Wyre Flood Forum
Minutes of meeting held Thursday 13 March 2025

PRESENT:

Civic Centre:

Chair

Carl Green (CG)	Assistant Director of Engineering, Wyre Council

Wyre Councillors

Cllr Roger Berry (RB)	Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio Holder

Parish and Town Councillors

Roger Brooks (RBr)	Garstang Town Council
Phil Orme (PO)	Preesall Town Council / Stalmine-with-Staynall FLAG

Council Officers / Agency Representatives

Paul Long (PL)	Senior Engineer, Wyre Council
Andrea Deninson (AD)	Assistant Emergency Planner, Wyre Council
Martyn Dugdale (MD)	Assistant Flood Risk Management Engineer, Lancashire CC
Graeme Kellott (GK)	Asset Performance Advisor, Environment Agency
Pippa Hodgkins (PH)	Flood Risk Officer, Environment Agency
Ruth Kennedy (RK)	Planning and Permitting Team, Environment Agency
Daniel Archer (DA)	Asset Performance Team, Environment Agency
Phil Wylie (PW)	Drainage Performance Engineer, United Utilities

FLAG Representatives

John Thompson (JT)	Hambleton FLAG
Ashley Anderton (AA)	Preesall FLAG
Linda Rowland (LR)	Preesall FLAG
Roger Weatherall (RW)	Churchtown FLAG
Jim Sloane (JS)	Garstang FLAG
Richard Green	Thornton FLAG

Others

Joan Stott (JSt)	White Carr Lane / Norcross resident
Barry Stott	White Carr Lane / Norcross resident
Simon Preston	White Carr Lane / Norcross resident
Christina Preston	White Carr Lane / Norcross resident
Debbie Schofield (DS)	White Carr Lane / Norcross resident
Peter Kent (PK)	White Carr Lane / Norcross resident
Peter Holt	Thornton Resident

Via Microsoft Teams:

Scott Nickson	Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service

Apologies:

Cllr John Shedwick	LCC Councillor, Thornton & Hambleton
Cllr Matthew Salter	LCC Councillor, Wyre Rural Central
George Briscoe	Planning Policy, Wyre Council
Len Harris	Senior Planning Officer, Wyre Council
Mark Cook (MC)	Highways Operations Manager, Lancashire County Council
Mike Pollard	Thornton FLAG
David Walmsley	Cleveleys FLAG
Tom Myerscough (TM)	Wyre Rivers Trust

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

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

   CG welcomed everyone to the meeting; he particularly welcomed residents from White Carr Lane, Thornton who were attending the Forum for the first time and gave them a brief summary of the purpose of the Forum; to discuss flooding issues within the borough of Wyre and for these to be resolved between the Flood Risk Authorities (FRA), these being Wyre Council, Lancashire County Council (LCC), the Environment Agency (EA), United Utilities (UU), River Rivers Trust (WRT) and Natural England (NE).

   See attendance list above.

2. **Apologies:**

   Apologies were noted as above.

   PL noted that there was a Full Council meeting at Lancashire County Council and, as such, no County Councillors were available for today's meeting.

   PL said that, due to an IT issue, an email had been sent to all invitees approximately 20 minutes before the start of the meeting stating that the meeting had been cancelled – this was not correct, but it was possible that persons intending to sign in via Teams had not done so. He noted that this might explain why there was no representative from UU at the meeting.

3. **White Carr Lane Flooding, Thornton.**

   CG welcomed a group of residents from White Carr Lane and Norcross Lane, Thornton who were attending the Forum to raise the issue of flooding on White Carr Lane and their concerns about the maintenance of Royles Brook watercourse.

   JSt introduced the group to the meeting and said that there were a number of questions that they needed to raise regarding flooding on White Carr Lane. She said that residents have had a number of communications with various authorities over the last year on flooding issues. There are only four houses that front onto White Carr Lane and the road has a long history of flooding from surcharging of Royles Brook watercourse over the last fifty years.

   JSt said that residents have received help on flooding issues from a number of flood authorities, but they still had a number of questions to raise. She said that regular maintenance of the watercourse and of the attenuation ponds and hydrobrakes on Meadow Gate development was essential in preventing future flooding.

   JSt said that residents were concerned about recent developments at Meadow Gate and, recently on Ryscar Way, Blackpool, which are discharging surface water to Royles Brook. She also raised concerns that there were issues with the attenuation ponds on Meadow Gate.

   JSt reported that she had discussed some of these issues with PL prior to the Forum and that he had answered these. She said that she had inspected all the documents on the Wyre Planning Portal for information on drainage of the sites. While she noted that the Developer

had to undertake an assessment of potential flood risk to residents within the new development, she was unable to find any similar consideration for existing residents on White Carr Lane. She raised concerns that residents of the new development may not be aware of their responsibilities to maintain the drainage structures on the site once the developer has left the site. She said that existing residents are concerned that maintenance may be neglected as new properties are unaffected. She was a little relieved to be told that new residents will be obliged to maintain the structures and that maintenance would be undertaken by suitably qualified and experienced professionals. PL confirmed that officers from Wyre Council would not normally check that maintenance is undertaken unless there becomes an issue (such as local flooding). PL added that he has been in contact with Thornton FLAG and agreed to inspect the attenuation ponds and SuDS infrastructure on site whenever there is further heavy rainfall, to ensure that they are operating as designed. He noted that the site is still not complete and there are still drainage connections to be made to the system.

JSt added that residents were concerned about the lack of response to their reports of flooding on White Carr Lane – they have been given emergency contact numbers but whenever they do so receive no help as their properties are not yet flooded. She asked whether anyone from the Council inspected the attenuation ponds during a heavy rainfall event to ensure that they were operating as designed – PL replied that this was not the case as the structures are private and the Council is normally busy elsewhere dealing with more pressing issues.

JSt said that closing the road during a flooding event would prevent wash from vehicles entering properties and there is no system in place to close the road. MD replied that closure of the road was a Highways issue – normally any request to close a road due to flooding should be made to LCC Highways via the Police.

AA noted that Sunnyside Terrace at Preesall has suffered similar issues in the past but has worked with the flood risk management (FRM) authorities to resolve them. He said that the FLAG has a store of sandbags, water deflection barriers and signs for use during a flood event, and whenever there is flooding of the highway, residents put up Road Closed signs as needed. CG said that the purpose of the Forum is to look at issues and come up with a collective solution, involving flood risk management authorities and local residents working together to resolve issues. AA added that, by forming a FLAG and having regular contact with the FRM authorities, issues at Preesall, and Sunnyside Terrace in particular, have been addressed.

DS asked how residents on White Carr Lane could set up a similar scheme and acquire similar equipment. CG noted that an outline action plan has been drawn up by Wyre Council to address issues on White Carr Lane (see below).

PO asked whether any water was entering Royles Brook from land inside Blackpool Council – JSt confirmed that this was the case – he suggested that Blackpool Council be included in any solution plans. CG confirmed that contact has been made with Blackpool Council with regard to the development approved on Ryscar Way

CG added that no one authority was able to solve all issues, but working together, with local residents, issues do get resolved.

Ref	Owner	Action	Owner
1.1	Wyre Engineers	Request that Thornton FLAG can make contact with D Schofield and invite her to be part of the group.	PDL
1.2	Wyre Engineers	Progress McDermott homes investigation into potential to reduce surface water entering the watercourse.	PDL
1.3	Wyre Planning	To look at opportunities on M&S development site for water retention and potential S106 funding of network improvements.	SS
1.4	Wyre Env Health	To look into septic tank issues Willow Farm Norcross area and copy in EA and UU.	CM
2.1	LCC Highways	to look at topography of the highway and determine where the water is ponding and flow paths to these areas. If the water is running from the watercourse LCC to look at installing raised kerbs / highway bund to prevent this - if the water is draining from other parts of the highway LCC to look at ways of dissipating this water.	MC
2.2	LCC Highways	to look at improvements to the road particularly in the low/ flooded areas and raising kerbs - potential to raise road in low sections.	MC
2.3	LCC Highways	Confirmed that closure of the road is not an option - it would be better to resolve the issue of water lying on the highway and cars swashing this water into properties, as above.	MC
2.4	LCC Highways	LCC will look at desilting culverts in line with EA desilting below.	MC
3.1	Env Agency	To review the maintenance regime on the watercourse.	GK
3.2	Env Agency	To meet their contractor in April with a planned desilt of the watercourse in July/Aug	GK
3.3	Env Agency	Amounderness Way culvert - EA to write to Highways England.	GK
4.1	Wyre Rivers Trust	To contact upstream landowners to offer advice on improving groundwater penetration and retention.	TM
4.2	WRT	To work with partners to look at increasing storage on downstream areas, particularly improving drainage at Marsh Farm to provide upstream freeboard during high rainfall events.	TM
5.1	United Utilities	to look at issues faced by surface water entering the network and provide mitigation.	PW
6.1	LCC Lead Local Flood Authority	To identify system improvements and sources of funding to enable these to happen.	RC
6.2	LCC Lead Local Flood Authority	Potential to raise surface water study included in the National programme. Potential to look at quick wins funding. Potential to deliver through Fylde Peninsular as a wider surface water scheme.	RC

PK noted that surface water from the Ryscar Way development in Blackpool is being directed into Royles Brook, exacerbating the flooding on White Carr Lane. He asked why this water had not been discharged into the main UU drain as previous. CG noted that there are existing issues with the drainage system and that UU had objected to it being used. He acknowledged that there is a very limited discharge from Ryscar Way entering Royles Brook (approx. 13 l/s). PK added that there is further development planned on the Meadow Gate site, including a M&S store off Norcross Lane; CG acknowledged these but noted the discharge rates from these sites has already been accounted for as part of the whole development.

PK asked whether the development at Ryscar Way will be controlled by a hydrobrake; CG confirmed that this is the case, and discharge will be limited to equivalent greenfield run-off rate.

PL confirmed that he is speaking with McDermott Homes to look at whether run-off from Meadow Gate can be reduced to help reduce the risk of flooding to White Carr Lane. He reiterated that Mc Dermott Homes have done nothing wrong and there is no obligation on them to reduce discharge rates from the site.

DS said that the main issue is that no maintenance is being carried out on Royles Brook watercourse which has led to a build-up of silt in the watercourse restricting the flow. She added that the EA undertakes strimming of the bullrushes to make the watercourse look pretty, but this has no effect on improving flow. She said that when desilting works were last undertaken in 2020 water levels in the watercourse on her farm dropped. DS confirmed that she has been in contact with GK, and he has been very helpful and is planning a further desilting operation later in the year. GK confirmed that he recently visited the site and would be undertaking a desilt of the watercourse this summer; he added that he looking to tie in works with LCC Highways to clear culverts at the same time.

DS noted that the highway gullies on Norcross Lane were full due to silt coming off the development – PL agreed to notify LCC Highways and request that gullies are cleaned.

PK raised concerns about the frequency and adequacy of any maintenance of the SuDS on Meadow Gate. PL confirmed that it is the responsibility of residents to ensure that the work is done; CG added that it was important that works are undertaken, and it would be ideal if this and similar schemes could be adopted by United Utilities.

PO asked whether the recent works by the Wyre Rivers Trust had any bearing on the drainage in this area. CG replied that additional attenuation has been provided by the Trust on the Meadow Gate site and at King Georges Playing Fields further downstream. Both these developments provide additional storage to reduce the volumes on White Carr Lane and reduce the risk of flooding. He added that investigation is required downstream to further improve the situation.

DS asked whether the EA had inspected the outfall from Ryscar Way into Royles Brook and could they provide an update. RK confirmed that the outfall has been recently inspected, and the EA are waiting on results from the inspection to determine whether it has been consulted correctly and in line with the consent given. The EA will provide an update when available.

AA suggested that the residents set up their own FLAG (or join with Thornton FLAG) – CG agreed and asked that residents keep in contact with PL.

A video showing how hydrobrakes operate to restrict discharges can be seen here FP McCann StormBrake™ - Vortex Flow Control - YouTube

A webinar explaining hydrobrakes in more detail is viewable at Webinar: Hydro Brake® Optimum

4. Minutes of previous meeting:

The minutes of the meeting of 12 December 2024 were approved without amendment.

Matters arising.

- (page 4) PL reported that he and members of Garstang and Churchtown FLAGs had visited the development currently under construction at Nateby Crossing, Garstang on Monday 10 March. The Developer had explained how the site drainage had been designed and how it interacted with the current drainage systems. Attendees were shown the works in progress and the connection to the Ainspool watercourse from the site.

  JS said that it was useful for the FLAGs to see for themselves, although this is still under development. PL replied that he would arrange a further visit in six months' time if this was something that the FLAGs would like, to view changes to the drainage.

  RBr said that he was concerned that developers had little or no concern for what happens to the surface water drainage once it has left their site and what effect it has on properties downstream. PL noted that all new developments are required to discharge surface water at a rate no greater than when the site was undeveloped (known as greenfield runoff)

- (page 4) PL confirmed that the slot drain on Sandy Lane, Preesall has now been cleared and a new connection to the local watercourse network has been made. This issue has been closed.

- (page 5) CG reported that all three pumps at Royles Brook pumping station are in place and working well. He added that Wyre Council is currently in the process of writing an update on all pumping stations; consultants have inspected the stations and providing recommendations on upgrading the stations in the next couple of weeks. The initial response is that the stations are suitable but aged and would benefit from replacement with more modern pumps and switchgear.

  RG asked whether Wyre Council would continue to maintain the pumps, CG replied that the pumps at New Lane, Royles Brook and Springfield will still be maintained by Wyre Council, although it is hoped that Haven Homes will take over the latter at some point. The screws at Stanah are to be handed over to the EA "imminently" and they will maintain them in the future. RG noted that officers from Wyre Council often switched the screws on ahead of a forecast rain event to increase capacity in the system – he asked whether the WA were planning to do something similar. GK replied that the plan is to operate the screws on a similar basis as Wyre Council, including running the pumps ahead of a forecast event. He

added that he intends to install a camera pointing at the pumps so that the public could see whether the screws are operating.

- (page 5) PL reported that investigations into the flooding on Stricklands Lane, Stalmine have been completed and the problem identified as a blockage of the culverted watercourse. The pipe has been cleared of silt and root ingress and works are planned by LCC to reline the upstream 40m of the pipe to repair damage to it. The owner of the bottom 60m of pipe has agreed to daylight the pipe. This should prevent any reoccurrence of the flooding of the highway. The costs of repairs have been covered by LCC and UU.

  PO noted the principal cause of the flooding was the surcharging of the combine sewer in the A588; he asked whether UU had any plans to resolve the surcharging. PL said that UU were not present at the meeting today, but that he understood that UU are investigating the source of the excessive surface water in the combined sewer and potential actions to mitigate the flooding on the A588 into Hambleton.

- (page 12) PL reported that he had inspected the three watercourse outfalls into Woodplumpton Brook watercourse, Inskip and reported that all outfalls were operating correctly, with no blockages. GK noted that these were not maintained by the EA.

- (page 14) PL reported that there was action on checking the watercourse on Green Lane, Preesall – nobody was present from LCC Highways to confirm whether this had been looked into. PL agreed to raise this again with LCC.

  Action - PL

  RG asked the EA whether they had some information about the recent silt survey that could be distributed. GK said that he would email a copy of the survey to RG – he noted that the printed copy of the survey was difficult to read due to the scale of the watercourse surveyed and that the digital copy was much easier to read and interpret.

5. Reports from Flood Management Authorities:

Environment Agency:

A pre-meeting update to the Forum is included as Appendix A

- GK, PH and RK gave a brief presentation on the work of the EA following a request at the last Forum.
- GK reported to the Forum that the second part of the works to repair the gates at Garstang has not been funded for 2025/26. He said that this was a disappointment to the project team who had been working to fix the issue of the broken east gate. He said that this means that the EA is relying on the stopboards for the coming year. He added that the stopboards had not reduced the capacity of the flood basin as much as feared and the basin still had near full capacity. GK said that a further bid for funding for the scheme would be made in May

RB asked whether the EA had considered an alternative means of repairing the gate. GK replied that the project team were in a difficult position as they now had to work out the cost of continuing the repair against pausing, reassessing and undertaking works on an alternative method – the works are too advanced so that it would be difficult to change direction at this time.

RW noted that the design of the west gate is the same design of the east gate and that properties downstream are vulnerable should the west gate suffer a similar failure. GK noted that the EA had been aware that the gates are approaching their end of life and had been looking at alternative options to replace them prior to the failure - this project had been put on hold while repairs are undertaken.

PO noted that the gate is a critical piece of infrastructure that protects a substantial number of properties and residencies downstream; he asked whether the council, as the local planning authority, could put pressure on the EA to complete the repairs by not allowing any development downstream until the repairs have been completed. GK replied that he did not think that this would influence the scheme. CG said that he was surprised that the scheme did not get funding to complete as it would be a continuation of an existing scheme and halfway through.

- PH reported that the Hambleton scheme has not received funding for this year and works planned for this spring will now not be going ahead.

  PO expressed his disappointment with this news; he said that the EA had said that funding was available at the start of the project and asked what had happened to this. PH said that money is allocated to the scheme to cover parts of it as it progresses, for example for design, construction etc and that this year the scheme has not been allocated funding for this financial year. She added that the scheme was given conditional planning approval in December and work will continue to satisfy those conditions before construction commences. CG said that this was extremely disappointing for the project teams, but that those making the decisions should be made aware that they are running a significant risk of flooding as a consequence of their decisions.

<u>Questions to the Environment Agency:</u>

- AA asked how the discharge rate from a new development is decided. PL replied that the rate that surface water flows off a new development should be no greater than the equivalent rate when it was undeveloped. This is known as the Greenfield Run-off Rate and the maximum flow from a site is restricted to this value, normally by the use of a hydrobrake. Any volume of water greater than when the site was undeveloped is temporarily stored on site (attenuated) in either a pond, storage tanks or oversized pipes. This excess water is then slowly released once the rainfall has ceased and watercourse levels have returned to normal.

  AA asked if the current undeveloped land run-off is causing a potential flood issue how would this be addressed. PL said that the run-off would still need be as greenfield run-

off as this would not exacerbate the current, undeveloped situation. PL explained that the development on Meadow Gate was assessed under older regulations relating to brownfield sites. In this case the site was permitted to discharge up to 50% of the discharge rate from the previously developed land – this significantly reduced the rate from the site from existing but did not require the developer to reduce further to greenfield rates. The principle was to encourage use of brownfield site rather than greenfield sites.

- RB said that a significant number of flood events were caused by riparian owners not undertaking their legal responsibility to maintain watercourses – he asked whether the EA actively chased landowners to ensure that they complied with their obligations. GK replied that the EA received money from the government to undertake maintenance works to reduce flood risk and they did as much as possible with the funding. He recognised that many landowners were unable to undertake such works, so where possible the EA focus on those issues which have the greatest risk. He said that, if the risk was small and caused a severe risk (such as a blocked culvert or blocked watercourse) then the EA would go in and promptly remove that risk – where there is a long-term risk then they would engage with the landowner to have them undertake the work.

- LR raised an issue with leylandii trees obstructing the watercourse to the rear of properties on Sunnyside Terrace, Preesall. She was concerned that the trees are blocking the watercourse upstream of the trash screen and could possibly cause flooding to local properties. GK said that the EA would investigate this. PO suggested that the Wyre Council Tree Officer be asked to look into this and advise residents accordingly.

  Action - PL

- JT said that it appeared that the EA needed to apply for funding for each scheme that they got involved in, and this looks to be a significant waste of time and resources seeking funding each time. GK replied that the EA has a recurring annual bid for works based on works that they are expecting to undertake that financial year – the issue was that, often the sum received did not fully reflect that asked for. On these occasions, works had to be reviewed to make best use of funding.

Lancashire County Council:

Highways:

MO was unable to attend the Forum but submitted a report in advance. PL read out the issues raised.

- Lancaster Road, Knott End

  Highway gullies outside St Oswald's Church have been cleared and approximately 120m of connection pipe has been root-cut and cleared. The drains are now operating correctly.

- Sandy Lane, Preesall

  Slot drain outside Willow House has been cleared and a new connection made to the existing watercourse network.

- Cock Robin Lane, Catterall

  The highway drainage on Cock Robin Lane has been desilted, root cut and patch lined. A full survey of the system revealed a blockage on the Miller Homes site. The contractor has been notified, and they will deal with the issue.

- Sower Carr Lane, Hambleton

  A blockage on the highway drainage has revealed a blockage (and potential post through drainage pipe) on private drain. The resident has been informed and advised on how to clear.

- Bleasdale Lane, Bleasdale

  Works are in planned for next week to repair highway drainage. Estimated to take around a week to complete.

- Stricklands Lane, Stalmine

  Works to repair private culvert now completed. LCC will monitor works to ensure no further highway flooding on Stricklands Lane.

Questions to LCC (Highways):

- DS asked for the highway gullies on Norcross Lane and White Carr Lane be checked. PL noted that he had already taken this action to advise LCC (Highways) and would also contact McDermott Homes regarding improved washing of vehicles leaving their site.

  Action - PL

Flood Risk Management Team:

MD reported that things were relatively quiet in Wyre Council. The Team have been involved with helping to resolve the flooding issues on Stricklands Lane, Stalmine and with a recent development on Hollins Lane, Forton.

Questions to LCC (Flood Risk Management):

- DS reported that the fence that runs around the development from Norcross Lane to White Carr Lane is rotten and leaning into the watercourse. She noted that this has been reported to LCC (Highways) but no action has yet been taken. GK said that this was likely the responsibility of the developer; he added that he would raise this issue with the developer as he was already looking to discuss the necessity of the fence as it caused access issues and was not necessarily required.

  Action - GK

United Utilities:

No representative from UU was present at the meeting – PL reiterated that a message cancelling the meeting had been sent out in error prior to the meeting and this may be why there was no-one present. Issues raised by UU previously are covered in the Making Space for Water meeting minutes from 27 February,

Wyre Council:
PL reported on issues that have been investigated by Wyre Council; he said that most issues have already been covered or are included within the Making Safe for Water minutes.

- PL visited Sandy Lane on 10 March, Preesall to investigate the 6" culvert under the highway and the suspected connection between the recently dug out watercourse in the field on the west side of the road and the watercourse on the east side. He reported that he had been unable to confirm the existence of the pipe. He confirmed that there is water in the watercourse but that it is not flowing anywhere; he suggested that this could be directed into the new proposed wetland area that is being constructed this year and would raise this issue with TM.
- PL reported that new drainage has been installed in Bob Williamson Park, Hambleton in response to flooding of the footpath and subsequent flooding to the corner of Church Lane and Grange Road. JT acknowledged the work and confirmed that this seems to be working well.

CG reported that the Wyre Beach Management Scheme is progressing well. Works on the northern area at Fleetwood are now complete and work is being done to reinstate the land used for the site compound. Works are now concentrating on Cleveleys frontage and beach levels are rising to help protect around 11,000 properties from tidal flooding.

Additionally, work has been progressing on the Our Future Coast project, working with the Rivers Trust to restore saltmarshes in the Wyre Estuary and on Jubilee Quay, Fleetwood. CG said that a number of interactive signs have been installed throughout the scheme area – called Hello Coast!, the signs include a QR code which allows passers-by to receive information on the scheme and to ask their own questions. Similar signs have been installed at other locations within the scheme area.

Wyre Council has recently undertaken a resident' survey which included questions on climate change and residents' concerns.

CG reported that additional funding has been received to look at further ways to improve the saltmarsh at Stanah, including setting up a laboratory to grow plants in a nursery to be transplanted around the area to create further saltmarsh, and to improve the understanding of the saltmarsh.

Questions to Wyre Council:

- PO asked whether there had been any movement in getting Willow Grove Park, Preesall to undertake maintenance of the watercourse around their site. PL replied that this is still outstanding, and he has yet to raise this issue with Park owners. MD added that this is an area that LCC are looking at, and it was agreed that he would liaise with PL to resolve the issue

  Action - LCC / WC

- PO said that he had read that parts of the sea defences within the Blackpool area were having issues with the undercutting of the bottom of the seawall. He said that the design was similar to those in Wyre and asked whether this was likely to become an issue. CG replied that the design of the Blackpool defences was different to that in Wyre, where the use of groynes had prevented the large fluctuations in beach levels, and is not expected to be an issue.

- RG asked how the use of rocks to form the groynes and sea defences along the coast prevents flooding – he asked whether there was any information available to inform the public on how these structures work. CG replied that there is a lot of information available; he explained that the rock armour is used to create a headland which raises beach levels and reduces tide depth and hence overtopping of the sea defences. It also gives an added benefit of having a nice sandy beach for recreational use. Information can be found on Wikipedia.

  RG asked when the scheme is due to be completed. CG replied that the northern section is now complete, and the Cleveleys section is due to be completed in September 2026.

  RG noted that the area of useful area on the beach to allow launching and recovering of fishing boats has been restricted by the placement of rocks on the beach. He asked that CG respond to emails from the Cleveleys Boat Angling Club concerning this.

  RG asked whether the concrete layby opposite Café Cove, Cleveleys could be retained after the completion of the works, rather than it revert to grassed area. CG replied that this was possible but would require the consent from LCC (Highways).

  RG asked whether there are any contingency plans for anyone stuck in the rocks. CG replied that the Council has used similar structures for the last ten years without any incident and that rock armour has been in use for many decades. He said that the Council has been in discussion with the Coastguard and RNLI as part of the scheme, but that the risk associated with the use of rock armour was much less than other coastal issues, such as being trapped by an incoming tide or becoming stuck in soft sand.

- AA asked about the progress of the scheme in Pilling, working with local farmers to flood farmland. CG replied that this is the Our Future Coast scheme and was more about managing the land rather allowing it to flood. He confirmed that advisors from the two Rivers Trusts were working with local landowners to set up a farming cooperative to raised and resolve flooding issues.

Natural England:

No report was received from Natural England.

Wyre Rivers Trust:

No report was received from Wyre Rivers Trust.

6. **Making Space for Water Technical Group:**

PL reported that all issues being considered by the Group were included within the minutes that had been recently published and distributed to all Members.

Questions to MSfW Group:

- No issues were raised.

7. **Local Flood Action Groups:**

a) Garstang FLAG

- JS said that all issues had been raised elsewhere. He added that the visit to the development at Nateby Crossing had been useful and informative.

b) Churchtown FLAG

- Responding to the report from the EA that there was no funding for the repairs to the Garstang barrage gates for 2025/6, RW said that this was a shock to the FLAG and hoped that works would recommence soon.

- RW reported that he had recently attended a catchment partnership meeting chaired by the Wyre Rivers Trust. He had been made aware of a five-year UU programme called AMP8 and had been asked to appeal to members of the Flood Forum to suggest locations where flood water could be stored during a heavy rainfall event.

- RW reported that there had been one flood event since the last Forum, on New Year's Day – he noted that, due to work undertaken by LCC, the Avenue did not flood on this occasion. He added that there remains some flooding on Smithy Lane and this requires further investigation.

  RW reported that Ainspool Lane did flood and took around twelve hours to pump out. He noted that there is a new source of flooding, from the Ainspool watercourse, upstream of the A586 bridge. This is from a pipe which normally allows highway drainage to discharge to the watercourse. It is suspected that there is an issue with a non-return valve either being missing or stuck in the open position – he asked that this be investigated.

  Action - LCC (Highways)

- RW said that the FLAG were concerned about the level of new housing development in the area and has four questions that it would like a response to. These issues were noted and answered in the MSfW minutes (below)

  1. Are the storage capacities of attenuations and discharge details independently checked? *Details are checked by Wyre Council Engineers, LCC (for developments of 10 or more properties, the Environment Agency and UU – recommendations are made to Wyre Planning Team for consideration.*
  2. Do design details confirm means of access to systems for inspection and maintenance? *Details for large developments are generally included in design drawings. For single properties or small developments, the designs may not show specific inspection details.*

3. Are the built systems being independently checked for compliance with the designs? *All developments are checked by building inspectors for compliance with the planning permission. The building inspector may be employed by the Developer.*
4. Are enduring funding, inspection, maintenance and repair responsibilities all legally in place*? Responsibility for maintenance resides with local residents, who typically employ a management company to carry out all inspections and works.*

- RW confirmed that a meeting has been arranged with the owners of Green Wood to discuss the proposal to install a penstock in the chamber on the A586 to prevent flooding of Ainspool Lane.

- RW reported that the FLAG had intended to show the new film that they have produced at this Forum; it had been proposed that Siriol Hogg would present the film to the Forum, but she had been unable to attend this meeting – he proposed that they play this at the next Forum.

  RB raised concerns about forcing a management company to undertake works on a new development when no residents on the new site were affected. He was concerned that existing residents outside of the development could be affected by flooding issues caused by the development but that nobody would be taking action to resolve. CG said that this would then fall to the enforcement authorities to take action. PL noted that Wyre Council has details of some management companies and have got works undertaken by request.

c) St Michaels FLAG

- There was no representative from the FLAG present and no report had been received. As reported in the MSfW minutes, PL attended a meeting with the FLAG on 6 January and several issues raised there.

d) Great Eccleston FLAG

- There was no representative from the FLAG present and no report had been received.

e) Out Rawcliffe FLAG

- There was no representative from the FLAG present and no report had been received.

f) Hambleton / Stalmine FLAG

- JT said that the FLAG is continuing with its policy of continuous improvements, working with Wyre and LCC to resolve flooding issues in the village.

g) Preesall FLAG

- LR reported that there were no issues outstanding. She said that works has been undertaken to resolve the flooding issue on the east side of Sandy Lane, but there

was still no connection to the watercourse on the west side. PL said that this issue had been raised earlier in the meeting, and that he had been unable to find any connection under the road.

AA said that the pipe definitely does exist, and that he has some photographs of it somewhere. PO asked whether a dye test can be carried out to confirm a connection. PL replied that there is no connection from the new watercourse, but assuming a connection to the chamber on the grass verge, this could be checked. It would require that the abandoned vehicle on the site be removed. He agreed to look into this further.

Action - PL

h) Knott End FLAG

- There was no representative from the FLAG present. PO noted that the FLAG did not appear to exist anymore, and issues should be included within the Preesall FLAG.

i) Thornton FLAG

- There was no representative from the FLAG at the meeting – PL noted that the FLAG had sent in requests for information / works to the MSfW meeting and these are being addressed and reported within that meeting.

j) Cleveleys FLAG

- There was no representative from the FLAG present and no report had been received.

8. Communications Update:

- No report.
- PL noted that useful flooding information is available at The Flood Hub

9. Emergency Planning Update:

- AD introduced herself to the Forum. She is the Assistant Emergency Planner for Wyre Council, working on maintaining and improving the Council's emergency response to multiple incidents, including flooding.
- AD raised the issue of the community based handheld radios that provide communications communities cut off during an emergency event. This issue has been raised at previous Forum meetings, but with little interest. AD noted that two FLAGs have shown an interest this time and she would be pursuing this with them. If anyone else would be interested in the scheme they should contact her via PL.

10. Request for reports to the next Forum meeting:

- None.

11. Any Other Business:

- RG asked the EA what timescales they had for placing bids for future maintenance works, particularly related to the recent silt survey of Thornton. GK replied that bids are placed every year; it had been hoped that the survey would identify specific areas that could be targeted to have the greatest benefit from any expenditure. The bids would be made in May this year.

- RG raised concerns about the rock on the beach at Cleveleys opposite the Venue – he asked that the area be cleaned up to remove any hazard to boats on the beach. CG replied that the rock was only being stored temporarily at this location and would be moved in the next few weeks.

12. Next meeting:

- Next meeting is 12 June 2025, 1.00pm start at Wyre Civic Centre and via Microsoft Teams

Appendix A
Pre-meeting report from Environment Agency (March 2025)

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 September 2024 from the Environment Agency:

Flood Basin training dates

Garstang Flood Basin Training dates from December 2024 to February 2025:

17 December 2024
23 January 2025
26 February 2025

Catterall Flood Basin Training dates from December 2024 to February 2025:

17 December 2024
30 January 2025
26 February 2025

Maintenance Work

We are still awaiting the final confirmation of our internal maintenance programme for 25/26 and will hopefully have more details to share during the Flood Forum meeting. We are aware that there is a shift towards maintaining and operating EA owned assets and more emphasis being placed on riparian responsibility for 3rd party assets.

Work to repair the collapsing wall near Six Arches bridge in Scorton has been completed and we are shortly to start repairing a section of bank near the Inskip/Wyre confluence. Works are planned to upgrade the outfalls at Wild Boar and Yoad Pool and to repair the bank at Rivermede, St. Michaels.

Garstang update

We will shortly complete the first phase of the work to repair the east gate. This has involved improving the crane pads, so that they can support the crane necessary to remove the gate in the second phase of the work to repair the gate.

Unfortunately, we will not be carrying out the second phase of the repair this year due to challenging funding constraints. 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. The recent operation over New Year has shown that we can still store over 1,000,000m3 of flood water in the basin, for comparison, a typical flood event will see us storing around 325,000m3 of flood water. The stop logs will remain in place until the repair has been completed, and we are organising surveys on the stop logs to ensure that they are in good condition. The west gate remains operational and will be used alongside the stop logs to operate the flood storage basin. We are committed to restoring the east gate as quickly as possible.

Catterall Footbridge
Work on the new foot bridge to our control structure at Catterall flood storage basin is progressing well. The new 36m long bridge has been installed and the old timber bridge removed. We are expecting the work to be completed in April.

Project / Review updates

Hambleton Tidal Flood Risk Management Scheme (FRMS):
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 granted conditional approval by Wyre Council following the planning committee session on 4th December 2024.

The planning notice and all documents associated with the application can be viewed online here or through Wyre Council's planning portal by searching for application "23/00960/LMAJ". A printed copy of the Environmental Statement remains available for public viewing at the Shovels Inn, Hambleton. Work is continuing on our internal assurance work, providing responses to our planning conditions and developing our programme for construction to enable the scheme to progress at the earliest opportunity.

While this work is ongoing, we are continuing to work with our external stakeholders, including Natural England, the Marine Management Organisation, United Utilities and Lancashire County Council Highways, and community groups to finalise elements of the scheme that fall within their remit and direct interest.

Further information relating to the scheme is available via the scheme's FloodHub page. 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 proposed scheme at Fleetwood 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 £13M and over £7M will be funded through Government Flood Defence Grant in Aid. We have received an indicative allocation of £1.77M of Local Levy funding from the Northwest Regional Flood and Coast Committee. An Outline Business Case (OBC) for change at Fleetwood and Copse Brook was submitted and approved in May 2023, recommending the development of a comprehensive scheme to raise the standard of protection against tidal and fluvial flooding to a 0.5% AEP. Post OBC approval, the existing landowners (ABP) have entered into an agreement in principle to sell the landholding to another party (Fox Group). This has added extra complexities to scheme progression as we negotiate agreements with partners and means we are unable to progress currently with detailed design. 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.

Aside from the EA Scheme, 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 on which the new flood defence would be built upon. The Our Future Coast project has secured funding to undertake a trial of Saltmarsh Creation in this location, which will provide some further assurance that the concept can work. Engagement with the community is expected to commence from April 2025.

Further information on the scheme can be found on the flood hub