



Wyre Making Space for Water Meeting

Thursday 30 May 2019

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of meeting 21 February 2019
4. Flooding 22/23 November 2017 update
 - a) Section 19 Reports
 - b) Wyre Council flooding reports
5. Churchtown walkover
6. Issues from Flood Forum and FLAGS
7. Issues and Actions
8. New issues
9. Any Other Business
 - a) Wyre Borough Council
 - b) United Utilities
 - c) Environment Agency
 - d) LCC Highway Authority
 - e) LCC (Lead Local Flood Authority)
10. Next meeting
 - Proposed 29 August 2019



WYRE MAKING SPACE FOR WATER TECHNICAL GROUP

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 30 May 2019 at Wyre Civic Centre.

Present:

Paul Long (PL)	Wyre Council
Paul Bond (PB)	Environment Agency (EA)
Graeme Kelly (GK)	Environment Agency
Sarah Ulyatt (SU)	Environment Agency
Alistair Graham (AG)	Lancashire County Council (Flood Risk Management)
Nigel Morris (NM)	Lancashire County Council (Flood Risk Management)
Mark Cook (MC)	Lancashire County Council (Highways)
Katie Duffy (KD)	United Utilities
Tom Myerscough (TM)	Wyre Rivers Trust

Apologies:

Carl Green	Wyre Council
Nicola Beale	Environment Agency
Rob Wilson	Lancashire County Council (Flood Risk Management)
Mark O'Donnell	Lancashire County Council (Highways)

ACTION:

1 INTRODUCTIONS:

PL welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 APOLOGIES:

Apologies were noted as above.

3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

The minutes of the MSfW meeting of 21 February 2019 were agreed.

Matters Arising:

3.1 Matters arising are covered within meeting agenda.

4 FLOODING 22/23 NOVEMBER 2017 UPDATE

a) Section 19 Reports

4.1 NM confirmed that LCC have a dedicated officer working on the S19 reports and these would be available very soon.

LCC

4.2 KD confirmed that UU's report into the flooding has been completed. The report is to be published as part of Blackpool's S19 report. Draft report is located at

<https://democracy.blackpool.gov.uk/documents/s33044/ITEM%206%20-%20Flood%20Risk%20Management%20-%20App%20A%20-%2022%20Nov%20Sect%2019%20Report.pdf>

b) Wyre Council Flooding Reports

4.3 PL confirmed that Wyre Council have been investigating each of the main areas affected by the flooding, separate to the LCC S19 report. He reported that investigation work has been undertaken on the private culverted watercourses off Meadows Ave, Thornton. A report on the findings would be added to the report for this area and would be made available once completed.

WC

4.4 School Road.

AG confirmed that LCC have not served notice on Network Rail to clear the watercourse to the rear of School Road. He was aware that Network Rail have inspected the area and is awaiting their report back on when the works will be undertaken.

LCC

4.5 MC reported that LCC Highways have completed the installation of additional highway drainage on the A586 at Churchtown.

He added that the flap valves to the main river Ainspool watercourse had been inspected and appeared to be operating correctly.

5 CHURCHTOWN WALKOVER

5.1 PB noted that representatives from the Churchtown FLAG and all flood management agencies had completed a walkover of the local river defences, including an inspection of the new bund, on 21 May. The construction is now complete and is due to be officially opened by the FLAG on 22 August.

5.2 PB confirmed that the Environmental Permits for Churchtown bund had been amended with respect to landowner maintenance responsibility and that these permits had been sent out to respective permit holders.

5.3 TM noted that he has studied the Ainspool in detail and noted that historically it took a different route, discharging to the River Wyre to the north-west of St. Michaels near Catterall Farm. He suggested that the watercourse should be redirected back to its original route to further protect Churchtown.

6 ISSUES FROM FLOOD FORUM AND FLAGS

6.1 Issues raised by Churchtown FLAG

- a) **Pumping Plan** – *Following the setting up of the first emergency pumping point on Ainspool Lane in Churchtown, CFLAG members have been unable to obtain permission for discharge into the fields to the immediate west of the Ainspool Brook (the second outfall listed in the Pumping Plan, the Ainspool basin itself being the first). The **Pumping Plan needs revision and more research** by higher authority (WBC?) to either obtain permission or find an alternative on the northern side of the A596. In any case, the provision of emergency ramps to allow pumping across the A586 should be included in the Plan.*

The comments were noted; Wyre Council will look into finding an alternate outfall and update the Churchtown Pumping Plan accordingly.

WC

- b) **Attenuation Tanks for Kepple Lane Housing Estate** – *Increasing run-off discharge rates at this location affect Churchtown and everyone downstream, so we are interested in the **ability to inspect and desilt the attenuation storage pipes, and who with the equipment, manpower and funds is responsible** for doing this work in the future. Although this information was requested in our questions to the Dec 2018 Forum, we still have not seen any details, which should have been documented before the Links Housing Estate was approved. Although these are specific questions about this particular site, the same assurances are needed for every new development in the country.*

SUDS are required on all new developments of ten or more dwellings. Maintenance of SUDS infrastructure (including attenuation tanks) remains the responsibility of the Developer and/or the new owners of the properties. In practice maintenance is undertaken by a specialist SUDS management company, normally appointed by the Developer, with residents paying an annual maintenance fee.

- c) **Surface Water Gullies on A6** – *From the BP garage northwards, many of the gullies are not taking the surface water with the result that the run-off accumulates in a widening stream in front of the kerb-line until the camber carries it across the carriageway. It appears that **some surface water pipes are restricted and need cleaning.***

The highway drains on the A6 and A586 have been recently updated and cleaned; this issue should now be resolved. Any further issues should be reported directly to LCC Highways.

- d) **Repeated Flooding in Ainspool Lane** – This arises from (a) run-off from the A586 being unable to discharge into the Ainspool Brook once the water level rises in the Ainspool channel, closing the flap valve at the discharge point next to Ainspool Bridge (**LCC problem**), and (b) when flood water stored in the Ainspool channel flows under a head of pressure through sand lenses beneath the new flood embankment built in the 1980s and emerges in the field to the south of the Ainspool and runs into the gardens and houses into Ainspool Lane (**EA Problem**). This has been the subject of three EA commissioned reports, the last one by Mott MacDonald recently released with several recommendations provided to overcome this cause of flooding. We would like to see the actual **results showing depths, locations and thickness of sand lenses found**, to understand the extent of any remedial works. The cost of the three studies to date likely exceeds the cost of sorting it out. Meanwhile **owing to both these problems, it's the residents who suffer**, being flooded and/or being stranded in their homes 11 times since 1990.

The flap valves discharging surface water from the A586 have been inspected and are in good working order.

Nikki Beale from the EA has arranged a meeting with Churchtown FLAG and LCC to discuss the issue of sand lenses.

EA / LCC
FLAG

- e) **Telemeter at Kirkland Bridge** – What is the AOD level of the zero on the “ruler” of the new permanent telemeter station recently installed next to Kirkland Bridge? EA as well as Churchtown **need this to relate river levels to known critical flood trigger levels**. We assume that these readings will be used routinely in the flood modelling used to inform the barrier operators at Catterall and Garstang Barrages.

EA would look to consider installing a staff gauge at Kirkland Bridge following feedback from the May 2019 walkover.

EA

- f) **Self-Sown Trees on River Bank** – The banks of the River Wyre between Garstang and St Michaels have many self-sown trees that without attention, fall into the river with the potential to obstruct flow and cause blockages. An effort was made by EA to trim back trees close to Churchtown, but away from the village, the tree problem is still evident. CFLAG has contacts with Myerscough College where tree management trainees could possibly be used again to **help EA clear a backlog of river bank tree trimming**.

The EA will remove any fallen trees or debris from the river or any enmained watercourse as required. Any blockages should be reported directly to them.

TM said that the trees in the area between Churchtown and Garstang provide valuable habitat for aquatic and terrestrial species. WRT recommend that trees which have fallen into the river are retained in situ and are tethered to the bank to provide valuable in river habitat for aquatic species.

Neither the EA nor Wyre Rivers Trust recommend that this work is undertaken by Myerscough College.

6.2 Issues raised by Thornton FLAG

- a) Surface water issues with the Fleetwood Road North/ Bourne Way areas.

Very recently one of our wardens who lives local to this area walked the length of Bourne Road and whilst 4 or 5 road gullies were clear the remainder are completely blocked with mud. The natural gradient of this road runs west towards the junction with Fleetwood Road North and therefore results in surface water running down to this junction often resulting in a large pool of water in the road.

Q. Have the rainwater gullies from Hawley Gardens been connected into the gullies on Bourne road and thereafter flow to Fleetwood Rd North.

The surface water drainage system on Hawley Gardens is split into three separate legs. Drains on Honey Moor Drive, Peace Place and Mallowdale discharge to the drainage system on Fleetwood Road North and hence to the watercourse on the north side of Bourne Road; All other drainage discharges, through one of two pipes, directly to the watercourse.

Q. Do the gullies on Bourne Road and Hawley Gardens connect into the Springfield Brook system which is on the north side of Bourne Way?

To Springfield Brook watercourse on the north side of Bourne Road.

- b) We are aware that individual blocked gullies should be reported via the LCC website, but there is an urgent need for the gullies to be cleared of debris along the whole length of Bourne Way and Bourne Road and along Fleetwood Road North in a northerly direction from West Drive to the entrance of Bourne Mowers. Only when this work has been completed satisfactorily can anyone determine whether a more serious problem exists under the road surface.

Noted. LCC (Highways) to investigate.

LCC
(H/Wys)

In the minutes recently sent out by Carole there was mention regarding the flap valve having issues in this area. Where is this flap valve and where does it flow to? I believe the topic was from LCC.

Springfield Brook watercourse to be checked for any flaps on each of the surface water discharge points.

LCC /
WBC

- c) Q. Is there any update regarding the report into the condition of Culverts as per the supplied list from our group?

The culvert list is being updated to reflect works undertaken by all the flood management authorities to ensure that they provide the maximum flow during a flood event. The culvert list is still being worked on but will be a live document, maintained by Wyre Council, to show what works are planned or have been undertaken.

- d) Q. There is a surface water main which runs down Skippool Road and along Tarn Road through to School Road and we believe it leads into the Hillylaid Pool system near 104A School Road.

Has this main ever been checked for silting and blockages? There are always issues at the corner of Tarn Road and Skippool Road in heavy rain conditions and we were wondering if this could be a contributing factor?

The main was inspected by UU following the flooding of 22 Nov 2017 and cleared of siltation. A further inspection of the pipe adjacent to 104a School Road was undertaken this year which found the culvert approximately a third full – UU to clear. (See MSfW minutes from 21 February 2019, section 4.4)

UU

Q. We have been informed that Network Rail have been to survey the dyke behind the houses on School Road and that their report has been handed to LCC. Could you confirm that this is the case and is it possible to see what has been included in this report? This obviously raises questions regarding what is needed to be done and by whom and when.

We have been told of two occasions recently where workers from Network Rail have been unable to gain access to the line at the New Lane Crossing due to the line being fenced off and locked with padlock and chain by the local rail group. There needs to be some communication between these two groups as it could have a negative effect and cause delays on any future work which is necessary in the area. Is it possible for someone to give the contact details to both groups so they can have a compromised solution to this issue?

LCC is aware that Network Rail has undertaken an inspection of the watercourse behind School Road, Thornton, but has yet to receive a report detailing what works are required and when these are likely to be undertaken. LCC will continue to liaise with NR to get these works completed at the earliest opportunity.

LCC

- e) Q. This is a procedural question regarding the HASSRA playing fields on Anchorsholme Lane East.

Our group was asked to investigate the area along Anchorsholme Lane East by members of the club and also CC Alf Clempson.

We found that the dyke on the south side of the Lane was getting choked with weed and that this was on their land. The dyke also leads onto Marsh farm where it ultimately joins with Royles Brook. This short section is blocked where it joins into the Royles Brook system. The Royles Brook system has been cleared through Marsh Farm by the EA.

Having done our investigation work and taken photos etc we would like to know what is the next step.

Assuming it's a riparian responsibility who would notify the club and the owners of Marsh Farm?

We would like to put a report on our Facebook Page that the issue has been investigated and that those who have a responsibility to do the work have been informed.

I don't believe it comes under the duties of local flood groups to inform people if riparian ownership is the issue as eventually there could be enforcement action taken if deemed necessary.

The grounds are maintained by a management company called Engie. Wyre Council has contacted the company on a number of occasions to ensure that the watercourse along Anchorsholme Lane East (which takes surface water from a large residential area around the grounds) is maintained in good working condition. Engie were contacted by telephone on 6 June and reminded of their obligation to maintain the watercourse – a programme of works is awaited.

- f) Q. There is still the outstanding issue of the plastic cover which was placed over the manhole with a missing cover just off Woodlands Avenue Thornton near No 7. The cover which someone has dropped over is very lightweight and whilst it carries pedestrian weight it is easily kicked from covering the hole and on a dark night is extremely dangerous. The yellow cover has stamped on it the words “Not for Road Use. Must be bolted down.”

We are aware that it's probably not a Wyre Council Issue but in my day a simple chequer plate cover could easily be fabricated and dropped into position as a temporary measure. What do you think?

The missing cover was replaced on 6 June.

7 ISSUES AND ACTIONS

- 7.1 The new Issues and Actions list is attached at Appendix 1.

8 NEW ISSUES

- 8.1 No new issues were raised.

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- 9.1 The Environment Agency are arranging a Community Drop-in Event for residents in Hambleton on Thursday 20th June 2019 to update residents on the proposed tidal flood risk management scheme and show the changes that have been made to the designs from previous feedback.

The event will be held at Hambleton Village Hall and run between 2pm and 6.30pm.

10 NEXT MEETING:

- 10.1 The next meeting is scheduled for:

Thursday 29 August 2019 - 10am at Wyre Civic Centre