

**Wyre Flood Forum**  
**Minutes of meeting held Thursday 05 March 2026**

**PRESENT:**

**Chair**

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

**County Councillors**

Cllr Nigel Alderson (NA) LCC Councillor, Thornton & Hambleton  
Cllr Alice Jones (AJ) Fleetwood West & Cleveleys West  
Cllr David Shaw (DS) LCC Councillor, Fleetwood East

**Wyre Councillors**

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

**Parish and Town Councillors**

Phil Orme (PO) Preesall Town Council / Stalmine-with-Staynall FLAG

**Council Officers / Agency Representatives**

Daniel Archer (DA) Asset Performance Officer, Environment Agency  
Mark Cook (MC) Highways Operations Manager, Lancashire County Council  
Lewis Dobson Apprentice Engineer, Wyre Council  
Martyn Dugdale (MD) Assistant Flood Risk Management Engineer, Lancashire CC  
Ryan Hirstwood (RH) Apprentice Engineer, Wyre Council  
Pippa Hodgkins (PH) Flood Risk Officer, Environment Agency  
Paul Long (PL) Senior Engineer, Wyre Council  
Michael Roddy (MR) Drainage Technician, United Utilities

**FLAG Representatives**

Roger Weatherall (RW) Churchtown FLAG  
David Walmsley (DW) Cleveleys FLAG  
Jim Sloane (JS) Garstang FLAG  
John Thompson (JGT) Hambleton FLAG  
Ashley Anderton (AA) Preesall FLAG  
Linda Rowland (LR) Preesall FLAG  
Pamela Nickols (PN) St.Michaels FLAG  
Peter Kent (PK) White Carr Lane / Norcross resident  
Christina Preston (CP) White Carr Lane / Norcross resident  
Simon Preston (SP) White Carr Lane / Norcross resident  
Joan Stott (JSt) White Carr Lane / Norcross resident

**On TEAMS**

Cllr Jan Schofield (JS) Cleveleys South & Carleton  
Alf Whiteside (AW) Pilling FLAG

**Apologies:**

Roger Brooks	Garstang Town Council
Paul Bond	Environment Agency
George Briscoe	Planning Policy, Wyre Council
Kirsty Burrow	Natural England
Rachel Crompton	Principal Flood Risk Officer, Lancashire County Council
Andrea Deninson	Assistant Emergency Planner, Wyre Council
Graeme Kellott (GK)	Asset Performance Advisor, Environment Agency
Tom Myerscough (TM)	Wyre Rivers Trust
Johnny Philips	United Utilities
Mike Pollard	Thornton FLAG
Cllr Claire Rimmer	Preesall Ward
Cllr Collette Rushforth	Preesall Ward
Cllr Matthew Salter	LCC Councillor
Debbie Schofield	White Carr Lane / Norcross resident
Christopher Whiteley	United Utilities

**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 noted that there was a Council meeting planned for the evening and that some attendees would need to leave early. He said that he would try to get through business as quickly as possible to allow this.

Everyone introduced themselves and their roles to the meeting.

**2. Apologies:**

Apologies were noted as above.

**3. Minutes of previous meeting:**

The minutes of the meeting of 4 December 2025 were approved without amendment.

Matters arising:

• **Sunnyside Terrace, Preesall (page 1)**

DA confirmed that the EA's field team have visited the site and removed all tree debris from within the watercourse. He added that the remaining trees had been assessed and any at risk had been removed. AA said that he could not believe that all 'at risk' trees had been removed as there remained several trees that looked to be in a perilous condition, including one that is threatening to fall into his garden. DA said replied the risk was not of falling over but in blocking the watercourse. LR added that residents remained concerned that the trees would fall into their gardens and cause damage. CG said that the issue would be forwarded to the Council's Tree Office for assistance.

Action - Wyre Council

• **White Carr Lane, Thornton (page 1)**

JS said that residents on White Carr Lane, had been told by the EA that a 200m section of the watercourse opposite the properties would not now be dredged as promised as access was proving to be difficult. PL noted that a road closure has been put in place for April to undertake further works. JS replied that she was aware of this, but the latest plans did not include this section. Residents expressed their disappointment that these works were not planned. DA replied that he would discuss this with GK next week and arrange a meeting with residents to resolve any issues

• **Highway drainage, opposite Ainspool Lane, Churchtown (page 2)**

MC reported that an officer from LCC had met a representative of the FLAG on site but they had been unable to inspect the non-return valves under the bridge as water levels had been too high. It has been agreed to revisit the site once water levels have dropped.

Action - LCC (Highways)

• **White Carr Lane, Thornton (page 2)**

PL confirmed that he had spoken to the Council's road sweeping team, and they had agreed to sweep the road as requested. Residents at the meeting confirmed that this work had been undertaken.

• **Burn Drain watercourse, Thornton (page 3)**

DA confirmed that the maintenance works on Burn Drain and Springfield watercourse was complete.

- **Love Clean Streets app update (page 5)**

MC reported that he and several LCC Councillors had looked into the working of the app to see whether improvements could be made. He reported that this had been successful, but any changes are on hold while the Council introduces a new operational system. Once the new system has been introduced and operating well then the app will be looked at again. He hoped to have a further update for the Forum at the next meeting.

- **Culverts under A585 Amounderness Way (page 6)**

PL reported that he had had a site meeting with an officer from National Highways to look at the culverts under the A585 under their responsibility. He added that NH had confirmed that works were needed and would be done this year. PL said that he would monitor the site to see that the works were completed.

- **Flooding on A586 Blackpool Road, St Michaels (page 7)**

MR confirmed that the tidal flap under St Michaels Bridge had been checked and found to be in good order. The chamber in the field to the south has been checked but MR was not aware of any problems with it. It was considered that the flooding to the road is caused by the tidal flap closing due to high river levels and not allowing the road to drain.

- **Fleetwood rising main failure (page 7)**

CG reported that UU have begun works to install a new rising main from the Treatment Works at Fleetwood following two recent failures. UU have been working in Broadwater Wood, Fleetwood in preparation for the installation which is expected to be completed sometime around July 2026. This is a major construction project, but it is expected that by boring deep underground, there will be minimal disruption to residents.

RB asked whether there had been any conversations with Cardinal Allen School about possible disruption to the school fields and to pupils in the school. MR said that discussions had gone ahead, but he was not aware of any specifics. CG added that UU have erected fencing around the site to protect pupils while works are underway.

- **Highway drains, Smithy Lane, Churchtown (page 9)**

MC confirmed that the highway gullies on Smithy Lane have been cleared.

- **Nateby Crossing development, Garstang (page 9)**

PL reported that he had been in contact with the site developer and that the surface water drainage was now connected the pumping station and the attenuation pond drained to normal levels. He also said that a request had also been made for a second FLAG meeting to visit the site; he asked whether this was still wanted. Representatives from Garstang, Churchtown and St Michaels FLAGs confirmed their desire to do so. PL to arrange meeting.

**Action - PL**

- **Blocked drains on Kiln Lane, Hambleton (page 9)**

PL confirmed that he had met with representatives from Hambleton FLAG to look at flooding issues on Kiln Lane. He said that the highway drainage had been checked and found to be running fine to the watercourse. It was noted that several gullies were extremely full and these had been reported to LCC (Highways) to clear. It was also noted that the watercourse was found to be partially restricted, and the landowner had been asked to clear a section of approximately 20m. He had agreed to do this once the weather has improved and the ground around the watercourse firmed up.

- **Desilting of watercourses, Thornton (page 11)**

CG asked whether GK had contacted Thornton FLAG regarding any planned desilting works. DA replied that the EA are looking to undertake desilting works on the section of Hillylaid Pool from close to Millfield School to Belvedere Road culvert. The EA is currently awaiting prices back from their contractors to undertake the works. He said that he should be able to give an update at the next Forum as to what works the EA could get done.

#### **4. Reports from Flood Management Authorities:**

##### **Environment Agency:**

A pre-meeting update to the Forum is included as [Appendix A](#)

- DA reported that the 2026/27 Maintenance Programme for the EA field teams has been planned while the works for external contractors is awaiting confirmation that it is fully funded. He added that works are concentrating on high-risk systems – there are twelve systems within Wyre, of which eight are classed as high risk.
- DA reported that works to fix the outfall flap on Broadfleet watercourse had been postponed due to weather issues but confirmed that these works have now been rescheduled for summer 2026.
- DA reported that the doors on Mill House Pool watercourse, Cockerham were also leaking and works to repair them are planned for this summer.
- The east gate of the Garstang flood barrier is due to be repaired later this year. Works are expected to start in May/June. Initial works will include the placement of cane pads to allow access for the large crane required for the works. Once this is complete the crane will remove the gate and new hinges installed. He acknowledged that there would be some disruption, including footpath closures, but the EA will keep the public updated as the works progress.
- DA confirmed that the camera for Stanah pumping station has been installed and is now online. A similar camera for Royles Brook pumping station is on order and is to be installed by Wyre Council once received.
- PH reported that the EA has recently received guidance for new funding rules but has not yet had the opportunity to go through these. The new rules may have some impact on major projects, including the Hambleton scheme.

##### **Questions to Environment Agency:**

- PK asked whether there was an update on the header wall from the Ryscar Way development into Royles Brook on Norcross Lane. PH replied that officers from the EA have been in contact with the developer and that the case has been taken up by the enforcement team. She confirmed that the discharge into Royles Brook has not yet begun.
- JT asked whether the new funding rules would have an impact on the Hambleton scheme when the current Planning Consent runs out in 2027. PH confirmed that the EA are aware of the time constraints and would look to ensure that the works have started before the deadline.

- RB raised his concerns about the delays to the repair to the east gate of the Garstang Flood Basin; he asked whether the Basin had been operated this year. DA replied that the Basin had been operated on three or four occasions and there had been no issues. RB noted that there have reports of individuals jumping off the bridge and parts of the infrastructure in the area and asked whether there was sufficient protection and signage in place. DA replied that both the EA and UU have reviewed the safety of the structures following the last major incident and installed 1.8m high fencing to prevent access.

### **Lancashire County Council:**

#### **Highways:**

MC gave a summary of the works undertaken by LCC (Highways)

- LCC are continuing to clear blocked gullies as reported on the 'Love Clean Streets' app.
- Park Lane, Preesall – a CCTV survey of the drainage has been undertaken which has confirmed significant root incursion that is blocking the pipes. LCC are awaiting a response from an external contractor on the cost and timescale to remove this.
- Cleaning of highway gullies raised by Hambleton FLAG (including Kiln Lane, Market Street, Stoney Lane and Sandy Lane) are scheduled to be undertaken soon.

#### **Flood Risk Management:**

- MD said that there no updates to report from the Flood Risk Management Team.

#### **Questions to LCC:**

- PO expressed his thanks that works to resolve the flooding on Park Lane are in place as this has been going on for some time.
- PO noted that there has been repeated flooding on Sandy Lane, Preesall close to the Co-op where previously there hadn't been any. He said that workman from LCC had been in the area and he asked what had been noted. MC was not aware of any works at this location but agreed to find out and report back any findings.

#### **Action - MC**

- JT reiterated his concerns from the last Forum about the 'Love Clean Streets' - he said that Hambleton FLAG have recently reported a number of blocked gullies but while the gulley cleaner had attended, not all the reported gullies had been cleared, and several had been missed. MC replied that further works are planned for Hambleton (see above) and that any gullies that have been reported will be cleared.
- PO asked whether there had been any progress in repairing the railings along the sea front at Knott End. He said that this is a long-standing issue, but no works have been done to date. MC said that he would look into this matter and report back.

#### **Action - MC**

- PO asked whether the gulley cleaners undertook works on all gullies or just those in built up areas. He said that residents of Old Toms Lane, Stalmine, have reported that gulley wagons and road sweepers do not appear to venture far down the road and there have been a few incidents of flooding of the highway.

## Wyre Council:

- PL said that things have been relatively quiet for this time of year and there were no issues of major flooding within the borough since the last meeting.
- PL reported that he had been in contact with Hambleton FLAG to look at minor but persistent flooding on Kiln Lane. A number of blocked gullies had been noted, and these have been reported to LCC to clear. In addition, the outfall pipe to the watercourse was checked and found to be in good condition. Some minor restriction of the watercourse was noted and the riparian owner agreed to undertake these later in the year, once ground conditions have improved sufficiently for plant to access the watercourse.
- PL confirmed that he had met with a representative of National Highways to look at the condition of the culverted watercourses under A585 Amounderness Way. It was noted that works needed to be done to ensure that these were clear and NH would look to get this done. PL would continue to monitor to ensure that the works were undertaken.
- PL reported that works had not yet started on clearing the watercourse adjacent to Morrisons, Cleveleys. PL to continue to monitor the works.
- PL reported that investigative works have been undertaken in the garden of a property on Hollins Lane, Forton and a misconnection noted. Subsequent works to install a chamber over the pipe had been abandoned due to heavy rainfall. This work has been rescheduled for later in the month.
- PL confirmed that he had spoken with McDermott Homes regarding the hydrobrakes on the Meadow Gate development but there were no updates on the works. He promised to continue to chase this matter. JS noted that the construction works are expected to be completed later this year and expressed concern that the hydrobrakes would not be completed before the developer left the site. SP added that the attenuation ponds have not been cleaned as promised and were in a very poor and overgrown condition. PL replied that MC Dermott Homes had promised that these would be cleared as part of the annual maintenance works, but he had not yet checked that this had been done. SP confirmed that it has not.
- CG gave an update on the [Our Future Coast](#) project; he reported that the project has been nominated for a national award and was down to the last three projects in the iNetwork Partner Excellence Award 2026. The award is all about partnership working and the scheme has around 24 partners throughout the whole of the northwest. Additionally, the project team have been working with Pilling farmers to look at local issues. The scheme has also been looking at the benefits of salt marshes and sand dunes, and these are now being fed into national policies.
- CG reported that Wyre has also been working on the Wyre Beach Management Scheme and works are planned to be completed by the end of April. He said that the benefits of the scheme are already making a difference with beach levels already rising. Additional works to widen Rossall Promenade and reinstate Jubilee Gardens are also planned for this year.

### Questions to Wyre Council:

- JT said that many of the issues experienced were related to poor maintenance, such as blocked gullies, poorly maintained watercourses or jammed flap valves. He said that many of these issues were simple and asked why they could not be addressed routinely. He added that FLAG members had recently cleared the tops of highway gullies which had become covered with leaves and not taking the water; when swept clean the gullies operated as normal. He also noted that there were several gullies on Kiln Lane that were covered over by grass verges and these were not draining as they should. PL said that he would discuss this with MC so that the hidden gullies could be exposed.

#### **Action - PL/MC**

- PO noted that Preesall had been included with the early stages of the Our Future Coast Scheme and asked whether it was still being noted that whatever works were undertaken in Pilling would have a knock-on effect on Preesall. CG confirmed that the scheme had originally started in Preesall and there were common issues in both Pilling and Preesall. PO asked whether any farmers had taken up the offer to become in the project. RH replied that the last meeting had 50-60 farmers present.

### United Utilities:

- MR reported that there were no issues to report this time and work was very much as normal.

### Questions to United Utilities:

- PO asked whether there was any update on the surface water discharges from Rydal Road and Grange Road, Knott End onto the beach. This is not currently a problem but the flap valves on the beach are constantly being restricted by rising beaches. MR replied that he is aware that the two outfalls have issues, but a long-term solution would be too expensive. PO asked whether UU were being proactive in ensuring that the valves remained working; MR said that they were being inspected every six months. He agreed that this isn't a long-term fix, but UU would continue to monitor the valves until such time that a solution is available
- PL asked for an update on the reported blockage of the surface water drain on Shirley Heights, Poulton. MR confirmed that there are six outfalls on Shirley Heights – five belong to UU and one is private. The blockage is on the private line. As the issue is private this will need to be resolved by the riparian owners.
- PL for an update on the UU drain on Salt Marsh Lane, Hambleton. MR confirmed that the drain had been jetted and inspected from the cul-de-sac to the outfall to the watercourse and running clear. MR also confirmed that he had inspected the outfall on the salt marsh, as requested by the FLAG, and the tidal flap was found to be in good order. JT expressed concern about the drain from Salt Marsh Lane as he considered it to be full of silt from the lakes and not flowing. MR to provide evidence from the CCTV survey to show that the pipe is clear

#### **Action - UU**

- JT said that he was concerned that there are a significant number of flap valves discharging into the river and asked whether there was a regular inspection of them to ensure that they were operating correctly. MR said that valves were inspected annually but issues could occur between inspections. He added that UU are looking to replace old or damaged valves, but this is a slow process.
- JT said that at a previous Forum meeting it had been suggested that UU was awash with money, and it had been suggested that somebody from the finance attend the Forum to explain why little of it seemed to be spend in this area. MR confirmed that UU had been given additional sums, but the majority was to reduce spills into rivers and the sea. CG noted that UU are looking at their next [Water Resources Management Plan \(WRMP\) for 2030](#); he said that any issues could be raised with UU for inclusion in the Plan. He noted that works to separate surface water from the combined system at Churchtown is one scheme that is being looked at locally.
- PL noted that, despite some heavy rainfall events, there had been no notable flooding on Stricklands Lane, Carr Lane or Carr End Lane, Stalmine as in previous events. He asked whether UU had undertaken any recent works to reduce the passing volumes in the pumping stations in that area. MR said that the stations were still passing maximum flows and there had been no changes to storage volumes.

### **Natural England:**

Report issued by the Catchment Sensitive Farming Advisor.

### **CSF Update**

CSF continues to work with farmers in the Wyre in relation to air and water quality and identifying improvements on farm in relation to these.

We have organised a number of events over the last 6 months on topics including The Phosphate Cycle, Integrated Pest Management and Maize Management (with representatives from the Maize Growers' Association) all of which have been attended by farmers from within the Wyre catchment area.

The Maize Management Day focused on cultivation methods, nutrient management and associated risks from growing maize and how to mitigate against these. This included a demonstration of the [ALERT tool](#) - Experience and how to use this to look at permanent water, surface water flows and gradient to utilise strategies, including under-sowing and variety identification and selection to reduce the risk of run off and soil erosion from maize fields.

We continue to offer advice visits to farms within the catchment to identify ways to improve air and water quality, including raising awareness of Farming Rules for Water and the necessity for soil testing and nutrient management planning for compliance.

We have also hosted Wyre farmers at nutrient management planning clinics where they have had a NMP created (by a FACTS qualified advisor) for their holding based on recent soil testing results to enhance their knowledge of nutrient management on their holding. This looked at phosphate, potassium, magnesium, organic matter and pH levels from soil

testing of individual fields, together with nutrient applications and usage and provided fertiliser or liming recommendations specific to the field and its planned usage to ensure appropriate application of nutrients based on soil indices for these and crop need.

There have recently been a number of announcements in relation to forthcoming scheme offers in regard to SFI and CGS further detail on these is available from the DEFRA blog - [NFU26: how we're building farming resilience – The Farming Blog](#).

In addition, CSF responds to and undertakes wider advice visits on farms in relation to support or identify works to mitigate against both diffuse and point source pollution, supporting capital grant scheme items where appropriate to do so and maximising the environmental benefit of CSF support on farms. For example, Rainwater Harvesting options are becoming of interest to farms in the area as these can reduce dependence of mains supply or boreholes and they also remove and store rainwater on yards for times of need which in turn reduces volumes of rainwater discharged into clean water systems and streams during periods of significant rainfall.

Further detail on the work of CSF is now available via the Farming Advice Service webpage - [Catchment Sensitive Farming - Our advice | Farming Advice Service](#)

### **Wyre Rivers Trust:**

TM had sent in his apologies for the Flood Forum. There was no further update.

### **5. Making Space for Water Technical Group:**

- CG reported that the MSfW meeting was held on 19 February and minutes had been distributed to the Forum and no issues were raised.
- RB noted that the minutes reported that the attenuation scheme on Sunnyside Terrace was being held up by the refusal of the local landowner to allow his land to be used for the scheme. He asked whether there is an alternative plan. PL replied that the ponds could be repositioned on neighbouring land but would not be as effective. He added that he would work with TM to resolve any issues on this scheme. AA said that it seemed that developers were able to get what they wanted on the promise of other works but then stalled the works before walking away. PL said that in this case (and with the hydrobrakes on White Carr Lane) the Council is looking to carry out works on developer's land and with their goodwill. There is no obligation on the developers to allow the Council to do the works.

AA said that the current system, whereby Wyre Council provides a pump to safeguard properties during heavy or prolonged rainfall, works well and there has not been any significant flooding for several years. CG replied that this is a reactive measure while constructing the attenuation ponds would be a permanent solution and did not rely on action to reduce the risk of flooding.

- CP said that she lives close to the housing development off White Carr Lane and the noise, traffic and vibration from the site is very difficult to live with. NA asked why Wyre Council gives consent for a development to go ahead but ignores complaints from existing residents when problems arise, such as damage from piling works. He

considered that the council should help the residents resolve such problems. CG said that the proper course of action was to take this up with residents' insurance; NA said that he had done this, but his insurance company said that he was not insured for this. CG suggested that this be raised with the Insurance Ombudsman.

## **6. Local Flood Action Groups:**

### **i) Garstang FLAG**

JS said that there no new issues to be raised. He noted the new fencing that had been erected by the EA and UU close to the Garstang flood barrier and expressed his hope that this will be sufficient to deter people from jumping into the river. CG said that this will be monitored over the summer.

### **ii) Churchtown FLAG**

RW reported that the main concern related to the drainage on Smithy Lane, formerly part of the old A6. Four of the highway gullies connect to the new (1927) drainage system while a further four discharge to the older system. Recently there has been an issue with the four gullies being blocked. He asked whether LCC would consider discharging these gullies to the pipe on the south side of the road which discharge upstream of Kirkland Bridge. PL agreed that this would be a good idea but queried whether the road was adopted. (EDIT: it is confirmed that it is adopted) MC and PL to look into this.

**Action - MC / PL**

### **iii) St Michaels FLAG**

PN thanked everyone for welcoming her back to the Forum after several years away and wanted to say what a unique and innovative event the Forum was, working with local representatives and flood agencies to resolve local issues.

She said that there were a number of sewerage issues within St Michaels, but there were a few issues that she wished to raise as of particular concern. The first concerned outlet 82 opposite Catterall Farm on Rawcliffe Road. She said that UU have a duty to declare the number of spills into the River Wyre, but these are not published in the national figures. MR confirmed that all spills were being recorded and reported annually; he was not aware of spills that were not reported. PN said that the FLAG have been monitoring spills and those for this outlet had not been included. MR said that he would look into this matter.

**Action - MR**

The second issue of concern relates to the capacity of the proposed retention tank in St.Michaels. MR said that this could be discussed at the planned meeting on 23 March. PN said that the FLAG wished to know how quickly the tank could be emptied after a heavy rainfall event and whether there will sufficient excess capacity at Churchtown works to accept this additional volume. Without excess capacity the system will remain full and the tank no longer valid as a means of reducing the load on the system. MR replied that the capacity of the tank is based on modelling of the

weather conditions. PN said that it would be helpful for the FLAG to review the modelling; MR said that this should be available at the proposed meeting.

Additionally, the FLAG has concerns about the quality of the pipe – the FLAG has recorded at least 17 breaks in the pipe. MR replied that the rising main will be replaced but he was not aware of the timeline for any replacement; he could provide a replacement date at this time.

**iv) Great Ecclestone FLAG**

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

**v) Out Rawcliffe FLAG**

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

**vi) Pilling FLAG**

There was no report from the FLAG.

**vii) Preesall FLAG**

PO said that all issues have been previously discussed or detailed in the Making Space for Water meeting.

**viii) Hambleton / Stalmine FLAG**

JT said that he had issues with items in the MSfW minutes. He said that some of these have already been discussed and he would speak with PL regarding the remainder.

JT asked that LCC (Highways) inspect the very poor temporary pothole repairs as these are failing and debris is filling the gullies and resulting in localised flooding. MC replied that LCC carry out emergency pothole repairs (within 4 hours) by the inhouse team and less critical repairs (between five and twenty days) which are undertaken by nominated contractor. He said that some of these are temporary repairs and will be properly repaired at a later date.

**ix) Thornton FLAG**

There was no representative from the FLAG at the minute. A report has been issued to the Making Space for Water meeting, and all have been addressed in the minutes of that meeting.

**x) Cleveleys FLAG**

DW reported that the two main winter threats (tidal flooding and heavy rainfall) never fully materialised in Cleveleys. He said that tidal flooding had been limited to the

south of the country while the three main rainfall events (25mm or more of rain in a 24-hour period) had been dealt with by the drainage system.

DW noted that Balfour Beatty are expecting to complete works on the beach at Cleveleys ahead of schedule which will mean that their heavy plant will be off the beach ahead of the summer season. CG confirmed that works on the beach will be completed by the end of April.

## **7. Communications Update:**

There was no update on communication issues. Information on flooding issues, natural flood management and Our Future Coast is available at [The Flood Hub](#).

## **8. Emergency Planning Update:**

PL reported that he has received an update from the Emergency Planning Team – details are shown below.

- **Councillors' Roles in Flooding Presentation**

A briefing will be delivered to Full Council this evening to strengthen councillors' understanding of their responsibilities and the support available during flooding incidents.

- **New "Are You Prepared for Flooding?" Leaflet**

A refreshed public-facing leaflet has been produced. It will be shared with FLAG groups, distributed to residents, and uploaded to the council website to support community preparedness.

- **Emergency Rest Centre Plan Review**

The Wyre Emergency Rest Centre Plan has undergone a full review and is currently out for partner consultation. We aim for the updated plan to go live by the end of the month. This is particularly relevant to FLAGs, as residents may require temporary shelter during a significant flooding or severe weather event.

- **Social Media Communications Campaign**

A campaign has been run across council channels to highlight available flooding resources and promote the use of **The Flood Hub**.

- **LRF Multi-Agency Flood Training - 28 April 2026**

A full multi-agency flood response training day is scheduled for 28 April 2026 at Marine Hall, designed to strengthen the response capability of Wyre officers and partner organisations during flooding incidents.

## **9. Request for reports to the next Forum meeting:**

- CG said that it would be helpful to have future reports from UU's financial team on future planned works, and from the council's Planning Team.

## **10. Any Other Business:**

- PK said that there is an issue with loose kerb stones on White Carr Lane. These were installed to allow water to shed off the highway into Royles Brook. He wished to raise concern that some of these are loose and require refixing.

### **Action - LCC (Highways)**

- PO said that the Flood Forum has been held for about fifteen years and there have been some phenomenal successes. He said that many other councils are envious of the Forum and several other councils have attended to see how it works. The proposed reorganisation of councils in the area is bound to have an effect on Wyre Council, and he hoped that the good work of the Forum would continue in the new authority, whatever form it took. AA reiterated that there are many members of the Forum that have vast knowledge of flooding and drainage issues within the borough and he would like to see this continue and not be lost.

## **11. Next meeting:**

- Next meeting is 11 June 2026, 1.00pm start at Wyre Civic Centre and via Microsoft Teams
- Future meetings – proposed meeting dates:
  - 10 September 2026
  - 10 December 2026

## Appendix A

### **Pre-meeting report from Environment Agency (March 2026)**

#### **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 2025 from the Environment Agency:**

##### **Flood Basin training dates:**

Garstang:

16 December 2025

22 January 2026

25 February 2026

Catterall:

16 December 2025

14 January 2026

25 February 2026

##### **Maintenance Work & Repairs:**

Our maintenance programme, focusing on high-risk systems, is complete and the 26/27 programme is largely un-changed from this year's.

For more info on EA asset maintenance please contact your local team on [CMBLNC-AP@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:CMBLNC-AP@environment-agency.gov.uk).

This year we have managed to carry out several important repairs to flood defences in the area, including Six Arches, Rawcliffe Road, Wyre Bank Farm, Yoad Pool and Wild Boar outfalls. The new footbridge at Catterall flood storage basin has been finished and will secure access to the control structure for many years to come.

Work to repair the damaged outfall doors at Broadfleet, Pilling, have been paused until we have better weather conditions; we hope this work will be resumed in Summer along with repairs to Millhouse outfall, which is also leaking.

##### **Garstang update:**

The west gate remains operational and will remain in use alongside the stop logs in the east gate. Operation of the Garstang Basin over the New Year has shown that we can still store over 1,000,000m<sup>3</sup> of flood water in the basin. For comparison, a typical flood event will see us storing around 325,000m<sup>3</sup> of flood water. The stop logs will remain in place until the repair to the east gate has been completed.

The first phase of the work to repair the east gate has been completed. We are planning the full repair to begin in May/June 2026. This will require footpath closures like the previous phase of work, and we apologise for any inconvenience that these will cause. We understand that this remains a cause of concern to the local community, and we are committed to restoring the east gate as quickly as possible.

## **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 in December 2024, and the planning notice and all documents associated with the application can be viewed through [Wyre Council's planning portal](#) by searching for application "23/00960/LMAJ".

As per our December 2025 update, construction on the project is unlikely to commence before early 2027. While this is our current forecast it is subject to change, work is continuing to enable the scheme to progress at the earliest opportunity.

We are continuing to work with our external stakeholders to resolve matters required to enable construction and will continue to keep parties informed as to our delivery plans.

Further information relating to the scheme is available via the scheme's Flood Hub 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](mailto: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. 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 has commenced and is being led by the Our Future Coast Project. It is anticipated the project will be delivered in Summer 2026 with further phases in subsequent years, subject to funding.

Further information on the scheme can be found on the [flood hub](#).

## Appendix B –

### Useful Websites

- [flood hub](#)

### Useful Documents

- [new National Technical Standards for Sustainable Drainage Systems \(SuDS\). Released 19 June 2025. Press Release: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-drainage-standards-tackle-pollution-in-englands-communities>](#)
- [Churchtown Flood Action Group case study](#)

### Useful Videos

Churchtown FLAG films.

- [Churchtown Flood Action Storm Desmond and following summer 2015](#)
- [Power of Partnership](#)

Other videos

- [Ever wondered where the rain goes? Sustainable drainage animation - YouTube](#)
- [What are Sustainable Drainage Systems \(or SuDS\) and how can they stop flooding? | MarshallsTV](#)
- [Groundwater Flooding \(letstalkgroundwaterflooding.org\)](#)
- *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](#)*