



Wyre Flood Forum
Minutes of meeting held Thursday 11 September 2025

PRESENT:

Civic Centre:

Chair

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

Parish and Town Councillors

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

Council Officers / Agency Representatives

Daniel Archer (DA)	Asset Performance Team, Environment Agency
Mark Cook (MC)	Highways Operations Manager, Lancashire County Council
Andrea Deninson (AD)	Assistant Emergency Planner, Wyre Council
Lewis Dobson	Apprentice Engineer, Wyre Council
Martyn Dugdale (MD)	Assistant Flood Risk Management Engineer, Lancashire CC
Fiona Duke (FD)	Area Flood Risk Manager (Lancashire), Environment Agency
Pippa Hodgkins (PH)	Flood Risk Officer, Environment Agency
Paul Long (PL)	Senior Engineer, Wyre Council
Michael Roddy (MR)	Drainage Technician, United Utilities

FLAG Representatives

Ashley Anderton (AA)	Preesall FLAG
Linda Rowland (LR)	Preesall FLAG
Jim Sloane (JS)	Garstang FLAG
John Thompson (JT)	Hambleton FLAG
David Walmsley (DW)	Cleveleys FLAG
Roger Weatherall (RW)	Churchtown FLAG)

Others

Peter Kent (PK)	White Carr Lane / Norcross resident
Christina Preston (CP)	White Carr Lane / Norcross resident
Simon Preston (SP)	White Carr Lane / Norcross resident
Barry Stott (BS)	White Carr Lane / Norcross resident
Joan Stott (JSt)	White Carr Lane / Norcross resident

Apologies:

David Astall

Cllr Mary Belshaw

Cllr Roger Berry

John Bracken (JB)

George Briscoe

Roger Brooks

Rachel Crompton

Ryan Hirstwood

Graeme Kellott

Mike Pollard

Tom Myerscough (TM)

Debbie Schofield

Great Ecclestone FLAG

Mount Ward

Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio Holder

Churchtown FLAG

Planning Policy, Wyre Council

Garstang Town Council

Principal Flood Risk Officer, Lancashire County Council

Apprentice Engineer, Wyre Council

Asset Performance Advisor, Environment Agency

Thornton FLAG

Wyre Rivers Trust

White Carr Lane / Norcross resident

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 explained that, due to a number of members needing to leave early today the Agenda would be changed slightly and reports from FLAGs would be taken early.

2. Apologies:

Apologies were noted as above.

3. Minutes of previous meeting:

The minutes of the meeting of 12 June 2025 were approved without amendment.

Matters arising:

- **Green Lane watercourse, Preesall (page 1)** – DA reported that the EA's Field Team would be undertaking works in Green Lane and the surrounding areas starting this week. AA confirmed that operatives had arrived on site that morning to start works.
- **Sunnyside Terrace, Preesall (page 1)** – DA confirmed that the Field Team would look to remove the tree stumps in the watercourse as part of their maintenance works. He added that should the Team be unable to remove them (due to size and/or weight) then the EA would pass this back to the landowner to remove.

PO noted that the landowner is seen by local residents to be treating this critical watercourse with contempt and said that it was vital that he receive a bill for any costs incurred by the EA in removing his rubbish from the watercourse.

LR added that there is concern among residents that the remainder of the trees are at risk of falling and people and properties are at risk of injury or damage. CG asked that the EA report back on what, if any, action they take to remove the debris and any discussion with the landowner regarding future maintenance of the remaining trees.

Action - EA

- **White Carr Lane, Thornton (page 1)** – DA confirmed MC confirmed that the EA have undertaken desilting works on the section of Royles Brook watercourse running alongside White Carr Lane, Thornton. Most of the watercourse has been dug out with the exception of a small section at the Blackpool end which needs to be manually cleaned due to poor access. JSt added that the section of watercourse around Warren Drive had also not been cleared. DA replied that the EA were waiting for a survey report for this section of watercourse to determine whether the silt was contaminated; this determined whether or not the silt had to be removed from site.

DA further confirmed that works were planned further downstream, by King George's Playing Fields to desilt part of the watercourse downstream of Royles Brook pumping station. He confirmed that works to remove a blockage in this area have already been undertaken.

MC confirmed that LCC have cleaned out the culverts along White Carr Lane and removed around 4 tonnes of debris including a mattress, building materials and asbestos sheeting. PK noted that the culvert under Norcross Lane had not been included in the works and asked whether it would be included. MC replied that this had been inadvertently omitted from the works order, but he assured residents that this would be done.

- **Willowgrove Park, Preesall (Page 2)** – PL reported that desilting works had been completed on the sections of watercourse surrounding the Park, including the disposal of a significant volume of fly tipping which included sofas, green waste and building materials. The works were funded by the caravan site.

PL reported that he has been in contact with the owners of the next downstream sections to have these cleaned so that the full length of watercourse would now flow. The owners have agreed to undertake the works in the coming weeks – PL to update the Forum on any progress.

Action - PL

- **Highway drainage, opposite Ainspool Lane, Churchtown (page 2)** – MC reported that the inspection of the non-return valve under the bridge has not yet been looked at but will be addressed soon.

Action - LCC (Highways)

- **Rosemount Ave. development, Preesall (page 7)** – PL reported that he not yet visited the site to check on works being undertaken by the Developer; he would look to visit soon.

Action - PL

- **Pumping Station, Derby Crescent, Inskip (page 7)** – PL confirmed that this was still outstanding – he noted that the case concerned foul drainage that was maintained by UU in Preston and did not specifically apply to the Forum. He said that he would continue to chase this with UU Preston.

Action - PL

4. Local Flood Action Groups:

a) Churchtown FLAG

- RW gave an update of issues affecting the Churchtown area. He said that the key concern for the Group at the moment remained the condition of the Garstang barrage gate which affects everywhere downstream of Garstang. He noted that there have been previous failures of the gates and raised his concern that should there be an issue with the western gate then the EA would have difficulty in operating the flood basin at Garstang.
- Other issues raised concerned the proposal to block off excess surface water runoff from Green Wood, for which the FLAG is still awaiting consent from the

landowner to install and the replacement of the flap valve under the Ainspool Bridge (see above).

- RW noted that the flooding issues at the junction of the A586 (The Avenue) and the A6 appear to have stopped since works were completed by LCC and CJ Jetz last year. He said that the drainage around this area appeared to be a mystery and repeated his request for a copy of the report of the works undertaken to be provided. PL said that he thought that this had been provided but would chase it again with LCC. RW also noted that the flooding issues on Old Smithy Lane also appear to have receded – PL reported that LCC had recently cleared the gullies on the north side of the road following JB's request at the last Forum and suggested that this had been the reason for the improvement.
- CG reported that he had been in contact with Siroil Hogg, former Vice Chair of the Churchtown FLAG, about a video that the FLAG has put together of their work and the work of the Flood Forum. He hopes to show the video to Forum members before the next meeting in December.
- FD provided a response to the concern raised by Churchtown FLAG about the Garstang barrage gate; she said that an updated programme has been provided within the meeting notes (see [Appendix A](#)) – works are scheduled to begin on 1 June 2026 with the gate being removed for repair in mid-June before being replaced and tested by around 22 September. The works, including returning the site to previous conditions, is expected to be completed by 12 November.

b) Cleveleys FLAG

- DW reported that the weather in June and July had been notably wetter than average with August being very dry. There had been no incidents to report this summer, although he did note that a warning was currently in force for high tides and strong winds along the Cleveleys coast.

c) Garstang FLAG

- JS said that there were no issues to report this time. He added that the FLAG supported the concerns of Churchtown FLAG that the Garstang barrage gate be repaired as quickly as possible to reduce the risk of flooding to properties downstream.

d) Great Ecclestone FLAG

- There was no representative from the FLAG present. The FLAG had confirmed that there were no issues to report.

e) Hambleton / Stalmine FLAG

- JT reported that, due to works carried out by the flood authorities and others, there has been a notable improvement in conditions and no flooding issues to report. This is particularly noticeable on Bull Park Lane, Sandy Lane and Church Lane.

- JT noted that the Issues & Actions log has a long-standing issue at 24/03 from January 2024 to check the private culvert under Broadpool Lane. He asked whether there was any progress on this. PL replied that works to inspect the main culverted watercourse running through Hambleton had been undertaken circa 2023 including the checking and repairs to the sections from Broadpool Lane to Wardleys watercourse and on Pauls Land and Sandy Lane. The section between Sandy Lane and no.4 Broadpool Lane had not been undertaken at the time. He added that there were no concerns about this section, and it appeared to be operating normally; the item remained on the list as it completed the survey of the whole system.
- JT raised an issue of sewage from the caravan site on Ghants Lane discharging into the public right of way to the rear of the site. PL confirmed that he was not aware of such an incident but would look into it.

Action - PL

- PO reported no issues from Stalmine, although the FLAG are keen to see that the drains on Carr End Lane work correctly this winter following the recent housing development.
- PO asked whether an inspection had been carried out on the attenuation tanks on Lingley Grange to check that they were operating correctly. PL confirmed that the tanks had not been installed on the site and that instead the Developer had installed oversized pipes to provide the required attenuation. PL confirmed that he had not been made aware of the change but did not have any concern about it as the required attenuation has been provided.
- PO asked how the new development on Stricklands Lane was planning to dispose of surface water – PL replied that the surface water would be attenuated and would discharge to a private culvert on the opposite side of Stricklands Lane and then down to the main watercourse, in much the same way that Lingley Grange did. He added that a condition had been put in the planning that required the Developer to ensure that the culvert was in a good and working condition to prevent any flooding issues due to poor maintenance.

f) Out Rawcliffe FLAG

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

g) Pilling FLAG

- There was no representative from the FLAG present, and no report had been received.
- PO asked for an update on the Our Future Coast scheme and discharge of water through the seawall at Pilling. CG replied that Wyre Council is working with the Parish Council and local farmers to reduce water that has to be discharged to watercourses and the sea by draining more to ground. PO asked whether the

benefits of reducing discharges would benefit Preesall and other upstream communities. CG said that there is a good farming group in Pilling, and they are working to get more water into the aquifers and into the ground – the more that could be discharged to the ground the better the benefits for those upstream. He added that works by Wyre Rivers Trust to reduce discharges from the upland areas around Abbeystead had seen a reduction in discharges of around 20%.

- PO asked whether there was any concern about the pump capacity on Pilling Lane, Preesall and that the network only discharges when the tide is out. CG replied that the pump is an EA asset, and they are trying to upgrade the efficiency of the pump to increase discharge rates and lower running costs. He added that the outfall from Broadfleet in Pilling has been surveyed to determine whether it could be improved to discharge flows sustainably without the constant digging out of silt – he added that schemes have been undertaken around the coast.

h) Preesall FLAG

- LR reiterated concerns that trees stumps from a resident's garden were blocking the watercourse to the rear of Sunnyside Terrace and restricting the flow of water. She asked whether the EA Field Team would remove these as part of their ongoing works in Preesall.
- LR noted that the developer of the houses on Cart Gate has laid a number of pipes from the new houses into the watercourse that leads behind Sunnyside Terrace; she has spoken with the Developer who has claimed that this is surface water from the site and approved with his planning permission. PL noted that the Developer had encountered problems with surface water running off the hill and had piped this water away from the properties to the watercourse. AA said that this problem was adding to the flows in the watercourse and becoming the problem of residents of Sunnyside Terrace. He added that the ground levels had been raised by around four feet and that the water from the site is being directed to the watercourse rather than being drained to ground.
- PL confirmed that the proposed attenuation scheme on land adjacent to the development remains on hold as the Developer is holding the site to ransom to get a glamping site build on it. He said that the Council would not agree to permitting the conditions and that any site would have to be considered independently by the Planning Department. He added that an alternative location for the attenuation scheme is being sought. AA expressed concern that the Developer may go ahead and install his own pond on the land to support a potential planning application for a glamping site and this may prevent the installation of the attenuation scheme. He said that a lot of work has been undertaken in the area to prevent flooding, and this has been largely successful with no major flooding since 2017 – he thought that the actions of one developer could put all these works at risk.

- CG said that he will ask the Council's tree officer to visit the owner of the land adjacent to Sunnyside watercourse to prevent further tree falls and to ensure that all tree stumps are removed from the watercourse. He would also ask the Planning Department to see whether they knew of any plans to develop the site planned for the attenuation scheme.

i) St Michaels FLAG

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

j) Thornton FLAG

- There was no representative from the FLAG present; a report had been sent, and PL summarised its contents to the Forum. A detailed report is listed below..

YMCA Pumping Station

1. The desilt of Royles Brook from the YMCA pumps to Meadows Avenue remains outstanding. The silted section in the dyke creates a higher low level than if it was cleared. Understand this is being planned? *Works are ongoing*
2. The Calder Culvert **desilt is planned and Riparian connections investigated**. Riparian owners need to prevent backflow of any private drains. Camera survey identified around six connections, have the residents been contacted and informed about the connections yet? *Residents have not yet been contacted. Works are on hold and subject to insurance claim against the Council for flooding of property.*
3. YMCA PS Gauge boards were to be relocated at the same time as the above desilting work. If the desilt work is delayed over a long timeframe then could the gauge boards be fitted as an independent task. *Works completed.*
4. There were mootings of a camera at the YMCA PS and /or a remote level indication, is this still on the table or are we wholly reliant upon the telemetry? *The installation of a camera is still to be undertaken.*
5. The electrics in the YMCA PS, certainly the switch gear, are mostly 1987 originals. Has the PS been identified as an aged asset which will need updating in order to maintain reliability or avoid obsolescence? *Wyre Council is currently undertaking a review of all pumping stations with the intention to bring these up to a modern standard. An initial review was undertaken in March 2025 by Jacobs UK Ltd.*
6. The pumping station pumps are the only way for water to pass through the station due to constant high levels downstream. This was still evident in a summer drought and is believed to be due to downstream siltation holding up the level. Woodlands/Sandyforth is the suspected area. Also evident were unusual water volumes coming into the station requiring the pump/s to run daily. *Desilting / cleaning works have been undertaken within the pumping station structure. Works have begun on desilting the watercourse both upstream and downstream of the station.*

Hillylaid Pool

7. Location 31DD Various branch obstructions with a tree encroaching into the dyke. Photos previously supplied. This is on New Lane just down from the rail crossing. *Noted and forwarded to EA*
8. 29 and 30 CC. Numerous obstructions which require removal. Access to the area quite poor. We had to cut back undergrowth to gain access. *Noted and forwarded to EA*
9. Outfall into Hillylaid Pool at the rear of 104A School Rd. Pictures previously supplied. Water only a few inches deep in the dyke with 1/3 of the culvert under silt. Area around this outfall requires desilting. *Noted and forwarded to EA*
- 10.25 CC Fallen brickwork and concrete across bottom of dyke still requiring removal. Royles Brook. EA say low priority, but it will catch debris and eventually restrict. *EA are aware and will address.*

Woodlands / Sandyforth Ave

11. King Georges field flood scheme works really well but we have noticed the water is very slow to flow down Woodlands Avenue. This regular higher than historically level shows at the Seniors debris screen. The culvert under Fleetwood Rd North may also need checking for silt build up. *EA are aware. Desilting works are planned for Royles Brook this month upstream of the culvert to improve flows.*

Location V16.

12. Our team gained access to Royles Brook behind one of the homes which the EA (Graeme Kellott) also visited. Work is still required to clear vegetation and fallen tree branches in this area. *EA are aware and will address.*
13. Woodland Ave location V18. Obstruction in the dyke, branches etc. Photo supplied. *EA are aware and will address.*
14. Location W16. Small island with reeds etc in the middle of the dyke requires clearing. *EA are aware and will address.*
15. Location 14X. Fallen branches across the dyke adjacent to the Sandyforth Carpark. *EA are aware and will address.*
16. We are unable to check the condition of the dyke between locations 15X and 16X as it runs behind the houses. Could you please confirm if this section has been inspected as part of the EA programme.
17. Any update on the installation of telemetry at the D Fit camera location. As we have discovered over the years waiting for the Stanah Pumping Station to start automatically on high levels is too late to alleviate high levels in the Hillylaid Pool and Royles Brook dykes up stream.

18. How will the Centurion Park drainage ditch be maintained as the developer is now the riparian owner and is there a plan to install a brick chamber on the east side of the culvert under the road to allow clear access for Lancashire County County Highways Division to maintain the culvert under Fleetwood Rd North. If no prior forethought has taken place can the planning department ensure that work is undertaken to remedy this situation.

Stanah Area

19. Any update on the camera installation work at the Stanah Pumping Station from the EA and possible time scale for the work to be completed? *Now Fitted*
20. During exceptionally high tides last year, the concrete tank from the screws was full and water wasn't exiting to the river. Any updates, what did the investigation find? Is there a robust system for ensuring that the PS discharge flaps don't get silted closed over the drier summer months?
21. The dyke at the Cathrow Way estate was requiring remediation by POS Landcare. Could you confirm if the work has now been completed please. WRT also plan some improvement work at this location. *POS Landcare confirmed that works were completed as their schedule.*

White Carr Lane

22. The surface water attenuation scheme at the Meadow Gate development is not functional. Water passes straight through the Balancing Ponds and directly into Royles Brook. The Optimum Hydro Brakes appear to be over sized and do not attenuate. Will this be put right as the Brook is already overloaded and floods out onto the lane? Meadow Gate residents were unable to leave the estate due to Royles Brook flooding out onto the road at both ends of WCL due to highway flooding from RB. The new M&S Store will also feed into the MG hydrobrake system and is allegedly already factored into the total site surface water discharge. *MCDermot Homes have proposed changes to the hydrobrakes to reduce the discharge into Royles Brook by approximately 200 l/s. They are currently pricing up the proposals for consideration.*

Wordsworth Avenue / Royles Brook School

23. Still further investigative work to undertake.

Additional Issues.

24. The long-standing blockage at the junction of Anchorsolme East and Royles Brook on Marsh Farm. I believe the EA were attending to this, any updates please. This could have an impact on the water levels in White Carr Lane although would restrict volumes coming into Thornton.
25. Victoria Road East (East of Morrisons roundabout) - The highway's north side floods the gulleys and eventually flows across the footpath and into the gardens of around six bungalows, this then flows north and into the Calder basin. The tarmac footpath is dipped at each driveway entrance allowing rainwater to leave

the highway and into the adjacent gardens. LCC have confirmed the gulleys clear but has the main section been proven which takes water away to Four Lane Ends? We did mention if it was possible to raise the footpaths just like Mark did on Fleetwood Rd North opposite Bourne News. Any proposals for this issue?

26. There are still issues on Lawsons Road with its junction with Briar Road. We are not sure if this was as a result of the dykes being full and that the levels were not reduced prior to heavy rain on the 23rd July 2023. Has there been any investigation work in the area to check for blockages. House/houses on Briar Road continue to be threatened with internal flooding.

27. Can the protocol for force running the Stanah screws be improved to capture all heavy rain periods and not just those deemed to have a Met Office warning? Recent full system conditions have been after normal persistent rain and not just rain warnings. The system now seems to fill quicker and become full with less rain.

28. We are very aware of the increasing problem with siltation in both Royles Brook and Hillylaid Pool. Many silt surveys done by the EA. Did the EA do a risk assessment when they elected to cease the routine desilting programme? Are the EA monitoring/measuring the consequences of not desilting? I appear to be the only person collating data to measure the system's declining resilience.

We did some sample silt depth checks around the system in 2022 and based on an average depth of 0.6m and width of 2m came up with the following silt volumes which are taking up valuable storage capacity. This will continue to increase, at what point will the EA restore this capacity?

Approx. silt volume of Royles Brook including the feed from Calder and Hillylaid Pool from the tee with Horsebridge = 11,934 m³. If Springfield were to be included too then this increases to 13,794 m³. These are approximations but give an idea as to how much impact the silt is now having on system performance and probably explains why we now appear to be less tolerant of prolonged rain periods compared to decades ago when the system was better maintained by Wyre Council.

- JS reminded the Forum that White Carr Lane was flooded in January of this year and said that a lot of work has been done to improve the situation; she added that residents are concerned that, as we head into winter there remain a number of issues that still require attention.

She asked for an update on the new headwall from Ryscar Way into the watercourse. PH replied that the EA are still in negotiation with the developer but were progressing well. JS asked whether there was a date for the connection to be made; PH was not aware of this but promised to find out.

Action - PH

- JS asked whether there was an update on changes to the hydrobrakes on the Meadow Gate estate. She acknowledged that desilting works had been undertaken on Royles Brook watercourse alongside White Carr Lane but noted that there still remained a significant length that required manual cleaning at the Bescot Way end of the Lane. PL replied that McDermott Homes had identified that the hydrobrakes could be reduced in size to significantly reduce the maximum flow from the site and were looking to price the changes. It was not yet clear who would fund the works, but this would be made clearer once the costs were known.
- JS expressed concerns that residents on the new development were unaware of the role of the attenuation ponds and had complained about the recent desilting works on White Carr Lane which had restricted access to the development. She said that residents had complained about the state of the attenuation ponds and were unaware of their role or that residents would be responsible for their maintenance. PL confirmed that residents would be responsible for maintenance, and this would normally be undertaken by a management company employed by them.
- CP asked whether there was an update on repairs to the timber railings around the watercourse by Bescot Way and Warren Drive. MC replied that he was still awaiting a response from Morris Homes who were responsible for installing them.
- CP said that the sweeping of the road of the road had not been done for some considerable time. PL confirmed that this work was done by Wyre Council, and he would chase this up with the Street Cleaning Team.

Action - PL

- PK asked whether LCC had any plans to install additional kerbs alongside the watercourse on White Carr Lane. MC confirmed that LCC have no plans for this.
- PK noted that the recent works by LCC to clear the culverts in the area had not included the one on Norcross Lane; he asked whether this was to be included. MC said that this had not been included in the works programme but promised to get this cleared as well.

Action - LCC

- JS reminded Wyre Council that they have been promised a supply of sandbags and emergency signs for use by residents during a flooding event. PL confirmed that he was aware of this and would arrange for them to be dropped off at an agreed location. He added that the equipment was best stored under cover to protect it from the elements. PK confirmed that room was available for storing these.

Action - PL

5. Reports from Flood Management Authorities:

Environment Agency:

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

- PH said that routine maintenance works are continuing well and are soon to be completed. She noted that the Team has not received full funding allocation this year and, as such works have been concentrated on areas where the risk to residents and properties was deemed to be highest. She added that the EA will be writing to owners of lower risk assets to let them know what works have not been done and will be tasking riparian owners with this work.
- Desilting works have been undertaken on White Carr Lane, Thornton and similar works are planned for Royles Brook adjacent to King George's Playing Fields, Thornton.
- Works have been undertaken to repair river defences at Six Arches caravan site, Forton; Rawcliffe Road, St.Michaels and Wyre Bank Farm – a map of these has been included in the pre-meeting update.
- A scheme newsletter was issued the previous week regarding the Hambleton Flood Scheme. The EA is working with all stakeholders to progress the scheme, and the compensatory scheme at Out Rawcliffe, at the earliest opportunity
- FD reported that she had received notice that morning that the Hambleton scheme may be delayed further due to an over subscription for funding in 26/27 financial year. This means that schemes will need to be slowed, stopped or potentially cancelled to ensure that the capital programme is affordable. She assured the Forum that the Wyre coastal scheme is not impacted by this decision. She noted that the key deadline for the Rawcliffe Road site is December 2027 as that is when the planning permission will expire.

She added that a second complication is that new funding rules will be coming into force next year which may affect schemes yet not under construction. She said that locally the EA is on track with their budget this year but nationally there are some large projects with large liabilities.

The EA's official statement is "Spending Review 2025 (SR25) results were announced in June 2025 and set the funding envelope for departmental budgets (Defra total) until 2028/29 for resource funding and 2029/30 for capital. The Defra Group planning process for 2026/27 is due to commence in autumn 2025 and will set the Environment Agency FCRM GiA budget for all EA FCRM activities (CDEL and RDEL). This means there remains some uncertainty about the exact budget EA will receive for 2026/27.

The bids for funding in this year's annual refresh have far exceeded available budgets. This is in part due to new projects seeking funding and existing projects seeing cost increases.

The Environment Agency is asking project teams to review and reduce costs by pausing, reprofiling or rescopeing works for us to be able to maximise spend against need for 2026/27. This ask is mainly focussed on EA led projects. This is an internal planning process at this stage. In due course indicative allocations will be confirmed to local teams ahead of review at RFCC local choice meetings. We should not be doing any proactive comms on this internal process at the current time as no decisions have been made. While the process is carried out it is advised that no new contracts are let on EA projects and no OBC's are approved on RMA projects – this is a temporary delay for a few weeks to ensure affordability in 2026/27. More information will follow once reduced bids are assessed at the end of September. While we should not be proactively engaging with external partners on this internal planning process for a moment, we can acknowledge that the annual refresh is progressing and there are cost pressures in 2026/27 that are being worked through.”

Lancashire County Council:

Highways:

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

- All gullies on the cyclic cleaning schedule (approx. 9,000 within Wyre district) have all now been cleared. Additionally, LCC now have three gulley wagons which are available four days a week to react to issues with gullies.
- Drainage work has been undertaken on Moorland Road, Poulton to prevent flooding across the highway. No issues have been reported since.
- Desilting of culverts on White Carr Lane, Thornton. Approximately 4 tonnes of debris, including a mattress, building materials and asbestos roofing has been removed from the culverts and disposed of.
- A new programme of reactive gulley maintenance is being drawn up – MC will update the Forum as this becomes live.

Flood Risk Management:

MD reported that RC had written an article for the [Focus magazine](#) (page 47) on rainwater harvesting and the “Unpave the Way” project.

Questions to LCC (Highways):

- JT asked for a clarification on what cyclic cleaning of gullies meant. MC said that LCC have a list of gullies that are regularly cleaned (normally annually) – these are the cyclic gullies. Any gullies that are reported as blocked, including those on the cyclic list, are added to a new list, reactive gullies, which are cleared as soon as possible. JT asked whether anything is done to ensure that the connecting pipes are clear running. MC replied that once cleared the gullies are filled with water to test that they are draining properly – should the water not drain or be slow to drain then this is recorded, and a jetting machine will attend at a later date to clear any blockages. Should there still be issues then a “dig down” team will be called in to locate and fix any collapse of the drain.

- PO asked whether there were any plans to investigate the continued flooding on Park Lane, Preesall. He noted that works have been undertaken previously to repair pipes damaged by services cutting through them but reported that the road is still flooding on a regular basis, putting residents at risk of flooding and causing inconvenience to road users. MC was unaware of the issue and asked for a precise location – PO confirmed this to be around 305 Park Lane. MC said that he would look into this and get back to the Forum.

Action - LCC (Highways)

- RW said that the cyclic gully cleaning programme sought to clean every road gully once each year; he suggested that there were some key areas, (for example, along the A6) where the gullies needed two or more cleans per year. MC confirmed that cleaning would be once per year, but additional cleaning would be undertaken if they were reported to be subsequently blocked. RW said that the once per year programme appeared very rigid and did not allow for additional cleans at known problem areas. MC agreed but reiterated that any further blockages would be dealt with by reactive cleaning as reported on the Love Clean Streets app.

Wyre Council:

PL said that no new issues had been reported, and work has continued on investigations into outstanding issues. Details are included in the latest Issue & Actions log.

PL reported the key issues that have been looked into since the last meeting included.

- Watercourses around Willowgrove caravan site, Preesall. The site owner had agreed to undertake works to clear the town watercourses adjacent to the site and these had been completed in the last few days. A significant volume of silt and debris (including mattresses, old suites and building materials) has been removed from the watercourse and this is now running again.

PL has been in contact with the downstream owner to have the next section cleared so that the entire system is now running. Works are scheduled to be undertaken within the next couple of weeks.

- Hollins Lane, Forton – an investigation of the drainage system on the recent development site and downstream properties has confirmed a connection as approved but noted that there is a leak in the system that requires further investigation.
- Royles Brook pumping station – further to reports from Thornton FLAG that the pumping station had been in operation most days over the last few weeks despite there being no rainfall, the pumping station sump has been cleared and the flap valve checked and cleaned. The sump was found to be heavily silted and littered with a significant volume of debris, including a motorbike, cycles, shopping trolleys and a large volume of building materials. Further works are planned by Wyre Council to desilt the watercourse from the station upstream to Meadows Ave., and downstream to the connection with the main river. The EA will be looking to undertake similar works downstream of the station in the next couple of weeks.

- CG reported that Wyre Council is looking at all pumping stations that it maintains and is drawing up proposals for upgrading them. He stressed that this did not mean that updates would necessarily be undertaken, as this would require significant funding, but provided an update on the current condition of the stations and recommendations on improvements that could be done.
- The [Our Future Coast](#) project is going well. Work has been undertaken at Stanah, including the installation of a new radar system to monitor the saltmarsh levels.
The council has submitted an application to the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) for dredging and deposition of silt around the [Wyre Estuary](#) area to create new salt marsh.
- The [Wyre Beach Management Scheme](#) is progressing well and is currently ahead of programme.
- Wyre Council is working with other councils on a project called Coastal Centre of Excellence to work out how best to work with neighbouring authorities to better address issues affecting the coastline.

United Utilities:

- MR reported that there were no specific flood issues to report this time and work was very much as normal.
- CG said that he has received a draft programme of works planned for the Wyre area, part of the £13.7b that UU have plans for over the next five years. He noted that the bulk of the works related to reducing spills from sewers into watercourses.
- CG added that UU have set up a [community fund](#) offering up to £2,500 to community groups champion environment change in their area.
- JT said that the prolonged dry weather had helped to highlight water leaks in the Hambleton area and UU had been successful in stopping these. He said that some of the leaks had been significant and had been filling watercourses at a time when they would normally be low. He added that low water levels have also highlighted the number of cross connections from washing machines, toilets etc that discharge to watercourses and not to the foul sewer. He said that UU have been successful in addressing these issues in Hambleton and asked all members to report any such incidents to UU.

Natural England:

No report was received from Natural England.

- PL confirmed that he had emailed NE for an update but had not yet received a response.
- CG reported that NE have been undertaking a lot of work within Wyre and said that he would get them to report full details to the next Forum.

Wyre Rivers Trust:

No report was received from Wyre Rivers Trust. TM had sent in his apologies for the Flood Forum.

- PL noted that WRT have two significant attenuation schemes proposed for development in the borough - Sunnyside Terrace, Preesall and Millfield School, Thornton. He added that the Sunnyside Terrace scheme is currently on hold awaiting consent from the landowner.
- CG added that TM is also working on the Wyre Natural Flood Management Scheme.
- RW noted that the NFM scheme at Abbeystead is being monitored to determine how successful it has been, and he understood that significant reductions in water flows have been received. CG confirmed that reductions were around 20%. FD asked whether TM could be asked to provide an update on the scheme – CG to discuss with TM.

6. Making Space for Water Technical Group:

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

- JT asked whether items reported direct to the Group and were quickly resolved were recorded in the Issues & Actions log. PL replied that anything reported to the Forum or to the Group was added to the log. JT noted there are a few issues that are long-standing; PL replied that there are some issues that are difficult to resolve, and these inevitably remain on the log for some time; it may also be that they are never fully resolved. AA said that the Group has been very successful in addressing issues raised by the FLAGs and Forum members.

7. Communications Update:

CG reported that there have been a number of Future Coast “lunch and learn” sessions held via Teams to inform members of the work being done on the scheme. He invited members to drop in online to see what the latest was on the scheme. Future invites will be forwarded to Forum members.

- MC noted that LCC (Highways) will be holding a gritter convoy on Saturday 4 October as part of their Prepared for Winter campaign. He said that gritting works will start from October 17 and run until April 2026.
- Information on flooding issues, natural flood management and Our Future Coast is available at [The Flood Hub](#)

8. Emergency Planning Update:

AD reported that work is continuing on updating the Wyre Flood Plan for preparedness for flooding events. Additionally, she is looking to organise a flooding exercise with partners and Forum members for 2026 – details still to be confirmed.

AD noted that the weather forecast for this coming weekend was for strong winds, high tides and heavy rainfall. She said that Wyre Council operate an out of hours Severe Weather Officer who is on call at all times to deal with such issues, including flooding, and they will deal with any issues as they happen. Storm boards are currently in place along the sea defences and will be removed as conditions improve.

9. Request for reports to the next Forum meeting:

- CG said that he would ask NE to attend the next Forum to provide an update on the works that they have been doing with WRT.

10. Any Other Business:

- PO noted that Blackpool Council are now building rock groynes on their beach, similar to those in Wyre. He asked whether the beach levels were being monitored to confirm that the groynes were working as intended to raise beach levels along the sea front.

CG replied that the Council has two radar systems (one in Cleveleys and one close to Chatsworth Ave, Fleetwood) which constantly record beach levels and allow levels to be monitored remotely.

11. Next meeting:

- Next meeting is 11 December 2025, 1.00pm start at Wyre Civic Centre and via Microsoft Teams (Link below)

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 343 426 169 066 8

Passcode: Hb3cs7Bs

- Future meetings – proposed meeting dates:

05 March 2026

11 June 2026

10 September 2026

10 December 2026

Appendix A

Pre-meeting report from Environment Agency (September 2025)

Reporting a problem:

The most effective means of reporting a potential flooding or blockage problem on a Main River is to report it to the Environment Agency's National Call Centre on 0800 80 70 60. The National Call Centre will collect the relevant information and ensure it is passed to the correct team for assessment.

A copy of the Main River Map can be viewed here [Main River Map](#)

Here are the present updates since June 2025 from the Environment Agency:

Flood Basin training dates

Garstang Flood Basin Training dates from June 2025 to August 2025:

30 June 2025

29 July 2025

01 August 2025

Catterall Flood Basin Training dates from June 2025 to August 2025:

30 June 2025

29 July 2025

08 August 2025

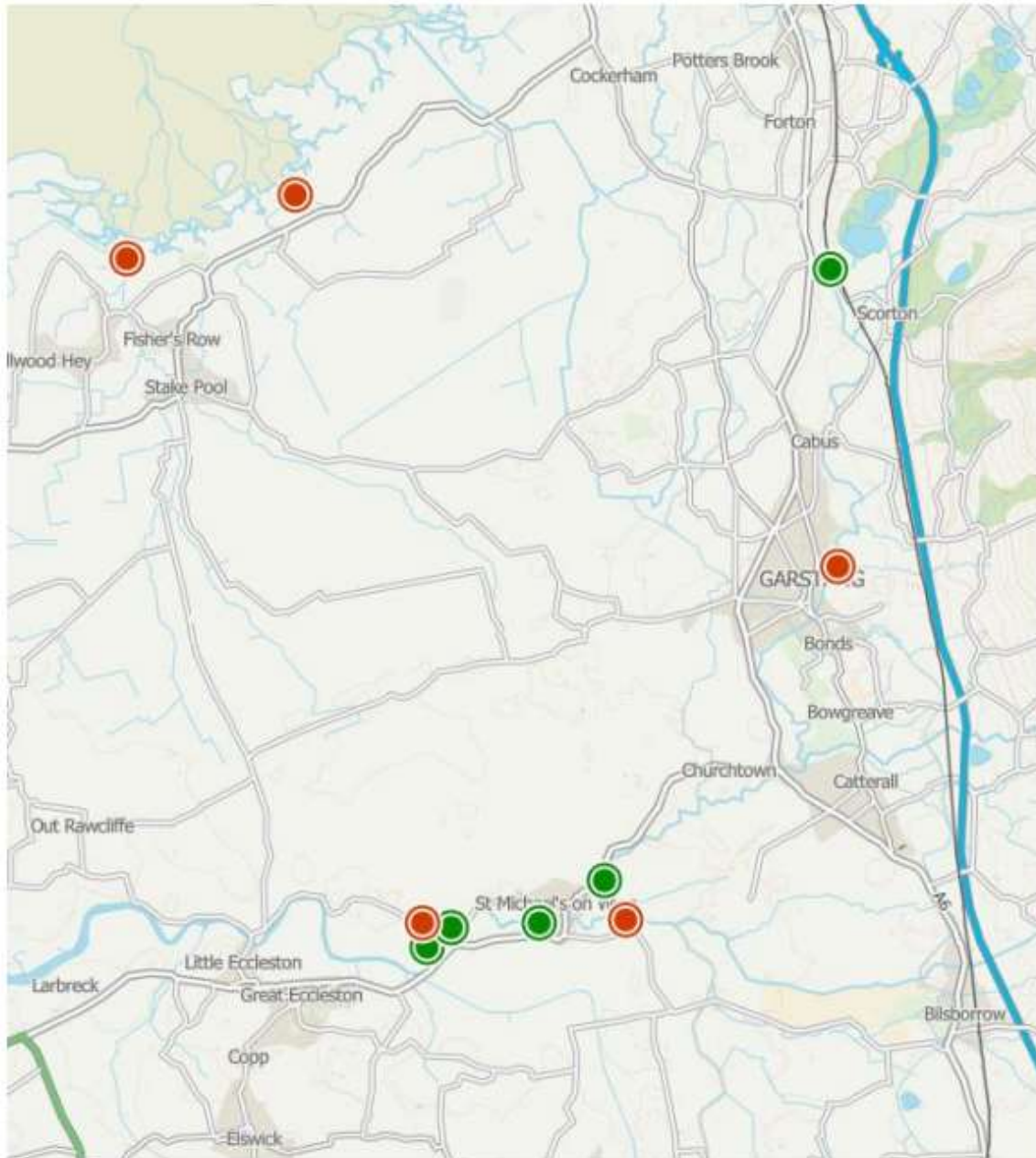
Maintenance Work & Repairs:

Our maintenance programme, focusing on high risk systems, is progressing well and should be completed on target. We do not have a full allocation of funding for lower risk assets this year. We will be writing to key landowners where we are unable to carry out works this year to let them know of changes to our maintenance programme. This includes Inskip, White's Brook and Raike's Brook.

We will be carrying out desilting along Royles Brook along White Carr Lane, Norcross and sections of King George's Playing Fields from September.

For more info on EA asset maintenance please contact your local team on 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 and have a number that are in-progress currently



Green- completed works Red-In progress/due to start.

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 1,000,000m³ 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. The first phase of the work to repair the east gate has now been completed.

We secured funding to do some works in 2025/26, but due to the working window ending in September, this is too tight to 3 complete the full repair this year. We will be carrying out the full repair in 2026/27. 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 online here or through Wyre Council's planning portal by searching for application "23/00960/LMAJ".

As per our recent newsletter, the project programme has been revised to show that construction 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

Fleetwood and Cope 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 Cope 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 Cope Brook was submitted and approved in May 2023, recommending the development of a comprehensive scheme to raise the standard of protection against tidal and fluvial flooding to a 0.5% AEP. Post OBC approval, the existing landowners (ABP) have entered into an agreement in principle to sell the landholding to another party (Fox Group). This has added extra complexities to scheme progression as we negotiate agreements with partners and means we are unable to progress currently with detailed design. It is our ambition that the scheme will provide a catalyst for the wider regeneration of Fleetwood

by injecting capital investment into the frontage, whilst unlocking large areas of derelict land for redevelopment.

Aside from the EA Scheme, the Our Future Coasts project being led by Wyre Council has an ambition to create an area of saltmarsh in front of the quayside and this would be complimentary to the Flood Risk Management Scheme, as it would provide a natural protection to the quayside on which the new flood defence would be built upon. The Our Future Coast project has secured funding to undertake a trial of Saltmarsh Creation in this location, which will provide some further assurance that the concept can work. Engagement with the community has commenced and is being led by the Our Future Coast Project. It is anticipated the project will be delivered in Summer 2025.

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>](#)

Useful 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 \(\[letstalkgroundwaterflooding.org\]\(http://letstalkgroundwaterflooding.org\)\)](#)

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](#)