate the highway drain on land opposite Queensland.

Environment Agency:

- A pre-meeting update to the Forum is included as [Appendix 1](#)
- RBT provided an update on maintenance works;
 - He noted that we have had a quiet winter, which has helped the situation and allowed the Garstang flood barrier to remain operable. The gate is 90% operational and the EA are able to report an operation gate.
 - Repair works to the headwall on the Fleetwood Quay outfall from Copse Brook are planned to begin in the next two or three week.
 - The Copse Brook Flood Risk Management Scheme, planned to protect around 2,200 properties (see or-meeting update for further details) is progressing.
 - RBT confirmed that the EA have considered the concerns that have been raised by the Forum around desilting of Hillylaid Pool and Royles Brook watercourses. He confirmed that there is currently insufficient data to support undertaking desilting works at the moment, but the EA are proposing to undertake a survey of the watercourses to determine whether desilting actions are required and when these need to be undertaken.
 - PH informed the Forum that the EA are planning to subject a planning application to Wyre Council around June for the Hambleton Tidal Flood Risk Management Scheme. Works on the creation of the compensatory habitat are expected in begin in autumn 2023, with the main works in Hambleton planned for 2024.

Questions to EA

- PJ noted that the EA had recently undertaken works on Hillylaid Pool to remove fallen trees, and that the EA are intending to remove the concrete post in watercourse close to Baines School. He added that Thornton FLAG has also recently other potential blockages and have recommended that FLAG members meet up with representatives from the EA to have a walkthrough of the issues. RBT confirmed that the trees have been removed

and are planning to remove the concrete post in the next few weeks. He also confirmed that he would be happy to have a walkthrough with the FLAG.

- RG asked whether from the EA had walked the watercourses from Poulton to the River Wyre (Horse Bridge Dyke) – he said that this should be included in any walkthrough.
- RB said that he was concerned about the lack of progress on the repairs to the Garstang barrier – he accepted that the temporary works did provide significant protection from flooding, but asked that the works be undertaken at the earliest opportunity to enable the system to be 100% repaired. RBT said that the EA are currently developing a lifting plan to allow them to remove the eastern gate for repair – currently the EA is planning to have the gate repair and reinstalled ahead of next winter. RBT agreed to keep the Forum updated on progress.
- RB expressed concern about reports of blockages in the watercourse close to Northumberland Ave, Cleveleys. PL said that this is a private watercourse and has been discussed by the Cleveleys FLAG – the Land Registry have confirmed that the whole area, including the watercourse, is owned by one company and he will be approaching them to ensure that the watercourse is cleaned out in future.
- JT noted that many watercourses are on private land; he asked whether the appropriate agency could contact the owners and remind them of their responsibilities so that issues could be quickly resolved. RBT replied that the EA can take enforcement action if required, but they do contact watercourse owners as a first action as education is preferred to enforcement.
- JT also noted that there are a significant number of pipes entering watercourses and that many of these have and restricted outfall due to localised silting of watercourses preventing outfall flap from fully opening. RBT said that where there is a requirement to desilt watercourses around outfall flaps then the EA will either undertake this work or advise landowners to undertake the works.
- CG asked whether the proposed EA silt survey would pick up high levels of silt around outfalls which might restrict discharges – RBT agreed that this could be added to the survey scope.
- PJ asked whether the EA have plans to install the level gauge boards close to the camera locations on Hillylaid Pool and Royles Brook watercourses any time soon. RBT replied that the boards have been delivered to the EA's Kendal depot and will be installed soon.

Wyre Council:

- PL reported that he had been working with LCC (Highways) to clear as many highway gullies as possible in Hambleton to reduce flood risk. Works have been undertaken outside of normal working hours, and in addition to the routine maintenance undertaken by LCC. He added that he has spoken with LCC about extending this programme to other areas to reduce flood risk in areas that have suffered repeated highway flooding and that this had been received positive feedback. It is hoped that LCC will work with FLAGs to undertake this work – further details will be given once works have been agreed.
- CG confirmed that work has begun on the Phase One works on Rossall Beach. Around 2000 tons of rock has now been delivered; the first rocks were put on the beach this morning. Plans for Phase Two of the works will be submitted for planning approval in the next couple of weeks. He noted that around 11,000 properties would be protected from tidal flooding as a result of the works.

Questions to Wyre Council

- DA noted that work has not yet begun on resolving the flooding issue on High Street, Garstang. She noted that it has been two months since the initial meeting and nothing appears to have been done yet. PL replied that LCC (Highways) have agreed to undertake a dig down on High Street to determine whether there is a blockage/collapse in the outfall pipe. Works have been prevented from starting due to the location of a large BT column adjacent to the digging area. LCC are currently discussing with BT how to proceed without damaging the pole – once this is agreed, works can start.
- RBr asked whether the owners of the adjacent property had agreed to works being undertaken on their land. PL noted that the property is elevated from the road and would require extensive excavation – LCC (Highways) are planning to excavate from the public footpath as this would cause less disturbance to the adjacent properties. RBr asked when this work is planned for – PL replied that it had initially been planned to have been started several weeks earlier, but the presence of a BT pole had delayed the start. At this time it is hoped to start works before Easter. PL confirmed that MO has a meeting next week with his team to arrange works.
- RB noted that the MSfW meeting made reference to a new Wyre Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA); he noted that the minutes make reference to Level 1 and Level 2 plans and asked if the difference could be explained. CG replied that Level 1 looks at areas of development and considers flooding issues in general, while Level 2 looks at specific areas and looks at flooding issues in more details. RB noted that there are a few areas in the borough which don't flood but the ground conditions are not suitable for building on – he asked if this would be included in future plans. CG replied that it would make sense to take this into account.
- AA said that there are large areas of land that have been purchased by building companies and are being sat on prior to seeking planning permission to build on. He noted that, in some cases, the owners are not maintaining the surface water drains and asked that they be compelled to undertake their riparian responsibilities. CG said often the responsibility for maintenance is passed to a Management Company; in the past Wyre has spoken to these companies to ensure that they carry out the works that they are being paid by residents to maintain. PH added that the EA responds to planning applications and works with developers to ensure that there is sufficient access for maintenance of main river watercourses.
- DW noted that the geology of the Fylde plain is sandstone laid over with glacial deposits hence the poor drainage in parts. CG added there are also large areas of fluvial plains and the land levels are very close to sea level.
- SC noted that the developers are seemingly building more and more within Wyre and in areas where land is not suitable for building and which requires the use of piles. He also expressed concern that developers have a right to connect to existing drainage systems; he said that putting in additional water into an already full system is not sustainable and can lead to flooding of existing properties. He considered that developers should have to improve drainage rather than just use existing. CG replied that the developers need to follow a hierarchy to discharge water from a site to ensure that rates of discharge do not exceed existing rates. SC asked who would be maintaining SuDS and who will be responsible if, in future, residents install additional drains that discharge incorrectly. CG replied that currently SuDS are usually maintained by management companies but there are plans for United Utilities to adopt these in future.
- RG asked what the end date is for the sea defence at Rossall. CG replied that the Phase 1 works are planned for completion in September 2023. The second phase will start in

September for a further three years. He confirmed that the council intended to continue to use Jubilee Gardens for storage and site officers throughout this period.

- RG asked where the surface water from the two new developments in Carleton discharges. CG confirmed that the water discharges to Horsebridge Dyke. RG noted that there is a connection to Hillylaid Pool watercourse downstream of the park and expressed his concern that this might need to further flooding. PL confirmed that the majority of the flow is towards Horsebridge Dyke (and hence to Skippool) and that little, if any, would flow towards Hillylaid Pool.
- EG asked whether anything was being done to protect flooding from Fleetwood to Skippool should there be a repeat of the 1927 floods. CG replied that Wyre Council is responsible for sea defence works in Fleetwood to the coastal boundary (from the Ferry Dock at Fleetwood to the slipway at Knott End) – anything upstream of there falls under the EA. He noted that there is an EA scheme for Fleetwood and Copse Brook that is currently being developed – details are included in Appendix 1.
- RBr asked whether there is a drainage strategy for each proposed site in the council's Local Plan. CG confirmed that he and PL had been through each site in the plan and made recommendation as to where each should drain. He added that PL is also consulted on each new development to comment on drainage issues.
- MS asked whether there are plans for UU to adopt legacy SuDS; CG said that he would like to see UU adopt these in future. He noted that SuDS are a good thing, but agreed that there is a requirement for these to be properly maintained. AA asked if residents paid fees for maintaining SuDS – if this is the case then couldn't the funding not be given to UU to undertake maintenance. CG agreed that this could be a consideration. He expressed concern that the main issue would be the attenuation tanks in the ground that cannot be seen that would be the most difficult to maintain.
- JT noted that the majority of planned development is in Poulton, Thornton, Stalmine and Garstang using already overloaded systems. He considered that if the development was spread wider, then there would be less overloading of already full systems.

Lancashire County Council:

Highways:

- PL reported that no representatives from LCC (Highways) were able to attend the meeting. He said that a report had been sent in and this has been included in the MSfW minutes.
- PL provided a summary of the works being undertaken by LCC (Highways), including
 - High Street, Garstang (discussed previously)
 - Carr Lane, Hambleton (outside Queensland)
 - Cleaning of gullies in Hambleton

Full details are included in the MSfW minutes

Flood Management Team:

- PL reported the FMT have provided an update which is included in the MSfW minutes.

The main areas of interest were

- Surface water drainage around Royles Brook School, Thornton
- Flooding to residential properties on Broad Oak Ave, Garstang
- Investigation into surface water drainage around Rosslyn Ave, Preesall

Questions to Lancashire County Council

- PJ asked that LCC (Highways) are made aware of Thornton FLAGs request to have the footpath on Fleetwood Road North raised to reduce the risk of flooding of the footpath and to residential properties. PL agreed to make LCC aware.

Natural England:

- No report was received.

Questions to Natural England

- AA asked that NE are contacted and asked to either attend future meetings or provide a written brief. PL to raise this with NE

Action - PL

Wyre Rivers Trust:

- No report was received from the Trust.
- CG reported that the Trust has been working on the Abbeystead Estate – they now have all landowner consents in place and are starting to install the “slowing the flow” initiatives in place.
- TM has also be working on Arms Hill in Preesall and on the wetlands scheme on King George’s Playing Fields, Thornton which is expected to commence this summer.
- RB noted that one of the key issues that WRT are looking into is the wetland behind Sunnyside Terrace, Preesall. PL confirmed that the landowner has refused consent to construct the wetlands and the MSfW team are looking at alternative ideas.

Questions to Wyre Rivers Trust

None raised.

5. Making Space For Water technical group:

- PL reported that the MSfW Group met (via Teams) on 23 February and that minutes of the meeting have been distributed to the Forum.

Questions to MSfW Group

- PJ asked about the daylighting of a section of the watercourse behind School Road, Thornton. PL confirmed that this involved removing the culvert and returning the watercourse to an open ditch. He noted that this was only planned should the railway line be reopened.
- MS asked about the flooding to Moss Side Lane, Pilling. PL replied that he had been in touch with Pilling Parish Council to arrange a meeting with the contractor of the new development to look at issues on the site, and flooding of one of the properties adjacent to the site.
- MS asked whether there has been any update on Whites Bridge, St Michaels. CG noted that the EA have undertaken some works on the watercourse embankment, but no works have been undertaken or are planned for the near future. MS asked that the MSfW team kept an eye on this as flooding of the A586 was not an issue that should be occurring.

- MS noted that the issue of flooding on Church Lane, Winmarleigh has not been updated for some time and queried whether this was still an issue. PL confirmed that it had been updated only that morning and LCC are checking to see if the problem still remains. RBr said that he lived close to the site and there had been no recent flooding events here.
- RBr asked the EA whether they had the finance to undertake the repairs to the Garstang barrage and he noted that there are large volumes of debris behind the temporary stop logs. RBT confirmed that there is sufficient finance available to undertake the works and that debris would be removed whenever possible.
- RBr noted that the MSfW minutes included a comment from RBT that *“he did not consider that simply removing silt from a watercourse did not create sufficient capacity and was not a reliable means of flood prevention.”* He asked if RBT could comment further on this statement. RBT replied that silt levels increase where it falls out of suspension in water, usually where there is low flow of water. Removing the silt causes the river to erode the watercourse bank further upstream and thus drop more silt. Constantly removing this silt is time consuming and expensive and a costly way of creating a small area of space. The EA looks at lengths of watercourse where there is low or high flow so that intervention to remove silt can have a positive impact.
- PH disagreed with the comments made by RBT adding that desilting works in other areas (eg Dorset) had resolved flooding issues there.
- MS noted that the argument for not undertaking desilting works is that it is not cost effective, but does not really answer the question as to why the works is not undertaken. He added that often the flow within a watercourse relies on capacity downstream and that desilting works at key areas can improve capacity locally that improves the flow in the watercourse as a whole. He further noted that the EA sometimes do not assist local landowners to clear their own cleaning works. RBT replied that the EA undertake surveys of watercourses and look to see if desilting works would have a positive change to the flow in the watercourse network. He added that the decision to undertake works would be made on scientific evidence, not on the availability of finance. CG said that the watercourse survey that the EA plans to undertake in Thornton should help identify areas where desilting works could be beneficial.

PJ asked if silt removed from watercourses is left on site or is removed as special waste. RBT replied that this is generally the case, but would depend whether there were any contaminants in the site, such as oil. CG noted that there are limits as to how far the silt could be removed from site for reuse elsewhere, such as on farmers' fields; he thought this to be around five miles.

CG said that this issue would be looked into again once the EA's siltation survey has been undertaken.

6. 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.

Thornton FLAG

- PJ noted that there are currently six separate development under way in the Thornton area, all of which discharge into Springfield Brook watercourse. He also noted that the highway drainage in the area also discharges unrestricted into this watercourse. He considers that all planning applications should be considered together rather than considering each development on its own merits.

- PJ noted that no Wyre Councillors in the Thornton area made any comments on these planning applications and feels that Councillors should get more involved in flooding issues relating to planning applications.
- PJ noted that the blockage previously reported at the junction of the watercourse along Anchorsholme Lane East and Royles Brook has not yet been cleared as previously promised by the EA. RBT replied that this had been recently discussed and added to would be added to the works programme for this year.
- PJ asked if a walkthrough could be arranged to look at the drainage details on the new development on Bourne Road, Thornton.
- PJ asked whether there had been any progress on undertaking works to Royles Brook behind the properties on Woodland Ave. RBT replied that this has been discussed with the EA's contractors and would be looked at this year. RBT noted that access is difficult but added that the contractors are paid to undertake this work.
- PJ reported that the watercourses on Stanah Road are in need of further clearing and asked if this could be reported to the contractors responsible.
- PJ asked if an update could be obtained from National Grid about works to clear the blocked culvert underneath their sub-station on Stanah Road. PL to contact NG for an update.
- EW asked who would be responsible for ensuring that the slot drains in Cleveleys town centre are cleaned out. Many of these are blocked and leading to localised flooding issues. PL replied that these were likely to be LCC and/or private. He agreed to ask LCC (Highways) to look into this issue. SC suggested that residents can report issues relating to Highways (such as blocked drains or gullies) via the new Love Clean Streets phone app.
- EW also mentioned that the footpath on Fleetwood Road North (opposite the Co-Op) is flooded forcing pedestrians to walk on the highway. He noted that some remedial work has been undertaken by LCC but this still requires additional work. EW considers that the cause of the flooding is the development of the football pitches on Poolfoot Farm. PL disagreed with this, stating that problems with this area pre-exists the development of the football ground and needs to be discussed with NPL, who own the land to the rear of the property.

Preesall FLAG

- AA reported that the planned wetland area behind Sunnyside Terrace has come to a halt as the land owner has refused consent for the works to be undertaken on their land. The residents are still hopeful that the work will be undertaken, but are looking at alternative means of discharging water. He confirmed that CR and MO have met on site to look at additional means of discharging water from Cart Gate, and LCC are looking at options.
- CR asked why the storm boards on The Esplanade had not been inserted at any time during the winter and some residents were concerned that this could result in flooding of their properties. She asked who was responsible for putting in the boards. CG confirmed that Wyre Council insert the boards when required. PL confirmed that previously LCC had installed the boards; these were held at their works depot and inserted at the start of the winter period. Wyre Council have installed cages on the seawall and keep the boards on site so that they can be quickly installed and removed as required. This allows the promenade to remain open for residents and visitors to use.

Hambleton & Stalmine FLAGS

- JT thanked LCC, Wyre Council, UU and EA for their recent works in resolving issues in the village.
- JT noted that the FLAG has provided a long list of issues to the MSfW team and asked that these be addressed in the coming weeks. CG replied that answers to these would be sent to the FLAG as part of the MSfW works.

Great Eccleston FLAG

- DA noted that the watercourses downstream of Whites Bridge are higher than the bridge – he considered that if the embankments were lowered, this would reduce the risk of flooding to the A586. CG noted that the high embankments are in place to protect residential properties in Great Eccleston – reducing the level of these would increase the flood risk to these properties. He noted that MO is currently looking at issues in this area to see if anything can be done to reduce the risk of flooding to the highway.
- DA expressed concern that the highway drains on the new development on Pinfold were level with the road level and could cause flooding to the new development. PL confirmed that the drainage on this site is pumped to the watercourse to the west of the site; he thought that resurfacing of the site is outstanding and should resolve this issue.
- DA reported that the drains on the main road are being filled with grass each time that maintenance is undertaken. CG agreed to raise this once again with the grass cutters.

Garstang FLAG

- RBr said that all matters had been previously discussed in the meeting.

Cleveleys FLAG

- DW reported that rainfall in December had been lower than average; rainfall in had been higher in January with 114m of rain, but February had been driest in 20 years. As such there have been no flooding issues normal November, but no flooding had been experienced.
- The threat of tidal flooding, particularly in February, was countered by benign weather conditions and there had been no consequences.

Churchtown FLAG

- RW said that a number of issues have now been resolved and there remain just five main areas of concern – these are considered in detail with the MSfW minutes.
 - Attenuation of water within Green Wood
 - The Avenue highway flooding
 - Smithy Lane highway flooding
 - Flooding of field behind Ainspool Lane. RW asked if a tidal gauge could be provided so that residents could check water levels during an event – RBT to look into.
 - Property on south side of River Wyre is at threat of flooding from the river. RW asked that, when releasing the water from the Garstang flood basin, the level in the river be kept at a level that does not flood the property.
- RW asked that the Issue & Actions log be updated to include all five of these issues.

Out Rawcliffe FLAG

- No report has been received.

St. Michaels FLAG

- No report was submitted

7. Communications Update:

- Emergency contact details are available at <https://www.wyre.gov.uk/emergency-planning/flooding/8>

Other information is available at [The Flood Hub](#)

8. Emergency Planning Update:

- PL confirmed that Section 2 of the Multi-Agency Flood Plan is to be updated. This includes specific site information, including contact details, pumping plans and any site specific issues. PL will be contacting the FLAGS at some point over the coming months to ensure that contact details are up to date.

9. Requests for reports for next Forum:

- CR asked that the EA provide an update on the Cockers Dyke pump in Preesall. During heavy rainfall roads in Preesall are unpassable as the watercourses surcharge.

Action - EA

10. Any other business:

None

11. Next meeting:

- 08 June 2023. 1pm start - Details to follow.

[Appendix 1](#)

Pre-meeting report from Environment Agency (March 2023)

Maintenance Programme:

The maintenance work the Environment Agency plans to carry out this financial year (1 April 2022-31 March 2023) and next financial year (1 April 2023 - 31 March 2024) can be viewed online at <https://environment.data.gov.uk/asset-management/index.html>. This is the planned annual flood and coastal risk management (FCRM) asset maintenance programme. You can find a particular location by entering your postcode or navigating the map by zooming in and out.

Please note that this programme is updated quarterly. However, sometimes work may not go ahead as planned due to adverse weather, floods, or other operational or environmental considerations.

Summary of key features:

- Interactive map.
- It includes a vast amount of detail including extents of work, planned start and end dates, and links out to a description of each type of activity.
- It will be updated on a quarterly basis (eventually monthly), allowing the public to track maintenance progress through the year.

Reporting a problem:

The most effective means of reporting a potential flooding or blockage problem on a Main River is to report it to the Environment Agency's National Call Centre on 0800 80 70 60. The National Call Centre will collect the relevant information and ensure it is passed to the correct team for assessment. A copy of the Main River Map can be viewed here [Main River Map](#).

Here are the present updates since December 2022 from the Environment Agency:

Flood Basin training dates

Garstang Flood Basin Training dates from December 2022 to February 2023:

06/12/2022

17/01/2023

08/02/2023

Catterall Flood Basin Training dates from December 2022 to February 2023:

06/12/2022

17/01/2023

27/02/2023

Highgate Park Training dates from December 2022 to February 2022:

20/12/2022

17/01/2023

12/02/2023

Maintenance Work:

We have continued with our programme of wrack removal work and vermin control over the winter months and responded as per usual to intermittent reports of blockages, such as removing the fallen tree on Royles Brook behind Woodlands Avenue.

The situation with Garstang Flood Gates remains largely unaltered on the ground since the last update – we are fully aware of the condition of the hinge on the East Gate and are satisfied that we are able to provide a consistent level of flood protection to properties in the area with the measures we have in place. The combination of the size and weight of the gate have made the logistics of planning a repair difficult, but progress is being made and the works to return the gate to full operational readiness are still on course to be completed by Winter 2023.

We would also like to update the group on the repaired outfall of Copse Brook in Fleetwood. Although the repairs to the door were carried out successfully last year, there were still concerns that the headwall was allowing water through. We are pleased to report that a temporary repair to the headwall has been designed and funded, and works should be complete on this asset by the end of the month.

Finally, the condition of the soft bed in Hillylaid Pool watercourse has been carefully considered. The EA will only be carrying out de-silting works where survey data shows that such actions would be effective in either improving flow and/or reducing the risk of flooding to properties. The most recent survey data from Summer 2020 shows that the topography of the hard bed is such that removing silt material would not be effective in improving the flow. We recognize the ongoing concerns that local FLAGS have around some watercourses, and are pleased to inform them that we will be carrying out a programme of channel surveys in the area – including Hillylaid Pool, Royles Brook and Skippool (Main Dyke). These surveys will allow us to continue to understand the bed topography and the movement of water through the catchment. This will help us understand where to intervene to effectively reduce flood risk, including when a targeted de-silt is the most appropriate option.

Project / Review updates:

Hambleton Tidal Flood Risk Management Scheme

The proposed scheme will reduce the flood risk to over 600 properties. Linear flood walls are proposed from Kiln Lane, north of Wardleys Pool, to the end of the existing embankment near Peg's Pool. 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 detailed design for the scheme is ongoing. We are engaging with individual stakeholders and members of the community, on elements of the detailed design. We are working closely with stakeholders, such as Natural England and Lancashire County Council Highways, on elements of the scheme that fall within their remit. Our current best estimate for the planning application submission is late-spring 2023 with Construction of our Compensatory Habitat works targeting an Autumn 2023 start with the main FRM works to follow in early 2024. We are planning to engage with the public on the scheme design and planning application submission in advance of this.

Further information relating to the scheme is available via the scheme's FloodHub page (<https://thefloodhub.co.uk/hambleton/>). If you would like to discuss the scheme further, please contact our Lancashire Partnerships and Strategic Overview team at CMBLNC-PSO@environment-agency.gov.uk.

Fleetwood and Copse Brook Flood Risk Management Scheme

The scheme will construct approximately 800 metres of tidal flood defence wall and 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 allocations 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 will be starting work on the final part of the appraisal prices – the Full Business Case – this Spring. We will be working up detailed designs and carrying out engagement with partners and the public as part of this process

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 re-development. We are therefore working closely with Wyre Council and Associated British Ports (ABP). ABP are providing project support by contributing to the cost of the structural survey and providing us with Ground Investigations that will help inform the final design options. The Our Future Coasts project being led by Wyre Council has an ambition to create an area of saltmarsh on 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 continuing to work with both partners looking at a range of delivery options

Upper & Mid Wyre Asset Management Project (following on from the Upper and Mid Wyre Review)

The Upper and Middle Wyre Asset Management Project was developed following the completion of the Upper and Middle Wyre Review in 2017. In January 2020 we announced that the project was unlikely to commence to the next appraisal stage (Outline Business Case) before spring 2021 due to constraints in available capital funding, as a result of the project's low Partnership Funding score. We are continuing to investigate the funding opportunities available to progress this project. However, progression of the project continues to be dependent on the project's Partnership Funding score improving.