

Wyre Flood Forum

Minutes of meeting held Thursday 10 September 2026

PRESENT:

Chair

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

Cllr Alice Jones (AJ)	Fleetwood West & Cleveleys West
Cllr Jan Schofield (JS)	Cleveleys South & Carleton

Wyre Councillors

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

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

Mark Cook (MC)	Highways Operations Manager, Lancashire County Council
Adam Costello (AC)	Flood Risk Advisor, Flood & Coastal Management, EA
Andrea Deninson (AD)	Senior Emergency Planner, Wyre Council
Lewis Dobson (LD)	Apprentice Engineer, Wyre Council
Ryan Hirstwood (RH)	Apprentice Engineer, Wyre Council
Paul Long (PL)	Senior Engineer, Wyre Council
Robert Taylor (RT)	Local Authority Capital Project Advisor - Lancashire Area, EA
Rob Stanger (RS)	Flood & Coastal Risk Management Advisor, Environment Agency

FLAG Representatives

Ashley Anderton (AA)	Preesall FLAG
Alison Anderton	Preesall FLAG
Peter Kent (PK)	White Carr Lane / Norcross resident
Christina Preston (CPr)	White Carr Lane / Norcross resident
Simon Preston (SP)	White Carr Lane / Norcross resident
Joan Stott (JSt)	White Carr Lane / Norcross resident
Jim Sloane (JS)	Garstang FLAG
Roger Weatherall (RWe)	Churchtown FLAG
David Walmsley (DW)	Cleveleys FLAG

On TEAMS

David Astell (DA)	Great Eccleston FLAG
Rachel Crompton (RC)	Principal Flood Risk Officer, Lancashire County Council
Charlie Pass (CP)	Conservation and Engagement Officer, Wyre Rivers Trust
Michael Roddy (MR)	Drainage Performance Engineer, United Utilities
Alf Whiteside (AWa)	Pilling FLAG
Rebecca Williams (RW)	Risk Analyst, United Utilities

Apologies:

Daniel Archer	Asset Performance Team, Environment Agency
Roger Brooks	Garstang Town Council
Cllr Dulcie Atkins	Garstang Ward
Paul Bond	FCRM Advisor – Flood Resilience, Environment Agency
Kirsty Burrow	Catchment Sensitive Farming Officer, Natural England
Lorah Cheyne	Flood Risk Coordinator, Lancashire County Council
Martyn Dugdale	Assistant Flood Risk Management Engineer, Lancashire CC
Graeme Kellott (GK)	Asset Performance Advisor, Environment Agency
Tom Myerscough (TM)	General Manager, Wyre Rivers Trust
Cllr Julie Robinson	Hambleton
Linda Rowland	Preesall FLAG
Cllr Collette Rushforth	Preesall Ward
Christopher Whiteley	Drainage Delivery Technician, 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.

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 11 June 2026 were approved without amendment.

Matters arising:

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

RT said that he was standing in for GK for this meeting; although he had been briefed on issues within Wyre, he did not have an update on this issue. He would ask GK to provide one at a later date. AA said that he was not aware that any of the tree debris had been removed from the watercourse.

Action - GK

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

RT confirmed that the EA are still planning to remove a number of trees adjacent the watercourse on White Carr Lane to allow access for their plant to clean out the watercourse. He noted that works are now planned for early next year with the desilting works to the watercourse still planned for Spring 2027.

- **Highway drainage, opposite Ainspool Lane, Churchtown (page 1)**

PL reported that the inspection of the non-return valves under the bridge had not yet been undertaken.

Action - PL/RWe/LCC (Highways)

- **Nateby Crossing development, Garstang (page 1)**

PL reported that a site visit was held on 23 July and was well attended by FLAG members and Councillors. He said that the visit had been well received and had proved useful in answering questions raised by FLAGs with regard to drainage of the site and downstream discharges. Churchtown FLAG had raised concerns about who would be responsible for future SuDS maintenance and suggested that this is a weak point in the planning system. They have suggested that UU be made responsible for SuDS maintenance. RW replied that UU did not currently have a mechanism for taking on private SuDS.

PO said that this is totally contrary to what was proposed a few years back; CG agreed, he said that there was a move to have UU adopt SuDS and it was disappointing if the policy has changed.

RWe added that the current system of residents getting together and employing a maintenance company to do the work was not practical and pointed out that several developers have gone bust leaving residents to organise the employment of a maintenance company themselves.

RW agreed to look further into the matter and report back to the Forum.

AC noted that there has been a recent government [consultation](#) to tackle “fleecehold” developments and address estate management.

Action - RW

- **Sea defence handrailing, Knott End (page 2)**

MC confirmed that he had spoken with PO on this matter and agreed that an inspection was required to establish exactly what was required.

Action - MC

- **Blocked highway gullies, Hambleton (page 2)**

MC confirmed that the gulley wagon had been in Hambleton over the last couple of days clearing blocked gullies that had been reported by the FLAG. These included gullies and connecting pipes on Kiln Lane, sandy Lane, Stoney Lane, Mill Lane and others. He noted that the gulley at the junction of Sandy Lane and Stoney Lane was noted to be raised too high and would be lowered as part of future works.

- **Sunnyside Terrace, Preesall (page 2)**

PL confirmed that the issue had been discussed at the Making Space for Water meeting and is minuted there. He noted that discussions with the landowner are still going on but have stalled.

AA said that, despite there having been no major flooding event in the last few years, the problem of flooding from upstream of Sunnyside Terrace remained. He said that, but for Wyre Council providing a pump and residents standing outside in atrocious weather to defend properties, the problem could have been worse over the last few years. He noted that plans for local government restructuring were in progress and nobody had yet been able to confirm what would happen to the pumps as part of the restructuring. He asked what would happen to the funding for the attenuation ponds if the work was not completed by end of the financial year. He asked that the finance be carried forward if nothing could be finalised by the end of the year.

CG noted that properties on Sunnyside Terrace have been included in an application to the Environment Agency for individual property flood resilience measures.

- **Carlisle Grove, Thornton (page 5)**

MC confirmed that the reported blocked gullies have now been cleared.

- **A586 Great Eccleston Bypass (page 5)**

DA reported that the drainage had not yet been cleared and there remained flooding to the cycle path. MC agreed to look into this.

Action - MC

- **Hollins Lane, Forton (page 6)**

PL reported that the garden of the property adjacent to the new development site was dug up last week to locate the culverted watercourse and determine that the site is corrected properly. He reported that the investigation had confirmed that the site is flooding the gardens and that there was no evidence that the site had been connected to the culvert. He added that he has requested photos of any works to try and identify any issues. A report will be raised confirming all findings.

- **Meadow Gate development, White Carr Lane, Thornton (page 6)**

PL confirmed that an order was raised on 13 August for the replacement of the existing hydrobrake on Meadow Gate with a smaller one, to reduce the total surface water discharge from the development site. PL added that he had further requested that the attenuation pond be dug out as it is in a poor state. PL to monitor and report back any progress

PK asked who would be responsible for the future maintenance of the attenuation ponds once the Developer left the site at the end of this year. PL replied that this would be a management company employed on behalf of the residents.

CPr added that the developer of the Ryscar development in Blackpool has gone bust and Blackpool Council have taken on its responsibilities. She said the surface water discharge into Royles Brook on White Carr Lane and the planned development of the new Marks & Spencer store on Norcross Lane just add to the load on the network and an increased risk of flooding to the properties on White Carr Lane. PL noted that the M&S store discharge had been considered as part of the Meadow Gate development and wouldn't add any additional load to the system. Additionally, the discharge from the Ryscar site, of 13 l/s was significantly offset by reducing the discharge rate from the Meadow Gate site from 355 l/s to 200 l/s. PK noted that the outfall from the Ryscar site into Royles Brook was still not approved – PL confirmed that the EA were looking into this. AC said that he would chase this up and report back.

Action - AC

- **Springfield Pumping Station, Cala Gran, Fleetwood (page 6)**

CG reported that Wyre Council has been in discussion with Haven to have them adopt the pumping station that operates on their site. He said that the main issue is the rising main and who would be responsible for its future maintenance. He confirmed that the EA were aware of this and would conduct an inspection in the coming weeks.

- **Gaulters Lane PROW, Preesall (page 6)**

PL confirmed that he had reported the removal of the bridge over the watercourse between Gaulters Lane and Bourbles Lane to LCC on 2 June to investigate.

AA said that the last Preesall FLAG meeting had discussed that the watercourse to the north of Gaulters Lane had not been cleaned out; he reported that this had now been cleared by the farmer. PL added that there is a concern, raised by Cllr Rushforth, that a local landowner is filling in part of the watercourse network and raising land levels – this had not yet been inspected to confirm. PO said that there are not sufficient officers in the PROW office at LCC to deal with the number of issues raised and asked the County Councillors present to relay this back to LCC.

- **Wyre pumping stations renewal (page 6)**

CG reported that works to renew all Wyre owned surface water pumping stations has started. Works are underway on replacing the pumps and associated control gear at Royles Brook pumping station, with the stations on New Lane planned for later this year.

AA asked whether the pumps were being upgraded to pump more water or being kept as current. CG replied that the pump sizes are restricted by the physical constraints of the stations and pump sizes are the same as previous; however, the new pumps would be more efficient than the old ones and would move slightly higher volumes than previous.

RB said that it was important that the transfer of Stanah pumping station to the EA was completed soon and asked what was the current status of the transfer. PL noted that a meeting is planned with the EA for 17 September to show the Field Team the station and to go through the operational procedure. RT said that the transfer was still with the EA Legal Team and a meeting to discuss this is planned for later in the month.

4. Reports from Flood Management Authorities:

Environment Agency:

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

- RT confirmed the following works:

- Repairs to the outfall flap on Broadfleet watercourse, Pilling, are now complete and work has begun on repairing the tidal doors on Mill House watercourse, Cockerham. Additionally, the EA is undertaking some silt flushing at Broadfleet.

CG asked whether the EA informed local farmers of the works. RT replied that the EA has an officer who is in contact with the Pilling Farmers Group, who remain generally very supportive. He added that work has begun with Natural England to ease the permitting process required for the EA to undertake any emergency or routine works.

- Works to repair the east gate of the Garstang flood barrier are in progress; the gate has now been removed and taken away for repair. Reinstallation of the gate may be delayed until the new year as works are heavily dependent on wind speeds. In the meantime, west gate remains operational.
- AC reported that the Fleetwood scheme is currently being reviewed with the new owners, Fox Group, with the objective to agree the works by the end of the financial year. The works has been resubmitted for funding, and it is hoped to have approval for funding by the end of October.
- AC confirmed that Wyre Council has submitted an application for Property Flood Resilience funding; this is a pot of money for improving property flood resilience by installing flood doors, flood gates or other similar measures to individual properties. Wyre Council has submitted a bid to undertake initial property surveys which will be considered by the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC) in October.

Questions to Environment Agency:

- RB asked why the reinstallation of the Garstang east gate was expected to be further delayed until next year. RT replied that it is expected that the average wind speed over the winter period would be too high to safely crane in the new gate. The gate weighs approximately 18 tonnes with a large surface area and would be extremely difficult to manoeuvre in strong winds. RB asked whether the reason for the failure of the hinge been determined so that the risk of a repeat failure could be minimised. RT replied that the hinge was deformed and had damaged the concrete to which it was fixed. It is likely that the gate was lifting at a skewed angle which suggests an obstruction to one side of the gate during operation.

CG noted that the west gate is of a similar construction and there is a risk that a similar failure could happen to that one. RT replied that divers had inspected the west gate and were satisfied that it remained in good order.

RW noted that the screen at the bottom of the gate is pushed in at the side next to the piston and the gate itself had a large kink in it. He considered that this was due to the force in the piston and suggested that this could be avoided in future by putting a control on the piston so that the pressure could be dropped if an obstruction between the gate and the wall occurred. RT replied that the gate is manually operated and there are two operatives on site to monitor it. Additionally, there is an automatic cut off to prevent an obstruction blocking the gate closure. He conceded that it looks like one side of the gate may have been obstructed and this caused the gate to skew during lifting – he would ask GK to report back any findings to the Forum.

Lancashire County Council:

Highways:

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

- The cyclic gully cleaning programmes A (12-month cleaning cycle) and C (24-month cleaning cycle) are continuing. Additionally, reactive clearing of gulleys (for example, those reported through Love Clean Streets) are also being completed.
- Blackpool Old Road, Carleton – a CCTV survey has been undertaken and works planned for repair.
- Calder House Lane, Bowgreave – a CCTV survey has been undertaken, and relining of the pipe is planned.
- Whenever a severe weather event is forecast, it is planned to put a pallet of sandbags outside the entrance to the Singleton works depot that members of the public can access should they need some. This is a pilot scheme to see whether this is a viable option to help residents protect their properties. CG noted that Wyre Council has tried a similar exercise in the past but found that some residents were taking large numbers for themselves and they very soon disappeared.

RB commented that the main consideration during a flooding event is the protection of critical infrastructure and the use of council sandbags should be for protection of pumping stations, telecommunications and electrical substations. He noted that long term forecasts are for heavy rainfall and the clearing of road gullies in advance is critical.

Flood Risk Management:

RC gave a summary of issues being dealt with by the Flood Risk Management team.

- Flooding incidents since previous meeting (11 June 2026): None reported in Wyre district as of this afternoon (8 September). Elsewhere across the county, there was a significant flooding event in the Lancaster district area on 20 August, followed by a number of isolated flooding incidents under further heavy rain over the Bank Holiday weekend 29 – 31 August.
- We have completed 6 flood investigations triggered by our Section 19 duty, with reports published on our website here: [Flood investigations - Lancashire County Council](#). We are working on a further 7 investigations, planning to complete them and publish later this year (always subject to any new incidents which might require our team's resources).
- Wyre BC planners have consulted us on the surface water flood risk implications of 8 major planning applications since June.
- We've supported Wyre Council's investigations in the Hollins Lane area, aiming to determine whether a developer has or hasn't delivered their commitments under the surface water drainage conditions of his planning permission.

Wyre Council:

- PL said that, with conditions being dry and with no new flooding incidents, Wyre have been concentrating on issues previously raised by the Forum – these are reported in the minutes of the Making Space for Water meeting, and most have already been discussed today.
- CG gave an update on the Wyre Beach Management Scheme - he confirmed that the beach works are now complete and works are now focussed on improvement works to Rossall Promenade. Phase 1 of the works to reinstate Jubilee Gardens is underway while consultation with the public on Phase 2 of the scheme is ongoing.
- Wyre Council continues to work with other agencies on the [Our Future Coast project](#) which is expected to be completed in March 2027. Wyre has applied for funding [Coastal Adaptation Pilot \(CAPs\) funding](#) to help communities within Wyre manage long-term erosion and climate change risks, particularly where the Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) proposes no active intervention or mandatory monitoring. CG added that a decision on whether Wyre will receive funding for this will be announced in October.

Questions to Wyre Council:

- RB noted that there is currently a review of the SMP in progress, he asked whether there were any plans to downgrade maintenance of any areas within Wyre. CG replied that DEFRA policy is refurbishment of existing assets rather building new. Wyre is in a good position having undertaken works to replace its aging defences and having applied for money to help adapt to climate change.

United Utilities:

- MR reported that there were no issues to report this time and work was very much business as normal.
- RW said that UU are working on opportunities to remove rainwater and surface water from the public sewer systems to ease potential for foul sewer flooding.
- RW confirmed that there are three major UU schemes ongoing within the Wyre area, including upgrading St.Michaels pumping station, adding additional storage to the Skippool pumping station and the repairs to the Fleetwood outfall pipe.

Questions to United Utilities:

- PL said that St.Michaels FLAG have raised again the issue of flooding to the A586 on the roundabout opposite Hall Lane. He asked that UU look to resolve the repeated flooding. MR confirmed that the pipe was partially restricted by siltation and he would arrange for these to be cleared in the next couple of weeks.

Action - MR

Natural England:

Catchment Sensitive Farming update:

CSF continues to work with farmers across the Wyre catchment in relation to air quality and water quality and quantity, identifying and prioritising the key improvements on farm which will have the greatest impact for the environment.

We continue to offer advice visits to farms and promote topics such as good soil management and improved grazing practices to protect or improve soil condition, improving water infiltration and better resilience to erosion or drought. We are also promoting a better understanding of soil need, through soil sampling, and nutrient management planning, including raising awareness of Farming Rules for Water and how to ensure compliance.

Where relevant farms may be able to go on to access grant funding to support key actions identified alongside their Catchment Sensitive Farming Adviser, through the Defra Capital Grants Scheme or SFI, such as rainwater harvesting and water storage, managing water flow pathways through the farmyard, and items which can hold back or slow the flow of water, such as leaky dams or carefully placed boundaries. The second round of SFI is expected to open at the end of September, and we are expecting a Capital Grant Scheme to be available in 2027. Due to the high demands on our time, we are asking farmers to talk to us now for advice and support, and we will prioritise requests based on their likely impacts. However, it is worth considering that many recommended actions are changes in management rather than capital expenditure, and both can have benefits in terms of cost savings, resilience, and ease of day to day management.

Further detail on the work of CSF is available via the Farming Advice Service webpage - [Catchment Sensitive Farming - Our advice | Farming Advice Service](#). Updates on scheme availability and offers are via the DEFRA farming blog [Farming – Updates from Defra's Farming and Countryside Team](#).

Wyre Rivers Trust:

CP gave a brief update on works being undertaken by the Trust.

- The Trust is planning a number of Natural Flood Management works (including hedge and tree planting projects) this Autumn and Winter; CP said that this is a great opportunity for members to get involved in planting in the Garstang and Abbeystead areas. Dates are not yet available, but if anyone is interested then they should contact CP directly at the Rivers Trust or contact can be arranged through PL at Wyre Council.
- As part of the Trust's role in raising awareness of flooding throughout the Wyre catchment, CP will be engaging with schools to inform young people about flooding and natural flood management. He added that if anyone was interested in participating, particularly from the Garstang or Churchtown areas, then they should get in touch. He said that dates for these visits would be 28 September, 5 October and 9 October, should anyone wish to contribute.
- The delivery of the [Wyre Catchment Resilience Project](#) that the Trust is involved with is almost complete at Myerscough College Farms. There are several ponds to create and on hedge to plant. The Trust has been involved with this scheme for the last 18 months and it is good to see it approaching completion.
- At Ainspool there is some subsoiling to be completed, a wildflower meadow to be seeded and some herbal ley fields to be planted. These are expected to begin this September
- No updates are available about the proposed wetland behind Sunnyside Terrace, Preesall.
- Works on the proposed wetland by Millfield School, Thornton are waiting on the signing of a lease agreement. It is unclear at this moment what the timescale is.
- The Trust is currently applying for £3 million for additional Natural Flood Management (NFM) works in the upper catchment area around Scorton, Trough of Bowland and Over Wyresdale Valley. Further, discussions are ongoing about additional works for NFM works at Myerscough College farm to reduce the impact of flooding at Churchtown and St Michaels.

Questions to Wyre Rivers Trust:

- AA asked about the financing of the Sunnyside Terraces works and whether the money will be rolled over for another 12 months if work did not start within this financial year. The money is planned to be available until April 2027; he wondered if this could be moved into the following year. CP was not aware of this but would make enquiries.

5. Making Space for Water Technical Group:

- PL reported that the MSfW meeting was held on 27 August and minutes had been distributed to the Forum. He noted that most of the actions have already been mentioned in the meeting.

Questions to MSfW Group:

- RB noted that works on Norman Close were still outstanding and asked whether this could be chased up. PL replied that Morrisons are still planning to undertake the works this year but were looking for a suitable contractor. PL confirmed that the blockage to the watercourse is causing an issue and was affecting UU's attenuation on Swan Drive; he agreed to chase this up further with Morrisons.
- RB asked whether there was an update from National Highways as to whether the culverts under the A585 Amounderness Way were being cleaned regularly as promised. PL replied that he had written to NH but had yet to receive a response. RB asked that this be chased up further.
- RB asked whether there was an update on Albert terrace, Calder Vale. MC confirmed that this had been dealt with. PL noted that a separate sewer issue at the location had been inspected by UU and the resident informed of the defect that needed repair.

6. Local Flood Action Groups:

i) Garstang FLAG

- JS said that there no new issues to be raised.
- PL confirmed that he had spoken with GK about a site visit to the works on the Garstang barrage gate/ He will forward details to FLAGs to attend once a date has been confirmed.
- RT reported that there are a number of trees in the river close to the barrage and these were collecting a lot of debris – he confirmed that the EA did not intend to do anything with this until the repairs to the gate have been completed. He added that this was not currently causing any problems.

ii) Churchtown FLAG

- RW reported that there had been no flooding since the last Forum meeting. He noted that the highway gullies on the A6 north of The Avenue appeared to be blocked again and asked that these be cleared.
- RW asked that the flap valve under Ainspool Bridge has still not been inspected and asked that this be done as soon as practicable.
- RW reported that the proposed installation of a penstock gate from Green Wood was still no closer to being installed as the wood owner is still refusing permission to issue it. PL reported that he has written again to the owner but had yet to receive a reply.
- RW reported that the FLAG have around 20 sandbag stores around the village to help respond to flooding events – he noted that, in addition to the bags, a small supply of plastic sheeting is necessary to provide better flood protection as the bags are not waterproof.
- RW reiterated his earlier concerns that maintenance of SuDS should be left to a national body, such as UU, to ensure that the works were undertaken – he remained concerned that leaving maintenance to residential groups was a flawed idea.

- RW confirmed that an application had been made by Churchtown residents for the Property Flood Resilience grants and he awaited a response from the EA in October.

iii) St Michaels FLAG

- There was no representative from the FLAG present, and no report had been received.
- There was no representative from the FLAG present. PL reiterated the concerns raised by the FLAG regarding the flooding on A586 roundabout. He also noted concerns raised about a loose manhole cover on the verge opposite the Church which has been passed to UU and LCC (Highways)

iv) Great Eccleston FLAG

- DA reported that the flood exercise with British Red Cross planned for August did not go ahead. He added that if any other FLAG were interested in a similar event he had details from the previous exercise and would be happy to discuss this.
- DA said that he has received an email from PL concerning the surface water outfall from Raikes Road. The drain discharges through part of UU overflow pipe and UU are looking to remove it from their pipe and install a dedicated outfall into the River Wyre. He noted that the ownership of the land was in dispute following the recent death of the previous owner.
- DA noted that he had undertaken a recent survey of communication cabinets in the village to highlight vulnerable communication infrastructure that could be affected by flooding. He said the FLAG uses the [ERAL radio system](#) for communication where normal communications are affected by flooding or similar issues. CG asked that DA forward a copy of his survey for other FLAGs to use as a template.

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

- AA said that all issues have been covered in the meeting and there were no other outstanding matters.
- AA said that the FLAG maintains a supply of sandbags on Cart Gate – he asked whether there was a list where sandbags are stored for other FLAGs to make use of. CG said that this was a great idea and he would look into this.
- PO reported that the footpath from Rosslyn Ave to Beechfield Ave, Preesall has been flooded during the last couple of heavy rainfall events; he said that the watercourse

was once again full of weeds and debris. He also noted that the footpath is breaking up and asked that this be looked into as a priority.

- PO reported that the footpath on Middle Dyke north of Pilling Lane has been fenced off and restricted access to the watercourse for maintenance. He queried whether it was the EA's or the landowner's responsibility to maintain the watercourse as access was now restricted.

viii) Hambleton / Stalmine FLAG

- There was no representative from the Hambleton FLAG at the meeting, and no report had been received.
- PO reported that there remained an issue with the highway gullies on Stricklands Lane constantly being blocked by mud from the care home development. MC agreed to take a look at this.

Action - LCC (Highways)

ix) Thornton FLAG

- There was no representative from the FLAG at the meeting, and no report had been received.
- CPr reported that residents on White Carr Lane remain concerned about the desilting works still to be completed by the EA. She said that the time for the works to be undertaken has been put back to next year and residents were concerned that their properties may be at increased risk of flooding until the works were completed. RT confirmed that the works are expected to be undertaken by early 2027 at the latest. PK noted that there is a chain-link fence by the side of the watercourse – RT replied that the workmen would work around this issue and it wouldn't be a major issue.

x) Cleveleys FLAG

- DW said that weather conditions have been very dry nationally and Cleveleys had received only 65% of its normal summer rain. He noted that during the summer period the normal source of flooding was flash flooding from heavy rainfall or thunderstorm; he noted that there had been a heavy rainfall on 18 June but there had been no flooding reported.
- Concerns are for future flooding events as a consequence of El Nino which is reported to be the strongest on record and could bring flooding during the winter.

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:

AD gave an update on emergency planning works undertaken by Wyre Council

1. Severe Weather and Flood Preparedness

Following recent national discussions regarding the potential for an increased risk of severe weather and flooding later in the year, we will be undertaking a review of our severe weather and flood preparedness arrangements later this month. This work will include:

- Reviewing our severe weather and flood response procedures.
- Refreshing and validating response arrangements for both normal office hours and out-of-hours incidents.
- Inspecting flood response equipment and replenishing supplies where required.
- Providing refresher training and awareness sessions for relevant officers.
- Reviewing lessons identified from recent incidents and discussing how we would respond to future severe weather and flooding events.

As part of this work, we are also reviewing and maintaining our flood mitigation assets, including:

- Ongoing upgrade works to the Royles Brook Pump Station.
- Inspection, testing, and maintenance of the Council's mobile pumping resources.
- Reviewing arrangements associated with our temporary pumping plans at Sunnyside and Churchtown.

These measures help ensure our equipment and infrastructure remain operational and ready for deployment should it be required.

It may also be useful to remind members that, while Lancashire County Council maintains stocks of sandbags at a number of its depots, Wyre Council does not hold large quantities of sandbags for distribution to residents. The Council maintains a limited stock to help protect critical infrastructure and key assets where necessary. Residents and businesses should therefore continue to make their own preparations for flooding where possible.

I would also like to thank David and the Great Eccleston Flood Action Group for sharing information on the additional resilience measures and equipment available within the community. This includes local resources such as emergency communications equipment, radios and communications masts, this information is useful for updating the Flood Summary Sheets.

2. Lancashire Resilience Forum Flood Plan

The Lancashire Resilience Forum (LRF) Flood Plan has now been issued for consultation. The plan is due for formal review in November. Wyre Council Officers will be reviewing the document and providing comments through the consultation process. The plan continues to provide the framework for how responding agencies work together during significant flood events across Lancashire.

3. Multi-Agency Flood Training

The Lancashire Resilience Forum is currently planning its next multi-agency flood training event for partners. This year's exercise will be hosted by Hyndburn Borough Council. Several Wyre Council officers will be attending to support continued learning and partnership working. These events provide a valuable opportunity to share experiences, develop relationships, and improve understanding of each organisation's role during flood incident

9. Request for reports to the next Forum meeting:

- CG suggested that we hold a discussion on SuDS and their future maintenance.
- PL noted that the [National Planning Policy Framework](#) has been recently updated and members might be interested in noting the update, particularly where it relates to the maintenance of SuDS.

10. Any Other Business:

- Nothing raised.

11. Next meeting:

- Next meeting is 17 December 2026, 1.00pm start at Wyre Civic Centre and via Microsoft Teams
- Future meetings – proposed meeting dates:
 - 11 March 2027
 - 10 June 2027

Appendix A

Pre-meeting report from Environment Agency (September 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 June 2026 from the Environment Agency:

Flood Basin training dates:

Garstang Flood Basin training dates from June 2026:

18 June 2026

29 July 2026 (6 monthly reservoir inspection)

26 August 2026

Catterall Flood Basin training dates from June 2026:

18 June 2026

22 July 2026 (6 monthly reservoir inspection)

26 August 2026

Maintenance Work & Repairs:

Our maintenance programme, focusing on high-risk systems, is underway. For more info on EA asset maintenance please contact your local team on CMBLNC-AP@environment-agency.gov.uk.

Work to replace the damaged outfall doors at Broadfleet, Pilling has been completed and the work at Millhouse is progressing.

Garstang update:

The east gate has been removed from the channel and will be undergoing remedial work to repair. Currently work is on-going confirming the design for the concrete demolition and repair. The Autumn weather has flooded the working area twice already and has delayed progress. We are still working on getting the gate repaired and reinstalled, however, if the weather continues as expected, this will be increasingly difficult to accomplish, and it may be necessary to delay the reinstallation until next summer.

The west gate remains operational and will remain in use alongside the stop logs in the east gate. Operation of the Garstang Basin 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 to the east gate has been completed.

Project / Review updates

Hambleton Tidal Flood Risk Management Scheme (FRMS):

A combination of new and raised defences between Kiln Lane, north of Wardleys Pool, and the end of the existing embankment near Peg's Pool which will provide a consistent standard of protection against a flood event with a 0.5% chance of occurring in any one year.

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 online [here](#) or through Wyre Council's planning portal by searching for application "23/00960/LMAJ".

Work is continuing to enable the scheme to progress at the earliest opportunity, with the target of commencing construction in 2027. The project team are continuing to work with our external stakeholders to support the start of 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 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 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 sold the landholding to another party (Fox Group). This has added extra complexities to scheme progression as we negotiate agreements with partners. Later this year, we will be looking to rescope the OBC and preferred option. Dependent on funding we will progress with detailed design from March 2027.

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.

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

Appendix B – Useful Information

Useful Websites

- [flood hub](#)

FLAG websites

[Great Eccleston FLAG website - Great Eccleston Flood Group](#)

FLAG Facebook pages

[Churchtown FLAG](#)

[Preesall Flood Action Group | Facebook](#)

[Thornton FLAG](#)

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](#)*

Flood Insurance

FloodRe is a joint initiative between the Government and Insurers. Its aim is to make the flood cover part of household insurance policies more affordable.

[Flood Re | National Flood Forum](#)