

West Craven Flood meeting 18th September 2019

Pendle Council

Representatives reported that deployable barriers were positioned in containers close to flooding hotspots (on Water Street, Boot Street and Earby Rec). These had been purchased through a Community Flood Resilience fund created from unspent property resilience grants.

The barriers, which are quicker to put out than sandbags, would be deployed by local contractors/farmers/volunteers and the Fire and Rescue service as part of a Community Flood Plan. Pendle Council has helped volunteer flood wardens to develop the plan. Several new people had volunteered to become wardens and there were opportunities for others to join the group.

Funding from the Lancashire Community Foundation and Pendle Council has been used by Earby Town Council to purchase a large volume pump which is principally intended for use on Albion Road. A sump needs to be built to allow the pump to suck water out of a 'well' of water.

Further signage is to be acquired to allow necessary road closures in the event of flooding.

There's a need for local people to learn how to use the deployable barriers and pump, with 'dry runs' to familiarise themselves with what needs to be done.

Environment Agency

Work has been completed on Victoria Clough. Lining carried out on sections where there was a high risk of collapse. New trash screen built above the railway embankment and an 80% blockage removed in the section beneath the old railway. The EA has identified several service crossings impeding the flow along the culvert. They are working with utility companies to remove these.

The major study into causes of flooding in Earby had resulted in options to reduce flood risk being put forward. The modelling work also meant that new, more accurate, flood maps had been drawn up for the area.

Three schemes are proposed from the study carried out:

Flood wall on New Cut (Albert Street/Boot Street); Victoria Clough Flood Storage area; and, Birley Playing Fields Water Storage Area.

The estimated cost of the three projects totals over £7 million. EA rules mean there's not enough funding to carry out the work.

The first two projects combined are estimated at £2.2 million. Pendle Council has applied for European funding to help cover this cost, but there's still a £250,000 gap after taking into account the EA 'grant in aid' contribution. The gap could be filled with 'local levy' funding.

In order to progress this project, the EA would need to draw up an outline business case (expected early 2020), followed by detailed design and planning during spring 2020, a full business case by the end of 2020. Assuming the scheme(s) get over these hurdles, it would be possible to start work in 2021.

The Birley scheme, which would reduce flood risk on Water Street is estimated to cost around £5 million. Allowing for what the EA can get through grant in aid, there's a £3.3 million funding gap. No funding streams have been identified to help fill this gap.

Yorkshire Water

Yorkshire Water representatives reported on several issues which have been of concern.

- Lane Ends pumping station: monitoring showed the pumps were working properly.

- Working with PBC, YW has identified that a restriction on the culvert running from Lane Ends towards Victoria Road under Albion Road is a foul sewer. PBC is proposing building a larger inspection chamber to allow water past this obstruction. (This chamber would also be the well for the deployable pump.) YW/PBC working up a detailed scheme.
- Survey work on surface water sewer on Water Street had identified a restriction caused by either a redundant or live water main. YW are working to get this removed to clear the restriction. When this has been done, YW will look to remove connections to the parallel combined sewer and put them into the surface water sewer. This will reduce the risk of foul sewage surcharging at the bottom of Riley Street. Additionally, YW will look to get a highway gulley connection at the top of Stoney Bank Road removed from the combined sewer.
- Desilt of sewers on Victoria Road would continue.

Barnoldswick

Work continues on new length of culvert at Ghyll Meadows. Progress hampered by bedrock, which has also increased costs. Additional funding approved by EA. Work expected to be complete by November.

Lane Bottom work expected to commence in next few weeks.